

Hello again from me, plus the usual greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. I'll start with news of our exhibition. We had an excellent day. The weather was kind and people flocked to the show. It was the biggest the club had ever mounted 31 layouts and 17 traders were booked in. The listing reached No 4 on the UK Modelshop's exhibition listing website's top 20. The show was opened by the Mayor of Northampton who seemed to enjoy himself; staying until almost 1:00.

Takings reflected the large attendance and we made a profit of £1,200. All the traders except one want to return for the 2012 event which is on Saturday 21st July at the same venue, though it is now called Weston Favell Academy. We just squeeze in six days ahead of the Olympics.

Our Kings Thorpe layout which had been put on hold for a month in the run up to the exhibition so that we could help the club juniors with their layout to get it to the stage of a running work in progress for the has now had basic track laying completed. We just have to go over it to level it and fine tune geometry and alignment. At the same time, the point motors will be added. I hope to be able to write that we have acquired some Buzz colour light signals in the near future. We've asked for a quote and are waiting for the detail to come back.

We had our club Christmas dinner on Wednesday 7th December. Although the price was excellent and the menu appealed to all, the experience was not up to the standard we would have expected and the management recognised it too when they gave us the coffee and mince pies without charging

I don't normally finish on a sad note, but on the Thursday before Christmas I had some help to lift the track on my O gauge garden railway in preparation for a house move to Kettering. Although it has gone it won't be forgotten and the track will be used again for several other projects. The new garden isn't suitable, but I've been given the garage to have a 15ft L-shaped layout installed.

Thankfully I've just thought of something else to omit the sad finale. At the Reading trade show in early December I purchased two JLRT diesel kits. One is a Class 25/1 and the other is a refurbished Class 50 that I'm having built for me locally. I shall look forward to seeing them running in 2012.

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