

NOGGies, say hello again.

Since the first update appeared in the Guild News, things have rather stagnated. The wait to move into our new meeting location just goes on. We had one meeting in January and haven't been back since. The council and the new builder who took over the project can't seem to agree who will fund the required improvements to the building. We have however temporarily moved back into the community centre that we vacated to go to our new home. This has at least enabled us to do some fine tuning on our large test track and the results have been encouraging. The voltage drop which had plagued most locos is a thing of the past and the few remaining uneven joints are being rectified on an on-going basis. We hope that by the time of our exhibition on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November it will be running very well indeed.

Thankfully, we've had more success with organising our exhibition; so much so in fact that we've had to move to a larger room, though it is still at the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club. We recently took the decision, to move to the Indoor School. This has a number of benefits. Firstly, it is a more modern building and has better facilities. The road signage will take visitors directly to the adjacent entrance and we now have much more room! So although the uptake of layouts has been good we now have the ability to show even more. If you are a Guild member, or a club with a layout that you'd like to show in a modern well equipped venue, then please do get in touch on (01933) 413500 evenings, (except Tuesday as it is club night).

At the time of writing, we are just approaching our AGM. This year the club is in a very stable financial position due to many factors including careful stewardship of the resources by Chris, our Treasurer. We are also benefiting from being left the collection of one of our founder-members who passed away suddenly last year. We've divided the collection of locos and rolling stock between a stewardship scheme, whereby members can take possession of items to use as their own though ownership will remain with the club and selling some items deemed to be surplus to requirements. These have included some gauge 1 items and some live steam locos that we don't have the facility to run or store at the club. They've brought in a healthy return. Ideally, we'd like to use the funds to fine a permanent home for the club and most of the Northampton based members keep an eye out for such an opportunity.

Closing on a personal note, I'm hoping that the outstanding electrical work that remains on to be done on my garden railway will soon be complete and we'll be able to enjoy some running days before the end of the summer. I would like to publicly thank all the club members who have contributed time and expertise to the project since last October when basic construction was completed.

STEPHEN LLOYD (20155)