

Hello again from me, plus the usual greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. Hope you all enjoyed Guildex at Telford. Several of the NOGGies attended, though a few could not. All those that did attend enjoyed it a lot and most of us came away with some bargains and projects for the darker evenings. I bought several items ranging from a station building kit, transfers and LEDs, a Skytrex 100 ton tank wagon to LMS gas-style platform lamps all of which should find places on my forthcoming new two-part O gauge layout. This will be the first ever owned model railway and I'm itching with anticipation. By the time you read this, the boards should be complete and track laying and wiring should also be a long way towards completion. I'm sure other updates will follow in subsequent postings.

Now for something a bit less exciting; though not without its own fair share of drama; I have news of the result of our exhibition. I think I ought to start by mentioning the day before – namely Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Chairman and stand-in exhibition manager Les decided to have the day off work to prepare. This turned out to be a very wise choice because by lunchtime, our caterers let us know they wouldn't be doing the catering; this after spending hours with them going through options and costs. Instead, we had to run a round trying to make good the shortfall. We had decided to provide hot food for lunch and so in desperation and no little brilliance the local chippy was contacted to step in. They duly rose to the occasion and dozens of burger or sausage and chip meals were obtained. Also, everyone who had helped at last year's buffet stand was asked to help out and again a magnificent response was forthcoming from our ladies. The show itself went smoothly after than other than the academy caretaker saying that we had only two rooms from the usual four shown as booked on his paperwork. A decision that was to later cost us an additional £500 in extra hire charges to Amey. Attendance was excellent all day and the show was opened by Chris Leigh of Model Rail magazine. The four large halls were filled to bursting with British, Continental and American layouts, traders and demonstrators. It was to be the biggest the club had ever mounted. 30 layouts and 13 traders, along with several demonstrators including Peter Harvey of PH Designs building a brass colour light signal kit. We also had a couple of societies including friends of the National Railway Museum attending. Although over a thousand people came in, the late extra costs incurred meant that sadly there was a £200 loss on the day, but it was a cracking show and we all thanked Les for putting in the hours of work to ensure it was a success. We even had a layout arrive that we didn't know was coming. Happily we found a space for it and they had a good day.

Progress on our embryonic layout Kings Thorpe just about continues. Tortoise point motors have been fitted and have been wired in by Roger, our electrical guru. The wiring will cater for operating signals which we have in kit form and route setting if we decide to take that path. Track alignment work prior to final positioning has been completed across most of the boards and may well be complete by the time you take this in. We are having a working morning on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October which should help move things on nicely.

Our annual AGM took place on 8<sup>th</sup> August and produced a few officer changes. Ralph and Les called time on Treasurer and Exhibition manager respectively and two new committee members started, though Exhibition Manager is a vacancy still. Thanks must also go to Ralph for looking after the books and the money side of things for two years.

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