

Hello again from me, plus greetings from the NOGGies to all GOGGers. In the last article, I said quite a bit has happened since last I wrote. This time, there's even more to make mention of.

So, straight in with news of the club exhibition back in July.; it was the first at the new venue of course, and whilst it went well and we made a profit of around £800 for club funds, we have since as a committee identified several areas upon which we can improve next year. That 2014 show will be on Saturday 19th July. One thing I'd like to make mention of for his very odd actions (which it turns out are quite commonplace, as at least two other exhibitions have suffered similarly) was the antics of the owner of a well-known tool and general equipment supplier from a West Sussex seaside town that is also home to a Butlins holiday resort. On the Friday evening he turned up as planned and was shown to his pitch that was as requested, close to the door with flat access. We were about to ask the venue caretaker to open another door that was even nearer to facilitate unloading when he said 'that's not close enough to the door' and stormed out, stunning everyone as he drove out the car park forever. So not only did we have a large gap on our floor-plan, but we also lost the revenue we were reasonably expecting to help balance our outgoings.

The rest of the exhibition went a lot more smoothly and a good day was had by most who attended. Following on six weeks later was our deferred AGM. This was usually held just after the exhibition, but had been requested to be held back so that our Treasurer could include all the exhibition monies in the annual accounts. At the AGM, most of the existing committee stayed in-post and we welcomed back NOGGie Ralph to the executive when he was nominated to fill a vacancy.

Just a few days after the AGM Guildex rolled around. This had been eagerly anticipated and most of the NOGGies made the journey to Telford. I'd ordered advance e-tickets for our group and we were all glad we had them when we saw the queue to enter. Me especially as I'd risen at 05:00 to set off from the holiday base (near Yeovil) I'd arrived at the previous day. I drove to Taunton and caught the 06:51 northbound Cross-Country train and made a quick change at New St to arrive just after the doors opened. It was with mixed feelings I went to the Skytrex stand after learning they had to call the administrators in some weeks before. However, I did collect the items I'd ordered from them and heard that David (the former factory day to day manager) would take on the buildings and non-wheeled range in due course. I was also pleased to see Harpenden East for the second time (looking much more complete, than upon its debut showing in Harpenden nearly two years previous). Overall a great show again and I thought the layouts were to a very high standard this year. I was almost tempted by the 'seconds' on offer on Heljan's stand, but decided to hold out for the class 25 and 45 diesels due in 2015.

Club layout King's Thorpe continues to make steady progress. Most recent work has been to platforms, electrical sections and manual push rod fittings to three sets of trap points that don't warrant fitting of motors.

With regard to my own layout Eden – en – Upvale, NOGGie Johnnie has made excellent progress with the track laying, basic wiring and canal lock fitting. It will soon be over to Roger for the DCC additions such as detection sections and signal operation modules.

Finally I'll close with the date of our Christmas meal. Lat year we set it for 12/12/12. This year we were expecting it to be 11/12/13, but a major club player cannot make that day, so we're on for the next day instead. I don't know what we're going to do yet, as there were several ideas put forward and a vote will have been held by the time you read this.

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