



Newsletter

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MARCH 2016						
ADMIT ONE to Platform						
NOT VALID ON TRAINS Issued subject to the Bye-Laws, Notices Regulations and Conditions of the Railway						
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Rules for Club Night Attendance

- Please park your vehicle with consideration for the flat occupants when parking outside the Kingsthorpe Community Centre.
- 2) If you make a drink, please wash your cup/spoon up afterwards. Please wipe up any spillages.
- 3) Don't create congestion in the kitchen. Please get your drink and return to the main hall.
- 4) Have you paid your subs? The money is mainly used to pay our Wednesday night hall rental, plus the cost of drinks. £1.50 per person please.
- 5) Please put away any tools, layouts, tables and chairs you've used at the end of the evening.
- 6) A clear passage way MUST be maintained in the entrance lobby area as an emergency exit. Also please keep ALL other emergency exits accessible at ALL times.
- 7) Please sign in at each attendance. This ensures we know who to account for in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Current membership: 2 Junior Members

(correct at time of going to press) 27 Members

From the Editors

On 5th March 1966 the former Somerset & Dorset Railway ceased to exist. In this issue of the newsletter this fact is commemorated.



Colin

Club Torque

Next Thursday P.M. Club Meetings

From 14:00—17:00 on the following Thursdays:

- 10th March Layout working day
- 24th March Layout working day

Date of next Committee Meeting

A date for the next committee will be on Monday 14th March. If there are any items for the agenda, please let Richard have them ASAP.

Email: rjd156@btinternet.com

Club Night Test Track Dates 2016

2nd & 23rd March, 13th April, 4th & 25th May, 15th June, 6th & 27th July, 17th August, 7th & 28th September, 19th October, 9th & 30th November, 21st December.

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Packing Up Time

Certain members of the Club, and in particular our Chairman, are disgruntled about the early time we are packing our layouts away on a Wednesday evening.

The hall is booked until 22:00 hrs and as a club we are paying for this. As an experiment (until the next committee meeting for an official decision), Roger has suggested that we work until 21:40. Once this time is reached then EVERYONE will start to pack up. This will give 20 minutes to get all the layouts into the club room which in theory should be enough time. We will try this new system and see how it goes.

Somerset & Dorset—Just A Memory

March 7th 2016 will be the fiftieth anniversary since the Somerset & Dorset Railway ceased to be.

This railway connected Bath to Bournemouth (now in Dorset but then in Hampshire), with a branch from Evercreech Junction to Burnham-on -Sea and Bridgwater. Technically the main line ran from Bath Junction to Broadstone, as the line between Broadstone and Bournemouth was owned by the London and South Western Railway, while the line between Bath Junction and Bath was owned by the Midland Railway.

It was never a high speed line: its winter business was carrying freight and local passenger traffic over the Mendips, but in the summer season the S&D ran an intensive service of Saturday holiday trains from northern towns to Bournemouth. It was often referred to as "the Slow and Dirty", or sometimes "the Slow and Doubtful", but it always commanded a considerable loyalty from railway enthusiasts, and when it closed in 1966 it was widely mourned.

Great Western Exports to Denmark

by Richard Deacon

Little is known of the export of Great Western Engines in the late 1920s to Denmark.

The Danish Railway system received at least two recently built Swindon locomotives. They would have made ideal candidates for running on European railways as their often wide cylinder dimensions and tall chimneys would have presented no problems within the wider UIC gauge limits in Europe.

In the film The Danish Girl, Einar /Lili Wegener (Eddie Redmayne), travels by train from Denmark to Dresden for the life changing operation.

In the scene at the railway station when he says goodbye to his wife, they are on the platform between two GW engines and coaching stock. Despite masses of atmospheric steam, there is no mistaking GW cylinders and copper cap chimneys, but the scene was too quick to identify the class of the engines.

As the period is set in the later 1920s when many of the locos that we remember from BR trainspotting days, were being built, they could have been Kings, Castles or Halls.

Preliminary research into the history of the Great Western has so far failed to corroborate the story that engines were exported to Denmark.

Scenes Around Kings Thorpe





The unusual signal box on the Kings Thorpe layout.





Kings Thorpe finally receives some superb motive power.



Some views of the stunning Railway Hotel built by Colin Norfolk.





The chairman is caught taking some "selfies"

Parking Complaint

Community Spaces Northampton have received a written complaint about the parking in Thornton Hall Close on a Wednesday night.

The complaint has been backed up with submitted photographs of the offending vehicles.

The basis of the complaints are: -

- Parking on the corner at the junction is quite dangerous and will no doubt result in an accident in the near future if not curtailed.
- Parking on the path leaving no room for pedestrian access.
- Cars parking on our drives and having had to ask them to move.

At the moment we are being asked to put our own house in order. If we fail to do this then the issue will be escalated. Parking on the footpath and/or less that 10 yards from a junction is technically illegal so I would imagine that will be referred to the police.

The occupants are monitoring the situation and taking photos. Please be considerate where you park.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED

Jimmys End

Some pictures of the recently acquired Club layout Jimmys End. This is a N gauge layout that is currently being brought up to exhibition standard under the watchful eye of our N gauge guru Jim McMaster.











Northampton & District Model Railway Club Page

HOMEWORK

This Months Question:

Controversy has arisen over the removal of which creature from the design of a statue of Sir Nigel Gresley, due to be unveiled at Kings Cross Station in April?

Farewell to Ian Harrison

Ian's funeral took place at the Three Counties Crematorium on Tuesday 23rd of February.

Six members from our Club attended. The little chapel at the crematorium was packed out. In fact it was literally standing room only— not only at the back but down the centre isle as well.

The service was not in any way religious, but was a celebration of lan's life.

I never knew what a colourful life he had led until his eulogy was read out. Knowing he had asthma he told his doctor to keep it quiet so he could join the navy. This he did and served for about five years, until it came to light and he was then stopped from going to sea.

It is so typical of lots of people we know in that we find out more about them after they have passed away than when they were alive.

The Club has sent a donation via the undertakers to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, as one of the charities requested by Ian's family.

Colin Tarry

NOTICE BOARD



Extra Thursday Afternoon Sessions

The following additional Thursday afternoon sessions have been booked for 2016:-

14:00 to 17:00 hrs March 24th & April 28th

Wednesday Night Refreshments

Members are reminded that the club night sub does not cover the cost of biscuits. The biscuits that are provided come from Members kind donations. Those who eat them are invited to also contribute some biscuits.



TOMBOLA

Yes, its that time again.

Will members please bring in a small prize gift each month for the Club's Exhibition Tombola. Keep an eye out for any supermarket special offers for example. A prize should be worth at least £1, be new or in very good condition and if perishable be 'in-date' by the end of September 2016.

There is a box in our Club cupboard for tombola items to be collected and stored in.

On a Wednesday night nearer the exhibition the cloakroom ticket numbers will need sticking on the prizes and the corresponding draw ticket folding and putting in the draw drum. We still need help with this please.

Club Information Committee Members

Les Pace (Chair Person)
Colin Tarry (Treasurer / Newsletter Editor)
Richard Deacon (Secretary)
Michael Castledine
Roger Whiffin
Ralph Morbey

Web site: www.ndmrc.org

Email: feedback@ndmrc.org

Club Night: Wednesday Meeting Time: 19:30—22:00

Venue: Kingsthorpe Community Centre,

Thornton Hall Close, Kingsthorpe,

Northampton, NN2 6PT

Secretary: tel: 01604 890275 email: rjd156@btinternet.com

Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor Colin Tarry email: ndmrc@cjv.org.uk

Sales Officer John Walker email: pamjohn38@btinternet.com

Club Membership Rates

Club membership runs from August to July or part of the calendar year, and ALL expire on the last calendar day of July, becoming due for renewal on the first of August.

Adult membership £35 per year, Junior membership £10 per year.

DISCLAIMER

Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Northampton and District Model Railway Club, its Officials or Members unless so stated.