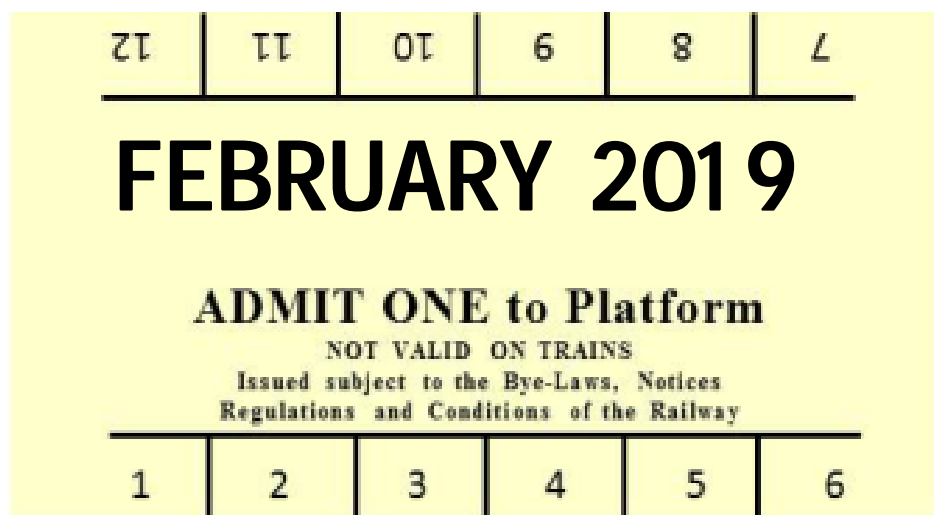




# Newsletter



## **C O N T E N T S (of key articles)**

From the Editors Cab Window / Club Torque	Page 3
Chairman's ramblings	Page 4
DCC Presentation Evening	Page 5
N&DMRC 50th anniversary news / Tombola	Page 7
Club regalia	Page 8
New Junior Test Track	Page 9

### **Rules for Club Night Attendance At Hardingstone**

- 1) If you make a drink, please wash your cup/spoon up afterwards. Please wipe up any spillages. Cups to be returned to the kitchen.
- 2) Don't create congestion in the kitchen. Please get your drink and return to the main hall.
- 3) Have you paid your subs? The money is mainly used to pay our Friday night hall rental, plus the cost of drinks. £2 per person please.
- 4) Please put away any tools, layouts, tables and chairs when you've finished using them. The shed will be unlocked on request.
- 5) A clear passage way **MUST** be maintained in the entrance foyer as they are emergency exits. Also please keep **ALL** other doors & exits accessible at **ALL** times.
- 6) The internal cupboard is to store small & valuable items only as space & access is restricted.
- 7) Please sign in at each attendance. This may assist us in knowing who to account for in the event of an emergency evacuation.
- 8) Car Parking—If you have to block someone in then please be ready to move your vehicle in order to let someone else out.

## From the Editors Cab

Here is the first newsletter of 2019, a bit later than I planned , but better late than never. At least I didn't cancel it and put a bus replacement service on!



*Colin*

## Club Torque

### Date of next Committee Meeting

A date for the next committee tbc. If there are any items for the next agenda, please let Richard have them ASAP.

Email: [rjd156@btinternet.com](mailto:rjd156@btinternet.com)

## Club Night Test Track Dates 2019

For the time being we are increasing the number of evenings we are having the Test Track out.

February 8th and 15th

March 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th

April 12th and 19th

May 3rd, 10th, 24th and 31st



**All dates are  
subject to change**

**If you use the Test Track please help to erect it and dismantle it at the end of the evening. There have been a number of members recently who use the Test Track and then conveniently disappear when its packing up time.**

# Chairman's Ramblings

Hello; from a very cold Duston.

I do hope the new year is going to be good for you all and that you are looking forward to the Spring and hopefully another great Summer.

The new year started with the problem at the hall, caused by part of the old ceiling collapsing on to the false ceiling and making one end of the main room unusable

I am pleased that we can now use that end of the hall again and want to thank Paul, the very practical chairman of the hall, who got the repair organised very promptly.

It has been a busy time lately with the new junior test track and I want to thank the members who are undertaking this project. There are some photos in this newsletter on page 10. Hopefully work on other projects will progress, as well as this one.

We are hoping to add some new shows to attend this year as a club, as it is as you know our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and we also want the show in Roade in August to be a memorable one.

The test track is in great demand at present and as with all railways needs some maintenance now and again. We will try to work on this while keeping the track in use, however we may need to replace a running night with maintenance at some time in the future.

I want to thank Jim for bringing in the N gauge test track that gives N gauge owners the chance to give their stock a good running session.

As you know we have limited time, space and facilities at the club, so we have to do what we can, when we can. It would be great to have more of all of the above but as you may know we have tried over the years to find a suitable venue for this but the availability and the cost have always been a stumbling block.

I want to thank the members of the committee for their support and enthusiasm who make the club the success it is.



# Les Pace

Chairman NDMRC

# Interested in a Digital Command Control workshop evening?

by Richard Deacon

It is incredible that Digital Command Control (DCC) has been around for well over 30 years! I remember the fanfare of publicity when Hornby brought out Zero 1 in the early 80s. This was the future! I was enthused by it as I relished the idea of double heading made it practical by DCC . I



bought a controller and a slave from a work colleague and also some chips. A very young family at the time, put paid to any further progress , beyond chipping up a Hornby King and running it on a length of track on the kitchen table. Over the next few years, horror stories emerged of Zero 1 disasters and melt downs, the high cost of emerging competing controllers, together with continuing purchases of locos, and consequent chipping of so many, the idea of going DCC faded until.....

When visiting model railway shows over the past couple of years, it was quite obvious that DCC was here to stay and now with sound, not to be dismissed as a gimmick. Operating an analogue layout such as Greenford at shows was frankly, an embarrassment.

A combination of events last year led me to my own Damascus Road\* experience..

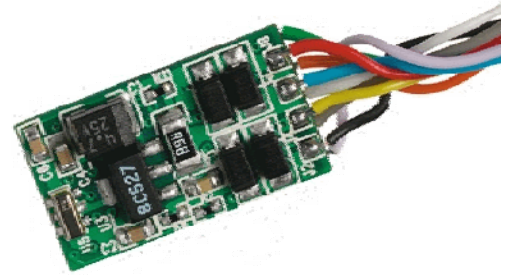
Moving house last year meant that Shrewsbury had to be broken up into movable pieces. Setting up again creates an opportunity to rewire to DCC.

At the Hornby Show at MK a layout had a prototype Deltic with sound which made me think, I have to have that!, the reproduced sounds available on diesels seem more realistic than steam, good as that is with whistles, shovelling coal etc

ED [**\*** ***Road to Damascus** refers to a sudden turning point in one's life. It's in reference to the conversion to Christianity of the apostle Paul, while literally on the **road to Damascus** from Jerusalem.*]



Old as I am, I'm always up for a challenge to keep the brain from getting stale, and here is an opportunity to get into something stimulating.



Selling up my agricultural equipment on downsizing gardens I have a unique opportunity to use some of the cash raised to buy a DCC controller a number of chips, some with sound. The first loco that I intend to "chip" first, with sound, will be my Deltic!

Finally, at the Milton Keynes show, I collected TMC's bargain offer of a WD and some plate and double bolster wagons weathered in their style. I hadn't realised until I came to try it out on a test track night that it was chipped. The degree of control at ultra slow speeds convinced me.

Where do we go from here? Speaking to a number of people in and outside the club, and reading magazine articles, made me realise what a lot of catching up I need to do. There is a whole new world of technical terms with DCC and a bewildering number of types of controllers, chips, and speakers to name a few.

So why don't we have a DCC workshop evening so we can all contribute and learn from each other?. Everybody are at different stages of knowledge, from the bemused at the whole idea, some knowing nothing, to those well in the know.

At the Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January it was decided to hold such an evening hopefully in March or April and not on a test track night. So watch this space.





## **New Logo and Regalia for 50 Years**

The first part of our celebrations have already been realised with the issuing of our new regalia incorporating our new club logo. Quite a few members have now received their new regalia clothing. To order or for further information please see Colin Tarry. Also have a look at page 9.



## **50th Anniversary Dinner**

The Club will holding an anniversary dinner at the Brampton Halt on Saturday 7th September 2019. Please book the date now! Further details are to follow.

## **Castle Station Layout**

As part of the Club's celebration of 50 years, we were hoping to get the Castle Station layout into the Railway Modeller during 2019. On submitting a write up and photographs to the magazine, they have informed us that our layout would not be available for publication until 2020. In view of this we are now submitting it to some of the other model railway publications.



Yes its that time again. We are now collecting items for our Club Tombola which we will run at our Roade exhibition in August. Please bring in

any items that are new or very nearly new. Any editable items must have a Use/Sell By Date of September 2019 or longer. If you bring any that is breakable/fragile please mark it as such on the box/bag you bring it in.

# Club Regalia

We are now taking orders for those wanting Club regalia, with our new logo on. To order items of regalia please get in touch with Colin Tarry.

Unlike our previous supplier, we no longer have to order under the constraints of requiring a minimum of four items. If you want any items you can order anytime.

In order to help you gauge (pun intended) the size of an item you require there are details in the Club's folder that contains our newsletters.

The following items are available:

**Polo Shirt** (*Club logo and member name*)

£20.00 each up to size 2XL. Sizes 3XL and 4XL are £22.00 each

**Sweat Shirt** (*Club logo and member name*) £24.00 all sizes

**Fleeces Full Zip** (*Club logo and member name*)

£27.00 each up to size 2XL. Sizes 3XL and 4XL at £28.00 each

**Caps (Base Ball style)** (*Club logo only*)

£9.00 each

All prices include VAT (Vampire Added Tax)

**Please note that a £5 deposit will be required for EACH item ordered. As these items are personalised, we are unable to give refunds or do exchanges where incorrect sizes have been ordered.**



The group photo taken around the Test Track recently—in old regalia.



# The New Junior Test Track

As you will have gathered by now we are building a new Test Track for the junior members. At the time of going to press, the main boards have been constructed and painted.



First of all it was the job of the carpenters; then the painters and decorators moved in.

# Club Information

## Committee Members

Les Pace (Chair Person)  
Colin Tarry (Treasurer)  
Richard Deacon (Secretary)  
Michael Castledine  
Roger Whiffin  
Stephen Lloyd



Web site: <https://ndmrc.org>

Email: [feedback@ndmrc.org](mailto:feedback@ndmrc.org)

Club Night: Friday

Meeting Time: 19:00—22:00

Venue: Hardingstone Village Hall

High Street, Hardingstone,  
Northampton, NN4 6DA

Secretary: tel: 01604 890275

email: [rjd156@btinternet.com](mailto:rjd156@btinternet.com)

## Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor Colin Tarry email: [wizzo@hymek.net](mailto:wizzo@hymek.net)

Sales Officer John Walker email: [pamjohn38@btinternet.com](mailto:pamjohn38@btinternet.com)

## Club Membership Rates

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

Adult membership £60 per year, Junior membership £10 per year.

For adult members easy payment terms available. Please enquire.