

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Newsletter

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SPRING 2019

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 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

Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of the Club newsletter.

Peter Escott shares with us some pictures of his visit to the Great Central Railway earlier this year.

In this issue a tribute to our late Club member Len Snelling.



Colin

Club Torque

Date of next Committee Meeting

A date for the next committee is Monday 20th May. If there are any items for the next agenda, please let Richard have them ASAP.

Email: rjd156@btinternet.com

Club Night Test Track Dates 2019

March 29th

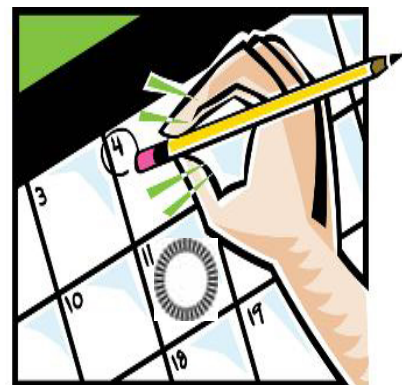
April 12th and 19th

May 3rd, and 31st

You will note that from

May we are reverting to having the Test Track out every third week.

**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.



The Peter Escott Collection

Club member Peter Escott shares with us some more of his photos from his many travels visiting various railway haunts and special events.

The following photos are from Peter's visit to the Great Central Railway on 19th January this year.



Class 37 no 37714 in the grey sector ITrainload Freight (Metals) livery.



[left] BR Standard class 9F no 99214.

[below]

BR Standard class 5 no 73156





[above] LMS 0-6-0 Jinty

[below left] LMS designed 8F 2-8-0 no 48624. This is a wartime example being built at Ashford in 1943.

[below right] LMS Black 5 4-6-0 no 45305. The loco is named Alderman A E Draper. Albert Draper was the owner of the scrapyard to which this was originally sent to for disposal.

Both these locos have a Swindon connection.



Leonard Alfred Snelling

19th Dec. 1932 – 14th February 2019

It is with great regret that we have to report the sad loss of Len who was a founder, honorary, and long standing member of the Club, who sadly passed away recently. He will be sadly missed by all the club members who knew him. As well as the involvement with our club he was also passionate about the South East and Chatham Railway and also founded a group to promote the history of this railway.

Some of our Members joined his wife Betty and son Len and family at the Crematorium at Milton for his funeral on 7th March. The service sheet was appropriately adorned with photos of a steam engine, although unfortunately it was of Flying Scotsman rather than something Southern, that we know he would have preferred.

Len was born in Gillingham Kent and the name of his house in Rushden was "INVICTA" the symbol of the County of Kent. His family however then moved to run a farm in Cornwall. Apparently he disliked this rural idyll and joined the army as soon as he was old enough. He was involved in many of the post war hot spots, Korea and Kenya to name but two, and rose through the ranks ending up as Regimental Sergeant Major. He met Betty during his army career, who was a WRAC, who then became the love of his life.

After army service he became a fireman (the putting out of fires not the footplate sort) and served with several county brigades including a spell at the Fire Training School at Gloucester.

Northamptonshire had become his adopted home and had lived in Rushden for some years. He long had an interest in railway modelling beginning with OO and then O gauge, modelling the Southern and its constituent forebears, reminding him of his Kent birthplace, which made him a "Man of Kent" rather than a Kentish man.





Len Snelling (right) with Les Pace (left) taken at Kingsthorpe on 2nd February 2011.

Our thoughts are with Betty, who we got to know at our socials, exhibitions, and when she acted as Chauffeur to Len on club nights in more recent years. They had a son also Len, who followed his dad into the Services, and he also had three daughters, one of whom sadly died

three years ago which must have affected Len deeply, as his own health was starting to fail.

Owing to the many moves of venue that the Club has gone through, there are unfortunately very few records of the origins of the Club 50 years ago. One we do have is the record of an article in *Railway Modeller* in the autumn of 1969 that the Club had been formed.

Len stated that with a few others, he started the Club, as we know it today as, "The Northampton & District Model Railway Club" in 1969 and we also know that there were other model railway clubs in the 1960s in Northampton, but the one formed by Len is the one that we are members of today. Len had been an active member for most of those 50 years apart from the time his career in which the fire service took him away from the county. Also recent ill health meant that he had not been able to attend on club nights for the past 3 years or so.

As you know over the past few weeks we have been displaying items from Len's collection to raise money for the Marie Curie charity and also the RNLI and any donations should be directed to them, or passed on to our Treasurer Colin Tarry.

Sadly the club has recently lost both of its honorary members, firstly Ralph in August last year and now Len. We will not forget the wonderful memories they have left us with.

N & DMRC Committee

Interested in a Digital Command Control presentation evening? - Apparently not!

This was the heading of an article that appeared in the last newsletter. The response was (as expected) zilch. Needless to say therefore, this evening won't now happen. Actually it will happen but on a 1-2-1 basis for the person who suggested it.

A Blast from the Past

by Colin Tarry

I was recently given a stack of old Railway Modeller and Model Railway Constructor magazines. Whilst looking through them, I found this article in the July 1969 edition of the Model Railway Constructor. This appears two months before our Club was officially formed. Whilst the article proposes a club for Bugbrooke, this must surely be the actual notice that started our Club. Our late member Len Snelling always said he started our Club. This article refers to a M. Snelling. It could be a magazine typo. It seems too much of a close coincidence that this article should appear in July 1969 and our club be formed two months later. I think its very apt finding this article as the Club celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Proposed Club for Bugbrooke (Northampton)

Readers interested in setting up a club for Tri-ang and OO gauge railways in the Bugbrooke area of Northampton should contact M. Snelling, 17 Moores Close, Bugbrooke, Northampton, NN7 3PN.

The N&DMRC will be attending the following events during 2019

Sour Valley Model Railway Club Exhibition

HEART OF THE MIDLANDS"MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION"

31st Aug/ 1st September 2019 at
LOUGHBOROUGH GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Burton Walks
LOUGHBOROUGH
LE11 2DU



As in previous years we will be taking the multi-gauge test track. Attendance sheets will appear nearer the time for those wishing to help, to register their interest.

Northampton Heritage Fair

14th September 2019 at
Abington Park Museum
Abington Park
Park Avenue South
NORTHAMPTON
NN1 5LW



As we celebrate the Club's 50th anniversary it is appropriate to the Northampton Castle Station layout. Attendance sheets will appear nearer the time for those wishing to help, to register their interest.



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 11.

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.

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 item you require there is information sheet available for the item you are interested in.

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.

Great Central Model Event 2019

As many of you will know by now, the Club's Multi-Gauge Test Track has not been invited this year. The reason being that the space is required for Hattons and other major players of a similar ilk. These people provide the Great Central with income, whilst the likes of Club's and other non retail attendees, cost the Great Central funds. People like us will always get pushed out in favour of more lucrative attendees. In view of this I would very much doubt that we will ever be back there again; but we can live in hope. I expect this event will end up very much like Warley—75% traders and 25% layouts.

Can You Help Winston?

Colin Norfolk needs help with his replica of Sir Winston Churchill's funeral train. He needs info and photos etc. Colin also wants any ideas and thoughts that club members may have. Also if anyone has any OO gauge plastic maggots then he would like to hear from you.



TOMBOLA

Its that time again when we must appeal for items for the Club's Tombola that we operate at our annual exhibition. Please bring in any new items or items that are in very good condition as prizes. If you wish to donate anything that is edible or drinkable will you please make sure that it has a use by date not expiring before 1st October 2019. Also if you donate anything that is breakable or delicate you mark this clearly on the bag or box you bring it in please so that it does not get broken. Unfortunately last year some glassware was donated and it got broken.

The New Junior Test Track

The cork underlay has now been laid and the first signs of track laying have commenced along with some wiring.



Let dad do all
the work!
Well done
Alan.

Dirty Cups

There has been a resurgence of the old habit of leaving dirty cups and half drunk drinks around the Hardingsstone Hall on Friday evenings.

Will members please take their mugs to the kitchen and wash them up when you have finished with them please. Also if you don't want to finish a drink you started then again take the cup to the kitchen, tip the unwanted drink away and then wash your cup please.

Its not fair on Michael or Liz, who each week have to clear peoples mess up, because of others laziness.



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

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

Non Committee Positions

Newsletter Editor Colin Tarry email: wizzo@hymek.net

Sales Officer John Walker email: 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.