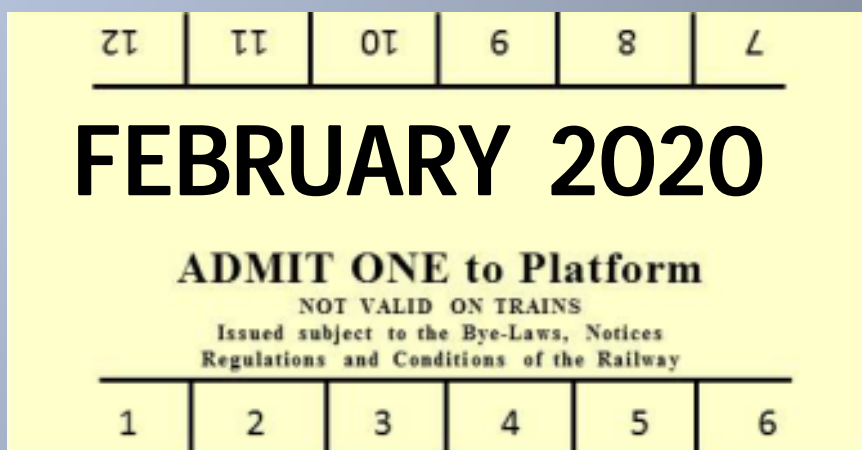


Newsletter

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT
MODEL RAILWAY CLUB



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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 another club member in then please be ready to move your vehicle in order to let them out.

DO NOT block anyone in who is NOT a Club member

From the Editors Cab Window

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020.

2020 needs to be a year of action on several fronts. Two of these are outlined in the Chairman's Ramblings—projects and the shed.

Also please take note of my appeal on page 8 for Tombola items.

Very important for our exhibition.

Don't forget - any of you can contribute to the newsletter. If you have some pictures to publish or have been to a heritage railway for example ; then let's hear about it. Just email me your contributions please.

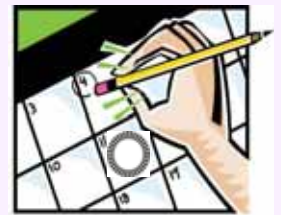
Colin



Club Torque

Club Night Demonstration Layout Dates 2020

We are now having this out every other week.
Here are some dates of the demonstration layout running nights :- **February 14th & 28th**
March 13th & 27th, April 10th & 24th, May
8th & 22nd



**All dates
are subject
to change**

If you use the demonstration layout 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 demonstration layout and then conveniently disappear when its packing up time.

Chairman's Ramblings

Dear Members

As usual I am sitting at my desk in my modelling room looking out of the window on a drab miserable day in January typing my ramblings that probably no one reads anyway.



However it could be a lot worse, it could be freezing or snowing. Nearly the end of January already and Christmas/New year seems a long long time ago.

This year we have some good events to look forward to attending, and our exhibition has a new manager—Craig.

We have been invited again to exhibit the recently renamed "Demonstration Track" at the show on the Great Central Railway in June at Quorn in Leicestershire. Also we will be taking it to the Soar Valley show later in the year.

Next month (Feb) I will be attending the show at Milton Keynes with Eastbridge as a replacement for a layout that cannot attend, so I hope to see some of you at the show.

We supported the open day last Saturday at the Village Hall with the Junior test track (that seemed to be run by a lot of much older children than usual), a display of Cliff's diesel stud (very impressive), John's sales table, a small display by Tim Amos of his new electric loco, and my Eastbridge layout. Even though it was slow in the morning it did get a little busier in the afternoon, and we may possibly gain a couple of new members. See page 9 for some piccies.

This year we do need to get some projects moving and when the weather gets a little better we must sort out the shed.



I had a word about possibly taking over the brick shed as well as ours to allow us extra storage space, but it is currently in use and is not going to be available for the foreseeable future. However I am working on possibly getting permission for a storage container of some sort to be placed alongside the shed.

I am pleased that the junior test track runs every week, but as with the larger one, we must keep an eye on both to see they are kept in good repair.

The treasurer tells me we are just about keeping our heads above water financially most weeks, but not all, and we could do with some more new members to boost funds. Please read page 5 of this newsletter for more detail.

So, if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the club, then please do your best to get them to come along.

Also if any of you wish to advise us about how we can improve the club, or if we are in your opinion doing things wrong, then please do not hesitate to tell us. We would rather that you do this than to keep it to yourselves and not be happy at club.

Finally, two of our members Peter Escott and Colin Norfolk are not very well at the moment and we all wish them the best.

Les Pace

Chairman NDMRC

Exhibition Programme

In this years exhibition programme we would like to try and get some adverting in it. This would bring in extra revenue for the club. If we can boost our bank balance then this enables us to freeze membership subscription rates. Will all members have a think please and if you know of any firms/companies etc that would be interested in placing an advert in the programme, then please let our Exhibition Manager, Craig know. His email address is *craig.dawkins60@gmail.com*

Weekly Subscriptions

from the Treasurer

My article in the last newsletter regarding weekly subs has not been wholly rectified but has improved. Just to refresh your memories, we are having issues with either some Friday night attendees not paying their £2 per person or some just paying what they feel like.

The subscriptions we receive on a Friday evening we like to use to pay for the Club being at Hardingstone. This then leaves our main reserves for spending on layouts and projects.

Just to put all members in the financial picture, this is our current situation.

On a weekly basis it costs the club on average £35.50p to pay our way. This is broken down as follows :-

Hall hire	£30.90
Kitchen use	£ 2.50
Cupboard rent	£ 1.00
Association fee	£ 1.15

This means that we need 18 paying members each week. Although we get more than 18 on some weeks, not everyone pays as they are not required to. For example a joint couple, or a guardian and a junior member attending are only required to pay one amount of £2.

The committee have decided that we will monitor this situation for the next six months and see if things improve.

The question remains that if things do not improve, what do we do about it. The option proposed at the recent committee meeting was to raise the weekly subs to £3. Another option is that where two people attend as a double unit (as described above), then the one pays £2 and the other pays £1. Currently the average shortfall is just under £5 per week.

Raising the annual membership subscription is not really the answer as we want the weekly subs to pay for us being at Hardingstone. Also that would mean a lot of members having to sub a new standing order to their banks.

You the membership— your thoughts /ideas please.



I know that Christmas is now a distant memory, but this seemed too good not to publish.



**GOT A LETTER FROM A STEPHEN -
HE WANTS A TRAIN SET FOR CHRISTMAS.**

**WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY. SEND HIM A REPLACEMENT
BUS SERVICE. HE'LL UNDERSTAND.**

**ALL CHARACTERS REFERRED TO
IN THIS IMAGE ARE ENTILEY
FICTIONAL — OR ARE THEY?**

TOMBOLA

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 2020 or longer. If you bring any that is breakable/fragile please mark it as such on the box/bag you bring it in.

We need a more concerted contribution effort by members please as we ran out of prizes very quickly at last years exhibition. Any unwanted Christmas or birthday presents can make ideal Tombola prizes.

Name It! - Test Track / Demonstration Layout

I put this article in the last newsletter and got no response—what a surprise! So I've put it in again.

As you are aware, and if not you will be now, we had to rename the Multi Gauge Test Track as a Demonstration Layout. This was because no exhibition organisers wanted it as they had their own test tracks. However a layout called a Demonstration Layout doesn't sound very inspiring either. The challenge is on, to find a name for the layout that will want organisers to want it. We need the club membership to come up with a name. Someone has suggested as an example Two Gages. All have a think and let me know your suggestion. Also, do we need to consider ballasting the track to make it look a bit more like a railway?

Colin T

email: wizzo@hymek.net



Exhibiting First Aid Kit

by Colin Tarry

I think we need to get together a club exhibiting layout first aid kit. Not for human use, but layout use. This can be taken with us when we take layouts off site from Hardingstone for exhibiting purposes.

At the moment we depend on individual members taking tools etc and using these to rectify problems. Firstly this is not fair on the person who supplies the kit as they can loose items and secondly, such a kit contains what that person deems is necessary to fix problems when we are away from base.

The question is, what do we need? A layout first aid kit needs to be compact yet comprehensive enough to make repairs.

Firstly we need to fit it all into something like a 56cm tool box. This way it will not be too heavy or unwieldy to handle.

Secondly we need to decide what its contents should be? This will probably be based on previous experience of issues. We'll work on this.

Once we have this kit put together it must **NOT** become a general tool kit. It will be for off site use only. If we let it become a general tool kit then things get taken out and not returned. This kit has to be a 999 kit—for emergencies when were are on location. We need to be able to depend on its contents.

In the past, and at the recent open day at Hardingstone, we needed tools to make minor repairs to a layout.



Hardingstone Open Day

On Saturday 25th January, Hardingstone Village Hall held an open day. This was an event to advertise the hall and the facilities available along with the activities that take place there. Several of the users were there which of course included ourselves. We as a club had the Junior Demo up which had two tracks running conventional analogue and two running DCC. In addition to this layout, Les took his O gauge Eastbridge layout and John Walker had his sales stand.



Thanks to those who attended on behalf of the club, namely (l to r) Colin T, John W, Tim, Cliff, Les, Michael C and John B.

Mick B came later after we took this photo.

All photos
Cliff Simpson



[above]

A display of O gauge locos

[right]

John manning the sales stand



Hardingstone Open Day



All photos
Cliff Simpson

HOMEWORK

In the last newsletter I gave you this to think about or research over the festive season: -

What item invented by an employee of the GWR works at Swindon in the 19th century, is still used today on our railways and in particular heritage railways.

Just to give you a slight start, a clue is its to do with wheels.



We had one member know what it was, and that was Mick Mumford. The answer is the Gibson Ring.



What is a Gibson Ring?



In a nutshell a Gibson Ring is basically a circlip. This is used to hold the tyre on a railway wheel. To put a tyre on a railway wheel, the tyre is heated to make it expand. While still hot it is slid over the wheel body and then Gibson Ring is sprung into the recess in the back of the tyre. To hold this in place the back of the tyre is rolled down to crimp the tyre in place. As the tyre cools it contracts thereby gripping around the wheel body.

Club Uniform

If you wish to order any items of Club Uniform then please get in touch with Colin Tarry.

In order to help you gauge (pun intended) the size of item(s) you require there is information available in the club folder.

The following items are available:

A price list is also in the club folder.

All body clothing has the club logo on and your name.

The cap only has the club logo.

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.

Unfortunately from the 1st December there has had to be a price increase, which is detailed in the matrix below.



ITEM	GENDER	PRODUCT No	SIZE	PRICE
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£22.00
Polo shirt	Mens	R539M	3XL, 4XL	£25.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£22.00
Polo shirt	Ladies	R539F	20,22	£25.00
Polo shirt	Childs	R539B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£22.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£26.00
Sweat shirt	Unisex	R762M	3XL, 4XL	£27.00
Sweat shirt	Childs	R762B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£26.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£29.00
Fleece	Mens	R870M	3XL, 4XL	£31.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	8,10,12,14,16,18	£29.00
Fleece	Ladies	R870F	20,22	£31.00
Fleece	Childs	R870B	S,M,L,XL,2XL	£29.00
Cap	Unisex	BC015	One size fits all	£11.00

Club Information

Committee Members

Les Pace (Chair Person) Colin Tarry (Treasurer)
Richard Deacon (Secretary) Michael Castledine
Craig Dawkins (Exhibition Manager)

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.

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.

