
West Midlands' N' Gauge Club

Newsletter

Vol 22 Issue 3

September 2019



OUTWARD JOURNEY

I make no apologies for my raisin d'aitre, or the lack of nuts - in my prose, it's just that I prefer raisins and my nutritionist says I should have them as one of my five-a-day, it seems to be working, as I survived TINGS this year.

Just a reminder to all WMNGC members, that to be included in the next Members' Contributions section, your article should be with me by Friday 13th December.

Volume 22 Issue 4 *will* be published before Christmas. *Ed*

NEWSLETTER DATES FOR 2019/20

Winter: December 2019

Spring: March 2020

Summer: June 2020

Autumn: September 2020

Chairman: Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062

westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Treasurer: Edgar Mason

Assisted by : Jeremy Edwards

Exhibition Co-ordinator: David Griffin

davejgriffin@outlook.com

Editor: Vince Painter

art1san1957@icloud.com

From our Chairman

I'm writing this bit *just prior* to TINGS, a busy time for clubs and individuals getting everything ready for this N gauge show. As usual we have a club layout going as well as members' layouts, including my suitcase layout celebrating 20 years since it was built. It has been out at exhibitions nearly every year since I built it and already has bookings to attend exhibitions in 2020.

It doesn't matter if you exhibit your layout or not, in fact it doesn't matter if you don't have a layout because our club has layouts for your use, people to talk to and excellent cakes.

TINGS is always a good place to meet us and many of our newsletter readers come to see us, as they live many miles away so are unable to come to our meetings. If you want more information about the club then just get in touch with me.

I'm finishing this off just *after* TINGS which again was a success for the club and our members. Thanks go to members who dismantled and built the layouts, Nigel for providing transport, members helping to run layouts, some when their health was not 100% and some who came on their day[s] off from work, plus those who created flyers, copied them and newsletters so we had things to pass on to the visitors. As always, special thanks go to the ladies who provided the teas, coffees and refreshments to keep us all going.

Whilst TINGS was a success, I'm saddened to say that one of our long-standing members Mike Turner, who has been at many previous exhibitions has decided to throw in the towel regarding attending club meetings. I'm currently writing a piece for our next newsletter called "*Mike Turner – this is not his obituary*". If you have stories and memories of Mike and the club please let me know.

Enjoy your modelling and please take time out to visit our club.

Ken Jones

Exhibitions - Club Layouts

Our exhibition manager is David Griffin - contact davejgriffin@outlook.com

1. **Waterstock** - always available to Club Members for long running, and an ideal layout for photo shoots of your new purchases.
2. **Whartson Hall** - See **TINGS SPECIAL**
3. **Gibben Quarry** - available again for running your own stock.
4. **Tipton Hills** - resting, but generally available for exciting running through the tunnels and up the inclines.

TINGS 2019 SPECIAL

WHARTSON HALL



Based on Water Orton on the old Birmingham & Derby junction railway, built to watch the trains go by with a endless stream of cross-country voyagers and freight trains, plus the occasional steam special.



Lights on but nobody home yet



Fiddle yard filling up.....

WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running

Yes, we know who you are, another great performance from these two, they are

FELLOWS AND MINCHIN



This is a freight depot based somewhere in the West Midlands and is fictitious. Created by a Fellows descendant of Fellows, Morton and Clayton who transported goods by canal all over the country in the 19th to early 20th Century based at Tipton in the West Midlands and ceased trading in 1948.



Successfully running lots of Stobart stock.

SKETCHFORD

Somewhere on the West Coast Mainline, this modern era layout with a suburban station, sees passing Virgin trains Pendolinos, Voyagers and cross country HST's. The Station is also serviced by London Midlands Desiros. The line also sees a fair amount of freight traffic.



Well as you can see 'SKETCHFORD' made it to TINGS, with just a few detail bits to finish, not very noticeable on the day. Friday setting the layout up at TINGS went well with some help from Ken Jones and Jeremy Edwards, also with a bit of micky taking from them, concerning the construction and size of timber used for the frame-work to support the layout i.e. earth quake and still standing came to mind.

Saturday started off well with Phil Hunt helping me to run the layout and getting to grips with it straight away (it was the first time any of the club members had seen the layout). After a few hours of running the layout we

hit problems,

trains stopped running and the screens on the DCC controllers just went haywire. The problem seemed to happen when the points where changed. The points where fitted with frog juicers, so I started to disconnect these one by one, got to the fifth one, bingo everything started running again. Just in case the rest



failed, I cut the wires to

the rest of them. The layout ran fine for the rest of the day. I had to thank Ken for seeing that we where having problems, when he appeared at the front of the layout and explained to the public, who were stood there waiting to see trains running, *"the trains are delayed due to a problem at New Street Station and normal service would resume A.S.A.P"* (brilliant - only Ken could come up with something like that). Phil couldn't do much except watch me running round like a headless chicken.

On Sunday everything ran fine with no problems on the layout. The only issue we did have with the layout was caused by human error - ME, Phil did a better job of running the layout than I did.



WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running

With what happened at TINGS and the layout's next outing being at **The Hinckley Show** on the 19th October, I have decided to change the wiring to the layout and have two separate bus wires, one for the up line and one for down line, also removing the cross over points in the fiddle yard plus each line will have its own circuit breaker, so if there is a problem only that line will stop working and the rest of the layout will not come to a *grinding halt* (name of my next layout, ha, ha). In a way I was very happy how things went on the weekend considering it was the layout's first show and with the changes I'm making everything should be OK. At the show it was really nice to talk to people about the layout and have nice and positive comments not just from visitors, but also other exhibitors.



My biggest shock was on the Sunday, when Jeremy came over to my layout and introduced me to Debbie from **British Railway Modeller** magazine who wanted to do an article on the layout for the magazine, which will hopefully happen at the Hinckley Show. I have already mentioned Phil, Ken and Jeremy, but I would also like to thank the rest of the West Midlands N Gauge Club members who attended TINGS over the weekend and made it a weekend to remember, being my first show and in helping to dismantle the layout on Sunday. All I need to do now is get it booked into more shows before TINGS 2020.



You can find on YOUTUBE some very good video footage of SKETCHFORD and of the other three layouts, Tony's Fellows & Minchin Freight Depot, Ken's Waterfall Junction, and the club layout Whartson Hall on Andrew Geebie's youtube channel;- Heritage & Model Rail STOP PRESS <https://youtu.be/iO1z4zzJ0gg>

In the next newsletter if it happens (*the article not the newsletter Ed*), I will let you know how things went, with the article for the magazine.

By Nigel Harrold.

WATERFALL JUNCTION



20 YEARS ON THE ROAD



Back here to celebrate its 20 years is Ken Jones's N Gauge layout built in a 1960's suitcase and known by many people because of its appearance in global magazines and exhibitions. It was Ken's first small layout and ran a mixture of stock in a confined space, including Minitrix and Graham Farish.



WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running

THE 3 O'CLOCK CREW



Not forgetting the Engine House, keeping everyone stocked with liquid refreshment, food and cakes - thank you Jane & Sylvia and Linn of course for keeping an eye on everyone.



MEMBERS CONTRIBUTIONS

TRANSFORMATION

By Rodney Hodge

Here is my latest Oxford N Scale Transport Transformation, based on the new Sandy Kydd Scania T cab Low Loader (NTCAB006) and the TV programme Train Truckers.



Using two models I have cut the 6 wheel chassis section from one model and inserted it into the second model behind the winch unit which is yet to be built, watch this space.

CHARLOTTE STREET

Episode 4

By Jeremy Edwards

Whilst building Charlotte Street, certainly in the latter stages, Mark II was being planned. Each layout so far has been an experiment to try out techniques ready to embark on a major project. The concept for Mark II is that it will be on proper baseboards with full control including points and signals. In addition the buildings are proposed to be constructed from plastic rather than card and paper and hopefully many will be scratch built.

In addition to the major scenic works one aspect of construction was to complete small 'cameos' and smaller scale detail.

The station garden is fenced off with Slaters Midland Railway fencing; the bean poles are a Noch product laser cut in thin wood.

WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running



A particular project in the goods yard area is an old coach grounded on timbers formerly used as a temporary office and mess room after the goods yard was bombed. I managed to pick up a “Shredded Wheat” coach for £2.50 at a show and converted it by removing it from its chassis and mounting it on pieces of matchstick. The tarpaulin covering damage to the roof was made from a double thickness of tissue glued down by soaking it with craft pva before using acrylic paint. The body was painted in a sort of khaki colour and weathered by dry brushing with dark earth and then a ‘dust’ wash.

Photo on the left is the original coach as purchased, second photo is the coach prior to final weathering and bedding in with static grass.



The scenic side of the layout is further developing with the addition of undergrowth, trees etc. I have invested in a static grass applicator which is basically a metal sieve with a handle and some electrics. Having helped to static grass another layout I am aware of how they work and they seem much better for covering larger areas than the plastic bottle method. Lots of little details have been applied like station nameboards made from thin card and headless dressmaking pins, somewhat overscale plant pots and a coal yard including a set of coalmen from P & D Marsh.

Operation of the layout is based on Midland Region stock and practice. Trains arrive from several destinations: local passenger services from Bath and Gloucester, semi fast service from Birmingham via Gloucester, a shuttle service from the Western Region station, coal traffic between the Midlands and the south west, local goods services, parcels services.

A small fleet of suitable locomotives is being built up, either ex LMS or BR Standard classes with ex LMS Stanier coaches for the semi fast and suburban coaches for the local service.

The Western Region shuttle is made up from a Class 122 diesel unit, 64xx 0-6-0T with autotrailer or a B set and 61xx 2-6-2T. The station pilot will be a 3F 0-6-0T (Jinty) and it is assumed that it will be off-stage in the fiddle yard area when not required.

J.E.



ON THE BUSES

with Ken Jones

BEFORE



Readers will know how scarce the N gauge white metal kit from K & B Models of a Bradford trolleybus is, so when Ken found one for 50p a few months ago he had to buy it.

However it was badly damaged following a rear end collision, which

meant it had no poles, a damaged roof and back - in fact only a film of paint was acting as the rear. It also had a front wheel missing and Ken knew this would be a major restoration to be done in the future. However Malcolm Hall offered to do the restoration at his workshop in Grimsby where the trolleybus has been fully restored, including scratch built trolley poles. Malcolm also undertook a full repaint into Bradford Livery and it now looks like one of the best K & B Models ever seen.



It came by special delivery to Ken while he was at TINGS this year. An article on the K & B trolleybus can be found in one of the 2019 editions of the NGS Journal

Ken is still looking for a unbuilt K & B N gauge trolleybus in original box.

~

Jones of Taunton receives new N gauge coach thus doubling its fleet

Jones of Taunton who had been running its N gauge modern coach fleet with just one Yutong coach has taken delivery of a second modern luxury coach thus doubling its fleet. Built and painted by Malcolm Hall in Grimsby the coach travelled under its own power to be delivered to the new owner during the TINGS exhibition, Increase in N gauge tours and special trips for N gauge passengers to bus rallies and model railway exhibitions has seen Jones of Taunton increase its share of this market since the delivery of its first modern coach.

Besides the customary ex works picture the coach was seen passing Sketchford in the West Midlands before its arrival at TINGS.



KJ

Exhibitions - Members

See TINGS Special.

Vince's dalliance - Undercover visit to Warley Open Day

A great, free visit where I learned that there are scales other than N' (lol).

I was particularly impressed with the young modellers' room, where the next genera-



tion are being trained.

Apart from the parking, which apparently upsets some of the neighbours, it was a very enjoyable visit. I understand now why so many people get involved, it's like throwing six or more Clubs into one building and saying "it's your turn for the coffee!" - different scales and interests meet on separate days - they all come together at least three times a year, that's two open days and THE BIG ONE, vis a vis Warley Show at the NEC, full details at <https://www.thewarleyshow.co.uk/>



For those that didn't go to the Warley Open Day
VP

Other business

Suppliers

Recommended by fellow Club Members (*usual warnings*):-

TENNANTS - Where our very own 'shop Ken' works, opening hours: 11am till 5pm
Monday to Saturday, and on line at: <https://www.tennentstrains.co.uk/>

Hardy's Hobbies - tiny people etc <https://hardyshobbies.co.uk/>

Metcalf Models - <https://www.metcalfmodels.com/product-category/n-scale-kits/>

The 2nd series of the Great Model Railway Challenge is on Ch 5 NOW (well Friday
nights at 8pm for 75minutes), catch up also available for those with busy evenings.

CREDITS:

All images in this issue are submitted, in the main, by the author of each article, any
copying, scanning or pasting etc, etc, blah, blah, are at your own risk - GDPR apply.

PLEASE GET YOUR OWN CAMERA

RETURN JOURNEY

MEMBERS' NOTICES

1. Just to prove the old adage that there's always someone worse off than you, I
would like to send my own personal best wishes to my predecessor Tony Butler, who
is at present catching up with old friends at Cardiac Rehab, second time around *Ed*

2. A reminder that our Exhibition Manager is David Griffin, contactable at:
davejgriffin@outlook.com

WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running

3. DIARY DATES

For **all**:

TINGS 2020 - 12/13 September 2020

For **Ken**:

Sat 28th September **Eurorail** exhibition Kenstadt -

Sat 5th October **Telford** Kenstadt with Nigel Harrold

Sun Oct 13th **Zedex** Kendorf with Jeremy Edwards

Sat Oct 19th **Wombourne** show Kenstadt - With TBA

Sat Oct 26th **Birmingham** show Salverton With Jeremy Edwards

For **Phil**:

Sat 19th October **Wombourne** with GreenWood Railway

Sat/Sun 23/24th November **Warley** National at the NEC with GreenWood Railway

For **Jane & Tony**:

Sat 5th October **Telford** with *Arley Station*

Sat 26th October Arden Hall **Birmingham** - *Doniford Halt*.

Diary Dates for Next Year

For **Ken**:

Sat 18th January TBC **Harpenden** Kenstadt & Waterfall Junction

Sat/Sun 15/16 February **Syston MRS** at Sileby Tennis Court Sidings

Sat March **Wombourne** Probably Le Club 143 &? -

Sat/Sun 25/26th April **Sutton Coldfield** Kenstadt & Waterfall Junction -

Sat 16th May **Lutterworth** Le Club 143 -

Sat 15th August Silver Fox, **Milton Keynes** TBC

Sat/Sun 12/13 Sept N gauge 2020 show Probably Le Club 143 Dave Evans - TBC

Sun Oct not confirmed **Zedex**

Sat Oct 31st **Birmingham** Probably Le Club 143 & TBC

For **Rodney & Christine**:

Milton Keynes Feb 2020 15th 16th Hawkins Halt

Model rail Scotland 2020 Feb 22nd 23rd Charlieville

Portsmouth 2020 April 4th 5th Hawkins Halt

Other business:

1. Don't forget the latest video of TINGS 2019

Part 1 contains 14 minutes of excellent footage - almost like being there - watch out for our layouts.

CLICK NOW, unless of course you're paranoid about being spammed, don't worry it's YouTube!

<https://youtu.be/iO1z4zzJ0gg> don't forget to click Subscribe and Like to ensure future videos are produced, especially for those that couldn't make it this year.

WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running

2. NEWS of OXFORD DIECAST

These are the new vehicles Hattons have in stock (other stocks may be available with other suppliers *Ed*)



NFARM006 Baler Blue £4



NDIS001 Land Rover Discovery 4 Ipanema Sand £4



NSDF001 Shelvoke & Drewry
Freightlifter British Rail
(Western) £7



NFARM004 Livestock Trailer Red £4



NLRL003 Land Rover
Lightweight RAF (Red Arrows) £4



NFARM005 Farm Trailer Green £4



NGG001 Green
Goddess AFS £6

ERRATUM FROM LAST ISSUE

Let me know if you find any not so deliberate mistakes, please email me at art1san1957@icloud.com

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OF THIS FREE NEWSLETTER *Ed*.

THE BUFFER STOPS' HERE

This email and none of the files transmitted with it are confidential and **are** intended to be promulgated as much as possible. If you have received this email in error please just give it to someone who might like a jolly read.

This message contains raisins but hopefully the only nuts are the buffs who read it.

If you are not the named addressee you should disseminate it widely at every opportunity, altering the content is strictly forbidden but copying is encouraged.

WMNGC 24 and keeping the trains running



Our newest, exhibition-standard layout *Whartson Hall*
Bring your own stock for a long run out on this layout, as seen at
TINGS 2018 & 2019

NOTICEBOARD INFORMATION

Meetings will be held at:
Tipton Green Methodist Church Hall
Park Lane West
TIPTON
West Midlands
DY4 8LD

2019 PROGRAMME

Meetings – 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month (except December!)

October	5 th	19 th
November	2 nd	16 th
December	7 th	AGM

In the New Year 2020

January	4 th	18 th
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Again all meetings will be from 2-5pm. If in doubt, please ring first.

For more information:

Call Ken Jones on 0121 777 7062, email westernsultan@hotmail.co.uk

Or visit our website at www.wmngaugeclub.co.uk

Any changes to these dates will appear on our website or in our quarterly newsletter.

Please use rear entrance at church hall.