MagNnet

Newsletter of the
Yorkshire Area Group
of the N Gauge Society

June 2016

For All N Gauge Enthusiasts—Whatever their modelling interest.
Meeting Venue

Meetings are held (normally) on the fourth Saturday of every month but this can vary so please check dates. All monthly meetings will be held at Heworth Community Centre, Stray Road, Burnholme, York YO31 0HG (off A1079 within York Ring Road).

By bus from York station:
- Using Coastline 840, 843 or 845 (Coast bound) leaving at c.7, 27 and 47 minutes past each hour to Stockton Lane. Return from Stockton Lane at 06, 26 and 46 minutes past each hour.
- Using First York Bus nr 13 to Stockton Lane (Junction Hempland Lane) leaving at 22 and 52 minutes past each hour. Return from Stockton Lane at 21 and 51 minutes past each hour.
- Using First York Bus nr 11 to Applecroft Road/Stray Road (right outside Centre) leaving at 05 and 35 minutes past returning at 01 and 31 minutes past each hour until 6.00 pm.

From Stockton Road walk along Whitby Road (Medical Centre on left) follow road around to left and then right into Applecroft Road. Community Centre is on the right just past Hempland School.

Map and driving directions are available from Editor if required.

NB. YOU ARE ADVISED TO CHECK THESE ION ADVANCE from the Coastliner website.

Date for the Magnet diary

Club Meeting Dates

June 25th
July 9th (DCC) & 23rd
Aug 6th (DCC) & 20th
Sept 10th (DCC) & 24th
Oct 8th (DCC) & 22nd/23rd Open Weekend
Nov 12th (DCC) & 26th
Dec 10th

Aug 29th Bilton (Freemo DM/JP); & Grace Quay (TH)
Sept 10th/11th TINGS (Edison Court)

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Front cover photo: Chicago North Western switcher on Watts Crossing (David Milburn)

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EDITORIAL
Welcome to the June issue of MagNnet—I’ve had to spend Sunday morning trying to come up with some content as I’ve nothing left to include; so if anyone has anything at all they can send me in the way of articles I’d be very grateful. I’ve even increased the size of the print so there looks to be more!! There is only so much I can write/you can take about my Montana Rail Link and FREEMO layouts!!

NEWS

• Whilst reading a recent issue of Model rail I came across an advert for this. It is an OO model from Hornby of a modern car for transporting biomass to Drax Power Station. What struck me was not the wagon, but it’s price (alright it is a limited edition) £83.00!! I hope this is not a sign of what is to come in N gauge!!

  Photo from the Hattons website

• Some sad news to report—Dave Hewitt the owner of Unit Models (make very nice resin cast detail parts and scenic accessories in all scales) has died of cancer recently and the business is up for sale. A regular at local shows (and Hampsthwaite) he was always willing to chat about all aspects of railways, and produced an excellent range of products at very reasonable prices.

Notes of Meeting—Saturday May 21st

Next meeting on June 25th
The group attended this show with ‘Watts Crossing’. It is the first time I have been, and I was very impressed with the whole setup of the place. We were well looked after and there was a steady stream of visitors (alternating busy/quiet depending on when the trains were arriving/departing). I had my ‘footplate ride’ so went home happy!! Thanks to Mark, John & Sandy for transporting (and operating!); and Alan & Mike for operating on both days.
Pipeline Board E

One of the questions you often get asked at exhibitions is ‘how long did it take you to build this? Well I can now answer that question with the latest layout/set of modules...I received my boards from our resident baseboard builder (Thank you David!) on 12.11.14; and finished on 06.06.16 (if a layout is ever finished!) My ‘main’ layouts are designed to be flexible in that they need to fit ‘the space’ at home, but also fit the roundy-roundy setup at York. In the past this has resulted in a couple of short ‘filler’ boards to fit a 12ft (plus the concrete module) space. This time, however, I was persuaded to do away with the smaller boards and go for the full 16ft with essentially 4 x 4ft boards.; and I even had the extra 4ft board built for me, so how could I say no” (thanks John!).

Having got the board, I had to decide what to do with it. It would need the 3 main tracks to connect through the 2 track end board into the fiddle yard, but scenics?? The rest of the layout is prototypical and to continue it would mean building a non-rail-served lumber yard with a sawmill etc. and all associated buildings. I decided against this as I didn’t want ‘high-rise’ scenics and a lot of scratch building. Having pushed around several ideas, I finally decided on a MOW (Maintenance-of-way) yard with a couple of sidings. I had a number of the Showcase Miniatures MOW vehicle kits, plus a Montana Rail Link MOW train, and the buildings etc. would all be low-rise and could be permanently glued in place. So, track was laid wired up and thoroughly tested before ballasting and scenics were added. The main feature on the whole layout is the Gas terminal which is accessed only from the left hand end of the layout, so the MOW sidings were set out to be accessed from the right hand end, so at a show both ends could actually be operated at the same time if needed.

The trackwork was then ballasted, scenic ‘mounds’ added using Sculptamold, and all parts painted using Humbrol dark earth, with areas which would be left ‘paved’ masked off and sprayed with Halfords grey primer.

The paved areas were then weathered using a mixture of black and grey weathering powders, and the various scenic items added
MOW yards are so varied that really any scenic layout would look right, but I added the main entrance/office area on the right hand side. The main building is a Pikestuff kit, with an HO garden shed from Unit Models, and the laser cut yard office I mentioned in a previous MagNnet.

Details from a variety of sources—Unit Models (log piles & shanty); Showcase Miniatures & GHQ MOW vehicles; scratchbuilt piles of sleepers, line poles etc.; trees from Woodland Scenics.

Once blended in with the adjoining board, I think it has turned out OK. I need some backscenes doing for operating in a roundy-roundy format, and hopefully will bring it to the meeting next month.

DM