TRACK ROD END
November 2023

The Newsletter of the NSMEE Ltd.

BREAKING NEWS



We begin with exciting news! So that the Society is not dependent on members bringing their own 7¼"g locomotives when public running the Committee of Management confirm they have ordered not one, but two brand new locomotives from CMD Engineering Ltd. Similar to the one pictured, both will be petrol powered, complete with electric start, two tone horns, throttle and choke controls, hour meter, LED headlight, and even a comfortable seat in the tender! Sadly, the budget did not stretch to Bluetooth speakers and satellite navigation!

But of course, the million-dollar question, what colour will they be? The red locomotive on the picture is purely for illustration only, the liveries of ours are still under intense debate, so watch this space! Although we suspect Teresa will be pushing for a hot pink one no doubt but possibly NSMEE blue??

Both locomotives are not expected to be delivered until April 2024, but we are already looking for anyone who would like to be trained up on both driving and guarding these locomotives, ready for passenger hauling on Sundays. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please speak with Pete Towle at the track or phone him on 0115-987-9865 or by e-mail ptowlesteam@googlemail.com

Kingpin Issue No 390 – Autumn 2023

By the time you read this issue of Track Rod End all members should have received the **Kingpin Issue No 390 – Autumn 2023.** For those members who did not collect their copy from Ruddington, it was posted out to you on Wednesday 19th September.

Kingpin Issue No. 391 – Winter 2023 edition

Our worthy Kingpin Editor Jayne Ball is hard at work producing the next edition of Kingpin, the deadline which is **Friday 1st December 2023.** Jayne states that although she has enough articles to fill the Winter 2023 Edition, she is still looking for suitable articles for the Winter 2023 Edition and Spring 2024 Edition, so thank you to all those who have written and sent pieces in. Of course, Jayne is always looking for articles to fill up Future Issues, so please don't hesitate to write a short piece. It could be something you might be working on, or maybe another railway you have visited. Either way, why not tell us all!

For those who prefer to collect their copies, we will update when they are available from the clubhouse as per usual. Normally the Winter Issue is posted out to members with their membership renewal letters.

Running lines and operations

Despite a relatively wet summer, we have still seen plenty of busy weekends on site which has resulted in plenty of running across all 3 tracks. As we enter the Autumn and eventual winter period, seasonal maintenance will of course take place where appropriate. Please find the current situation regarding our tracks:

7¼" Ground level track –

Work is still in progress (when possible) to replace the aging wooden sleepers with new plastic ones. We are currently working on the platform roads at Little Ruddington Station – platform 1 is complete, with P2 nearing completion. P3 will be next of course. Work on this project has been intermittent given the wet summer and usual running on Sundays but expected to be carried on throughout the year. If you are able to spare a few hours on a Wednesday or a Saturday, or maybe you'd like to learn more about trackwork, please see Dave Parkes on 07956-073798, or daveparkes1954@gmail.com.



Photograph David Halstead

3½" & 5" raised track –

The raised track continues to have minor maintenance on an 'as and when' basis but is open to run. Some of the riding cars have seen attention where needed on the brakes, ensuring they are fit to use. Some of you may be aware of the cracks that were showing on the tunnel facia. We are pleased to report that galvanised steel arches have been fitted and painted.

Gauge 1 –

Work is in progress to allow a much safer and efficient operation. The original steaming bay and station areas have been removed, with two new smaller steaming bays built within the operating area. All the original boards and track have been completely renewed, which all looks rather smart. Trackwork is now complete, and the G1 track is open to use. Work left to complete will allow the G1 to be publicly accessible via the 5" request stop, just behind the signal box. This will involve erecting a fence to safely distance visiting public from the G1 track. Until this is complete, the G1 is open to members only.

Also in the pipeline -

is a 16mm sm32 Narrow Gauge layout which will potentially run adjacent to the 5" riding car shed, in a 30x14 foot plan. Planning is still at an early stage, and detail proposals have not yet been presented to the Committee of Management. Steve Andrews is recruiting anyone

interested in this project. If interested please contact Steve either at Ruddington, by e-mail at sandrews55@outlook.com or by phone on 0115-973-3513.



Setting the Record Straight

Over the last few months, there have been one or two things said both in and outside of Track Rod End, that have caused confusion and subsequently several issues within the society. On behalf of all NSMEE members, the Committee of Management would just like to clarify and confirm the following:

Commercial boiler certificates –
this was previously stated that we do not accept these. After checking with our Insurance Broker, we can confirm these **are** accepted but we are waiting confirmation of which commercial boiler testers they recognise. Once received if your locomotive has valid boiler certification, please come down and enjoy our excellent facilities. Although if you are new to the hobby, or if there is something you are not sure about on a locomotive you have recently purchased, we recommend speaking to a boiler tester before steaming up.

High visibility jackets –
love them or loathe them, they are an important safety tool. In recent months there has been confusion on where and when they are needed. We can confirm that High visibility jackets should only be worn if you need to walk the track. On and around the platform areas, they are optional but not mandatory. Should you need one, orange ones only are available to borrow from the ticket office. Please don't forget to return these once you are finished.

Running through the station –
not quite a debate stirrer as brightly coloured jackets, but still an important one, nonetheless. We can confirm that running through the station is perfectly fine, as long as you have the Operation Superintendent or his deputy's permission. So once again, please come down and enjoy our great facilities!

Boiler Testing

Please follow the instructions previously issued over booking for a test.

When other ME members bring their locomotives down to Ruddington, they do have to provided their valid club boiler certificate, which brings with it the fact that their club insurance covers running at NSMEE.

The Society's boiler testers are: -

Matthew Andrews: e-mail matty3@live.co.uk; phone no: 0115-973-3513
Steve Andrews: e-mail sandrews55@outlook.com; phone no: 0115-973-3513
Alan Gent: e-mail alanj.gent@gmail.com; phone no: 01773-762450
Sophie Harris: sophieharris69x@virginmedia.com; phone no: 01509-852747
John Lopez: johnlopez@btinternet.com; phone no 0115-927-0852

Please note when phoning John his phone does not accept incoming calls unless you state who you are and phone no.

As before we remind members running steam locomotives that these engines must, when in use at the track be fitted with spark arresters.

Workshop – turning up the heat!

Richard Callis has been busy making many improvements to our workshop, clearing out all the old and unwanted tools and machinery. He has also completely reorganised the tool cupboards by colour-coding, making the process of finding a tool much easier.



But we have also been turning our attention to the cold winter that is rapidly approaching. Any past visitors will already know our current system of a traditional wood stove. But recently, it has been more of a hindrance than an incentive to many, often filling the workshop with blue acrid smoke!

Inspired by a visit to his local pet shop, Richard recommended us to the P.I.R. infrared heaters, designed to only heat the person using the machine, rather than trying to heat the entire workshop.

We are pleased to report that the first one has been fitted above the entrance door and is currently being vigorously tested. Should testing all go well, we plan to fit several of these around the workshop. So if you have something on the bench at home that you want machining, or maybe you'd like to learn a bit more about the engineering side of things? Why not come down on a Wednesday or a Saturday and see Richard Callis.

Please note – the workshop will be closed on both running days and event days.

New Members

We have welcomed this month, Glyn Bythway, Sam Bythway, and Robert Cornes as Members and Harry Simmonds as a Junior Member – we wish them well and good luck in their endeavours for the society!!

Membership Numbers

We now have signed up in 2023; 235 shareholding members [including 21 New Members, 1 student and 3 juniors so far this year], 18 Associates, and 1 student and 2 juniors – 257 in total.

Monthly Meetings – September 2023 to December 2023

Bob Bramson our Meetings Organiser writes:

On Tuesday 17th October we were treated to *"A History of Electric Traction" by Dave Saunders.* Dave has extensive experience of UK electric traction systems and his very professional presentation covered the history of electric traction from the mid-1800s to the present day both at home and abroad. He left us to ponder the question, "Is further electrification in the UK justified?" Although not the only consideration, having stated that the costs of electrification in the UK are something like double those on the continent, one wonders. What do you think?

Tuesday 21st November 2023 **'Steeple Grange Railway'**
Speaker: **Bob Smyth**

Bob is an enthusiastic director of the railway which is located near Wirksworth, Derbyshire. It was instigated to transport best quality limestone from quarries in the area. It is a narrow-gauge heritage railway and visitor attraction opened in 1985 on the original trackbed. It uses industrial locomotives and rolling stock from disused mines, quarries, and steelworks around the country. Bob will tell you about, amongst many other things, the War Grave headstones, most of which were extracted and engraved at the location.

Tuesday19 December 2023	**'Royal Trains'** Speaker**: Dr Bob Illingworth**
Monday 1st January 2024	**Annual Subscription Day & New Years Day Run**

A synopsis of the talks will be given in each issue of Track Rod End

EVENTS

For the remainder your 2023 and your diary: -

Saturday 4th November - Bonfire night and Fireworks Display

As quick as a flash, it's that time of year again! Similarly, to last year, we are planning to run trains on the 7 ¼" track from the main station, Little Ruddington, NOT from Parkgate. Running will commence from approx. 4pm onwards, until the fireworks display starts and after the display has finished.

As many of you will know from previous years, we run a very intensive service and it is very much all hands-on deck to carry up to 1,300 people. If you are able to lend a hand of any sort, please contact either Dan Fisher by email to danf8708@gmail.com or by phone to 07497-343359 or Pete Towle to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 9879865, it would be very much appreciated.

For members who volunteer you will need to be on site by 4.00pm at the latest and will be given specific jobs/tasks. Please note that the Service Entrance gate will be closed by 1.00pm but members should be allowed through the main entrance gate.

Saturday 9th December - Winter Steam Up and Run

Our ever-popular Winter Steam-Up and Run is back for another year! Members are encouraged to come and run their locomotives. Arrangements will be made to ensure that everyone who wants to run gets the opportunity; and whilst it might be just for a couple of hours, do please come and join in the fun.

As a result of how successful bacon baps and burgers were at the August Evening Run, it is proposed subject to favourable weather conditions and cooking help available. If you can help in any way, please let Pete Towle know either by e-mail to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available!

Monday 1st January 2024 - Annual Subscription Day & New Year's Day Run

Celebrate the New Year by enjoying meet with friends on New Year's Morning, paying your subscription and having a steam up. Should steam not be your thing, Diesel and electric locomotives are also welcomed.

Future Events

Future events for 2024 are being considered and updates will be published in future Editions of Track Rod End and Kingpin and the new updated website: https://nsmee.org.uk/

Great Central Railway (Nottingham) Ltd Site News

Many of you are undoubtedly wondering what is happening with the ‘big trains’ on site, and why the site still hasn’t ran any public trains on the standard gauge since February 2020. Unfortunately, there still isn’t any current plans in place to run public trains any time soon, despite hopes that there would be something running for Santa specials.

But with that said, many other jobs are being carried out behind the scenes for when that day does eventually come. Many old, unusable and life expired rail vehicles have left site, following the appointment of Paul Seaman as Yard Manager. Some of class 08 diesel shunters have been given some attention, including all new paint jobs. The class 31 D5830 is also undergoing a major overhaul of both the engine and bodywork.

But the biggest project underway currently, as you will have read in the previous issue of Track Rod End is the new carriage shed (Building No 4) being constructed, between no. 3 shed (behind the model railway building) and no. 5 building, (carriage and wagon works). This will form a two-track shed which will be used to securely store 4 heritage coaches, protecting them from the elements and vandalism. We are also happy to report that the extra funding required for the shutter doors and electrics has been raised, and contractors are now working on site during the week until the end of the year to complete this.

Please note – if you are visiting NSMEE during the week, we ask that you do not park on the concrete apron outside NSMEE facilities, as the contractors will need this space for access and equipment etc. Please Park behind the clubroom as normal, thank you.

And Finally

As many of you know since August 2014 Tony Knowles has been helping each Editor of Track Rod End since then to complete each issue and then publish the pdf version to all members. However, following his recent serious operation Tony has decided to give up his role in helping to produce and publish Track Rod End. Our thanks go to Tony for his sterling work in helping to produce and publish this magazine over the last nine years.

Also, the Committee of Management have now appointed Michael Goodinson our Minute Secretary as Editor of Track Rod End.

Should any members have any suggestions, complaints, or even compliments! our new Editor would be most grateful if you would contact him.

DP/MC/APK

1st November 2023