TRACK ROD END
Early Autumn - September 2023

Regular and Pertinent/Necessary Reading for **ALL** members

The Newsletter of the NSMEE Ltd.

Congratulations – Dan Fisher

Our excellent Deputy Operations Supervisor, Dan Fisher, is off to university soon, but has promised (really!!) that he will not totally desert NSMEE.

Good news as well is that he has passed three A levels with excellent grades!!

We wish Dan well in his university life and for a successful and happy future.

Many Congratulations Dan



Photo: Teresa Towle

Kingpin Issue No 390 – Autumn 2023

Yet Again – Another reminder: from Jayne our Kingpin Editor. She has again requested articles and copy for the Autumn Issue of Kingpin is needed so that it can be published in September 2023.

The Deadline for Submission for Articles for the Autumn Edition No 390, is Friday 1st September 2023. Members who have been on holiday – at least two have used the brilliant GWR St Ives Branch must have some ideas that they can pen for 390!! Jayne has requested, really demanded that she must have more articles for the next and future issues of Kingpin (we have 253 members – do try to provide a short article!!)

Come on members – your club and magazine need you to write!!!!!!

Track/Structure Maintenance ALL Lines

a) 7¼'' gauge ground level track

Work has slowed a little during the summer months, but certainly continues and is giving a marvelous improvement to riding and looks!

Members continue to work on Wednesdays and Saturdays – with slightly!!! better weather in August!

For many track work is very therapeutic – out in the fresh air, either making track or laying it in new ballast – and the chat with friends and the knowledge that this gives a major improvement to **YOUR** club.

b) 5" & 3½" Gauge Raised Tracks

Groan moment again!!!! Members are reminded that when running on the raised track they **must stop** each time at the station, unless. approved by Pete or Dan, Will drivers please remember this applies on all days and interpretation of the requirement is not acceptable.

c) Gauge 1 track

Consolidation of achievements – this railway looks excellent and continues to see a good improvement in the numbers of members using it. Maintenance continues and ideas for making the more attractive and to potential members – young and old is continuing

Whom to contact if you wish to be involved in track matters:

7¼" Gauge and raised tracks:

Track replacement and maintenance work, Dave Parkes **who leads these projects**:

'phone 07956-073798; e-mail daveparkes1954@gmail.com.

Gauge 1

Contact Steve Andrews who leads and also attends CM meetings
'phone: 07866-088626 e.mail: sandrews55@outlook.com

Regular Public Running at Ruddington

Continues until Sunday 15th October and includes all Bank Holidays. Help is always needed to run the two miniature railways. Consideration of a roster system is occurring.

This regular feature in TRE reflects on the essential need for this club of 253 members to help and provide the income to subsidise subscription income, need for repairs, renovation and capital projects such as the one for G1 noted above. Without the income generated by public running, such expenditure will simply not happen!! Subscription rates will need to be increased to cover the Society's annual running expenses.

Whether you consider the need for involvement it is beyond vital that more time is provided to support the running of the railways by all members. Without the income from the railways – one does not wish to think of the consequences!

The Whole Site - Opening and Closing

Please remember a *Nottingham Heritage Railway [Great Central Railway (Nottingham) Ltd] has advised the Society that they will close and lock all Entrance Gates when the last GCRN member leaves site.*

Look at the previous TRE for more details!!

Those Regular Repetitious Housekeeping Notes!!!

Boiler Testing

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

We have recently seen 'new' locomotives brought to NSMEE with current commercial boiler certificates. After considering some of the issues that have arisen with these documents and the reality of what was presented the CM has confirmed that any NSMEE member who wishes to run at Ruddington with a steam locomotive must first have this locomotive pass the tests that are required by NSMEE and the boiler testers. Running by our members on a commercial certificate will not be approved.

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.

Hi-Viz Jackets

We have **a new** supply of ORANGE Hi-Viz jackets - when entering the track area please check with the OS of DOS if a jacket needs to be worn and a new jacket will be issued. YELLOW Hi-Viz jackets are no longer accepted and **must not** be worn.

New Members

We have welcomed this month, Michael O'Connor as a Member – we wish him well and good luck in his endeavours for the society!!

Keyholders

Will all keyholders please read this:

We reminded you in the last issue of TRE the CM noted that certain members were ignoring the Society rules on self-working at Ruddington but more importantly the present suite of locks had ended their useful life and the CM approved the purchase of a new suite of locks and keys.

The new locks were installed early on Sunday 30th July.

Any present keyholder who has yet to give up his key and to be issued with a replacement key please see Pete Towle or Roy Hollingworth and the keyholder will be issued with one on a Wednesday or Saturday.

Any member who hasn't a key and would like one may purchase one from Pete or Roy on the payment of £4.00.

Any member issued with a key and subsequently found to give copies to non/other members will be expelled from the Society.

COSHH - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

Members continue to bring various liquids, often paint, down to the track without first enquiring if they are wanted. PLEASE before bringing anything down please contact Pete Towle or any other CM member and confirm that NSMEE needs and will accept any such. Of note any liquids will only be accepted with the relevant COSSH certificate being supplied with the materials.

Petes details are:-

Phone 0115-987-9865 or e-mail to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com to check that the Society requires them. Please don't arrive with kit which we have no knowledge of!!

Committee of Management (CM) August Meeting Notes

Along with the points covered above we discussed and reviewed the following:

Progress of the extension of the main NSMEE lease. We have an option in the 2016 'new' lease which runs for 7 years, until November this year, to extend this by 21 years. This we intend to do and have advised East Midlands Railway Trust in line with the specific notice time requirements. Currently we await a draft copy of the extended lease.

The NSMEE website will also be updated in the immediate future with the previous webmaster returning the domain. The current site will continue and more information on its replacement will be provided as and when available.

The service road entrance surface is in poor repair. We will liaise with EMRT and GCRN to move on the repair.

The 5” gauge water tower is being repaired and unfortunately is currently out of use. Further information when it is available will be published.

Repairs to the entrance to the raised track tunnel have been agreed and will proceed at the earliest.

In our search to keep costs down and in the interim when lights fail they will be replaced with LED lights. The CM is also considering, after research, what the costs will be of changing all lights to LED even when still functioning.

For Gauge 1 and in addition to the notes above

- Work is in progress to ensure safer running and public viewing.
- New baseboards and track are now completed.
- A fence is to be erected to create safe boundary for visitors.
- Gauge 1 members have not been following H&S protocol when operating G1. CM to remind G1 users to use correct labels on their containers and maximum of 1 litre per person of methylated spirits. Please follow these exactly – we do not wish to repeat the March 2022 incident – which had and has the potential if repeated of closing the whole site down.

We discussed a recent situation where members steam locomotives purchased from commercial outlets are clearly not safe to use. Whilst these may have current boiler certificates issued by a commercial organisation the CM has agreed to check where the society stands regarding insurance on commercial certificates.
Subsequent to the meeting a decision has been reached that all steam locomotives owned by NSMEE members must have their boilers examined and tested by our boiler testers and suitable certificates issued. Boiler testers will also conduct Fitness to Run examinations.(*Noted above under Husekeeping as well*)

Workshop heating was discussed. It was suggested correcting the log burner flue, but we were warned of potential dangers of using it should it not be installed correctly. It was agreed to look into the costs of infrared heaters

Membership Renewals

We now have signed up in 2023; 232 shareholding members [including 18 New Members, 1 student and 2 juniors so far this year], 18 Associates, and 1 student and 2 juniors – 253 in total.

Monthly Meetings – September 2023 to December 2023

The August Monthly Meeting being an Evening Run was a very successful evening with members enjoying the evening sun (from 1pm!!!!) together with running their models and having convivial talks with each other plus from around 6.00pm bacon baps, and beef burgers would be available. What a success selling bacon baps and burgers proved to be. Our thanks are due to Teresa for providing the eats and Ann Hopkins for being the Chef and what a brilliant job she did. Below are two photographs of the ladies against the hot plate.

Again, many thanks Teresa and Ann.

Some 56 members plus their guests attended this successful Evening.

See pictures below of Ann and Teresa in working mode:



Photo: Teresa Towle



Photo: courtesy Teresa Towle

Bob Bramson our Meetings Organiser writes:

Tuesday 19th September 2023 **'LMS Princess Class Pacific 6202 "Turbomotive".'**
Speaker**: Ray Pettit**

Ray started his professional life with a Graduate Apprenticeship with Brush Traction, He moved into computing and followed that career for some thirty-five years, before joining a global insurance broker, which had an extensive business insuring railways. Despite career change, Ray has been a devout railway enthusiast all his life; as a photographer, a keen history student, a volunteer on the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway and a builder of 4mm locomotives. He supports a number of new-build projects including the Patriot, Tornado, the P2 and the GCR Class 2 being built in Ruddington. Ray has also served as Lectures Secretary for Derby Railway Engineering Society for over ten years and thought he should contribute at some stage, hence his talk on William Stanier and the Turbo.

Ray in his talk will outline Stanier's plans for the new LMS locomotive fleet and concentrate on the development of first of the new engines, the Princesses. He will describe their early development and running. There is a brief review of Turbine locomotives which have operated in the UK and the story of how Stanier's interest in turbine locomotives developed in association with Dr Guy Bailey. The technical aspects of 6202 are covered, together with her construction, successful operation and conversion to a reciprocating engine. Her short life as Princess Anne and tragic end are also covered.

Tuesday 17th October 2023 **'The History of Electric Rail Traction.'**
Speaker**: Dave Saunders**

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

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 from October to December will be given in each issue of Track Rod End

EVENTS

For the remainder your 2023 and your diary: -

a) Invitation Day Saturday 2nd September 2023

Our Invitation to our friends to have an enjoyable day with us. Help will be needed from our membership to make this a successful day. Please let Pete Towle know as soon as possible either by e-mail to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865 with your availability to help. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits for members will be available.

b) Federation of Model Engineering Societies - 2023 Autumn Rally to be held at Frimley and Ascot Locomotive Club on 16th September.

Frimley and Ascot Locomotive Club (FALC) are the hosts for the FMES Autumn Rally this year with an impressive facility that is built and operated by the Club, called 'Frimley Lodge Miniature Railway', includes a kilometre long multi-gauge ground level track winding its way through a country park, and a raised track for owners of smaller locomotives.

The rally will be on Saturday, 16 September 2023, at Frimley Lodge Park, between 10am and 5pm.

There will be opportunities to visit on Friday 15th and Sunday 17th September as well, please see the FALC website for details. The Rally is an open event for all members of clubs that themselves are members of one of the representative organisations contributing to the national standards for steam and miniature railway operation. On the day of the Rally, all visitors with eligible locomotives are invited to enter the two competitions that will be held. These are the regular Australian Association of Live Steamers (AALS) trophy (FMES affiliated club members only) and the newly launched Federation Autumn Rally Competition.

c) Miniature Traction Engine Rally 23rd & 24th September 2023

It is hoped those members with miniature traction engines, and road rollers will support this Miniature Traction Rally event by bringing their models for a run.

As in previous years there will be on the Saturday a road run with a suitable stop at a local hostelry for both drivers, passengers and be able to top up the traction engines with water and fuel!!

An evening meal is being organised for those attending and members on the Saturday evening. There will be limited caravan and camping space for those who would like to stay on the Saturday night.

Further details and application form may be obtained from Graham Jackson phone 07377-074356; e-mail g.rahamm@hotmail.co.uk

d) Saturday 7th October Narrow-Gauge Rally

Again, NSMEE are hosting a Narrow-Gauge Rally under the auspices of Dan Fisher on Saturday 7th October. The Invitation leaflets will be e-mailed out to the Federation of Model Engineering Societies and the Northern Association of Model Engineers in the next few days. Help will be needed from our membership to make this a successful day. Please let either Dan Fisher (organiser) by email to **danf8708@gmail.com** or by phone to 07497-343359 **or** Pete Towle to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865 with your availability to help. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits for members will be available. A copy of the poster advertising the Narrow Gauge is attached.

e) Saturday 21st October – Standard Gauge Day

More information will be given in the October Edition of Track Rod End. But help will be needed from our membership to make this a successful day. Please let Pete Towle know either by e-mail to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865 with your availability to help. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits for members will be available.

f) Saturday 4th November Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display

In co-operation of the other site operators, serious consideration is being given to our involvement in the site Firework Display on Saturday 4th, November.

As with the Display in 2022 we are planning to run trains on the 7¼" g railway from the main station, where our ticket office is, **NOT** from Parkgate, from approx. 4pm onwards until the fireworks display starts and post the finish of the display.

Many of you will recollect from previous years that we run a very intensive service and have carried on these occasions up to 1,300 people. Whilst this is large number of passengers at least 30 members are required to efficiently run the service. Do come and help, it has always been a thoroughly enjoyable night in previous years, so let please let either Dan Fisher (organiser) by email to **danf8708@gmail.com** or by phone to 07497343359 **or** Pete Towle to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865 or with your availability to help.

For members who volunteer you will need to be on site by 2.30pm at the latest and will be given specific jobs/tasks. After that timewhich will your NSMEE membership card will **NOT** let you in without paying at the main entrance gate – not the service entrance which will be closed.

g) Saturday 9th December; Winter Steam Up and Run

As our Winter Steam-Up and Run has proved very popular in the past. Members are encouraged to come and run 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 please let Pete Towle know either by e-mail to ptowlesteam@googlemail.com or by phone to 0115 987 9865 with your availability to help. As usual tea, coffee and biscuits will also be available.

h) Monday 1st January 2024; Annual Subscription Day & New Year's Day Run

Enjoy meeting with friends on New Year's Morning, paying your subscription and having a steam up. Infernal combustion and electric locomotives will also be welcomed

Other Events are being considered and updates will be published in future Editions of Track Rod End and Kingpin.

Great Central Railway & Great Central Railway (Nottingham)

Tom Ingall writes

a) New Carriage Shed for GCRN

After many years at a standstill, contractors are about to come on site and complete **'Building 4'** for use as a standard gauge carriage shed. Work should begin in September, unlocked by grant funding from multiple sources including Rushcliffe Borough Council. As part of the funding conditions, it has to be completed by the end of the financial year or before. You may have noticed that for the first time, the building's two storage roads have been connected to the rest of the track layout.



GCR(N) is running an appeal for £15,000 to complete the work. This last piece of funding will ensure the building is fitted with secure roller shutter doors and fitted out electrically. If you're interested in making a donation, it can be done on line at https://lnergctrust.org

The full details of the plan will be in the next issue of Kingpin and for members of LNER(GC) heritage trust, inside Driving Wheels too. Thank you for your support.

b) FoGCML Calendar for 2024

The 2024 FoGCML calendars are now available for purchase at the usual price of £10.00 each, however the P&P charge to a UK address is now £5.00 each due to increased postal charges. Posting overseas is available, please ask for a quote for the P&P cost.

The new calendars now have a handy 2025-year planner at the rear, to make notes ready to add to your future 2025 calendar or diary.

Calendars are available as usual by post, collection at the FoGCML stand when present at events. To order a calendar or for further information please contact Barry at blycett.gcr@gmail.com.

And Finally

Tony Knowles who initially drafts Track Rod End will, due to a health problem, not be able to draft TRE until the end of 2023. We will be most grateful for a member or members to step into Tony's shoes to draft TRE issues for October, November, and December.

APK/DRH

25th August 2023