

# Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 210

Spring 2023

## CHAIRMAN'S NEWS

I am pleased to record that the Club has enjoyed another prosperous Quarter since the last newsletter. We held a very successful open day in February which attracted 90 visitors and although nobody signed up there was some interest. However, this year two new members, Shane Barry and Douglas Irons have joined us and we welcome them into the clubroom.

We are still making a healthy income by selling donated stock and have made over £1000 this year already, so a big thank you to all members who have supported the Bond Avenue model shop!

Preparations are now well in hand for our June exhibition and we should have over 20 layouts this time. On the trade front we are pleased that Cheltenham Models will be supporting us even though they are trying to cut back on exhibition attendance. C&L Finescale will also be with us together with the local preservation/organisation stands.

We have amassed quite a collection of railway books which until now have been packed away, but the club has now purchased some bookcases and the books are being put out on show. The books will be available for loan in due course but first we need to mark them as 'property of MK model club'.

I understand that Chris Billingham suffered a heart attack at the end of last year so is currently unable to attend the clubroom. I am sure we all wish him a full recovery and look forward to welcoming him back again.

Now a couple of reminders, firstly can I please ask that nobody parks in any of the spaces in front of the building which are marked BROOKNIGHT. Brooknight are our neighbours and operate a 24-hour city-wide CCTV surveillance service. Consequently, their staff require access to park their cars at all times so please be mindful and use other spaces. Secondly, there are still a few members paying their subscriptions to the old Barclays Bank account and some still paying the old rate of £11. It would be appreciated if everyone could please amend their Standing Orders as soon as convenient as follows:

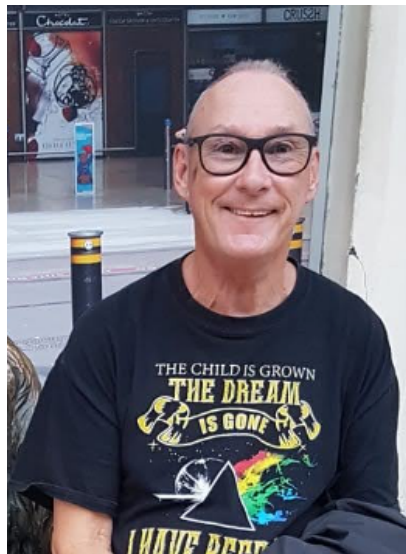
Lloyds Bank - sort code **30-98-97** Account No. **58101262** MK Model Railway **CLUB** (not MKMRS) Amount **£13/month** with your name and membership number as the reference please.

And finally, a friend of mine who is a tour manager for Great Rail Journeys has just been on a private visit to Uganda to visit a junior school to learn first-hand of their struggles. Apparently, it only costs £35 to provide education for one pupil for a period of three years. This modest amount covers all books, pencils etc and even the school uniform. Sue and I have sponsored a couple of these children, some of whom have to get up at 4am to get siblings ready for school and then walk miles to school where there are up to 100 pupils in the same class. If anyone would like to help this worthy cause please let me know and I can supply the details.

Chris Hughes  
Chairman

# Meet Our New Members

## David Griffiths



Thank you for such a generous welcome. I really enjoyed seeing the Fenny Stratford layout when visiting the Great Electric Model Exhibition at the Marshal Arena in September.

Having been interested in trains since very young, standing looking at the track through the gaps in the wooden floor of the guard's van, where we had to travel with my younger brother in his pram. This was on the Wirral (now Merseyside) from Upton Station to New Brighton.



Around 1961/2 I was given a Tri-ang Princess Victoria loco set and played with it incessantly.

I managed to get a couple of extra carriages and some more track but when we moved from Cheshire to Cornwall

in 1965 life became too busy for “toy” trains. Living in Truro gave me the opportunity to see the real thing. I would watch the trains at Truro station

and goods yard from the footbridge which still has bullet holes from being strafed during the war!

I seem to have developed a liking for freight trains and have collected a few Bachman Class 37s plus many wagons. I hope to start building a layout next year. I qualified as a carpenter/joiner but after being made redundant in 1977 and having a variety of jobs I worked for the NHS as an Occupational Therapist for 20 years until I retired.

I have another major project to sort before a layout. I'm a singer songwriter and have an album to record!

Thanks again for your kind welcome.

# Meet Our New Members

## Doug Irons



Hello, my name is Doug Irons and I would firstly like to thank the many members who welcomed me so warmly on my first visit to the Club.

I have long been particularly interested in the Industrial Revolution and the way in which the invention of steam transformed the face of Britain. I have been fascinated and often in awe of the sheer magnificence of the engineering involved in the construction of beam engines, traction and roller engines and, of course, locomotives and railways.

I am hoping that at last I will have the time to construct my own model layout but seriously lack the knowledge to complete certain aspects of the build. I am therefore looking to pick up some of these skills through my membership of the Club and hope I don't become too much of a nuisance in doing so. The time spent so far has been most enjoyable and I am looking forward to many pleasant and rewarding evenings at the Club.

# Wanted

## By Mike Biss

I'm after an article from the October 2014 edition of Railway Modeller, called **Computer-aided cutting**, and this can be found on pages 786 to 788. If anyone can either loan me their issue, please so I can copy it, or if they can copy it themselves (photos will be fine) and send it me, it would be very much appreciated. I am down the clubroom most weeks.



My contact details are [mike.biss@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.biss@btinternet.com) or 07753 137415.

Thanks

Mike

# Building My First Model Railway Layout

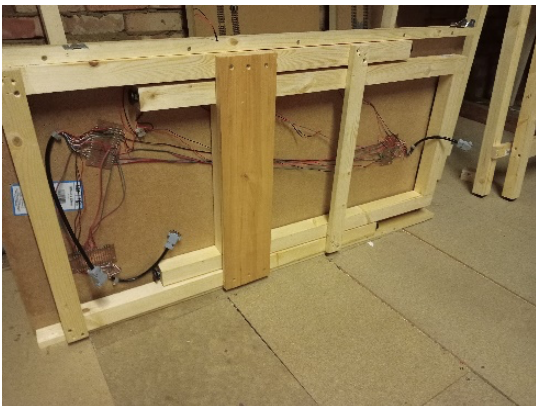
## By Ian Egerton

As some people may know at club, I embarked on the challenge of building my own model railway layout. I hadn't done anything like it before so the whole project I am learning as I go along so there is a lot of trial and error in the whole process.

I wanted the layout to be a DCC layout as since I joined the club, I have learnt a lot about the world of DCC to the point I now like to convert my trains to DCC if possible (I really like sound fitted models).

The layout will be based on the countryside, with track running along the outside with buildings and scenery in the middle.

When I decided I wanted to build a layout and knowing it would be on four boards (4ftx2ft) I wanted it to be taken apart so that meant cutting track over the board joints and making legs for each board.



When it came to legs, I wanted them to fold nicely flush together so one inside the other, this means that it can be stored easily when the layout is not up. I must admit I had to remake the legs as originally the wood I purchased was beginning to split (consequences of buying cheap wood), and also the legs weren't folding nicely like they are now as you can see in the picture. I have

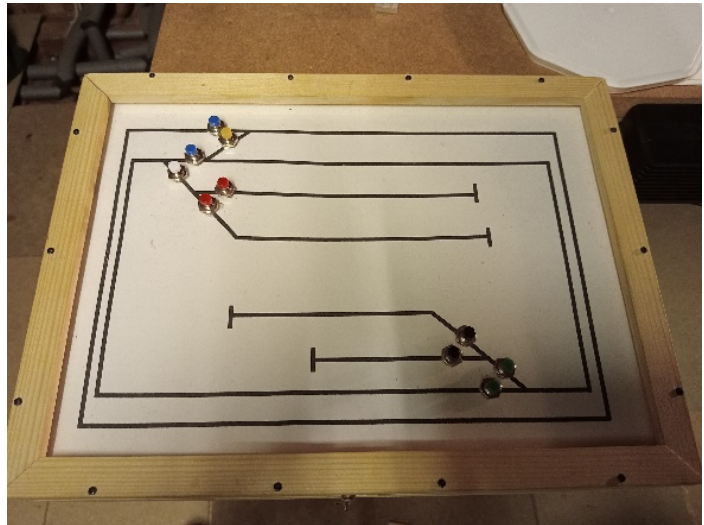
fitted the legs onto the board by using hinges, which allows them to fold.



Once the board is up as you can see in the following picture it stands nicely and importantly level. I have used feet to help level the board and I've done this by using an insert nut and screwing the foot into that which enables me to adjust it accordingly. The board it is a little wobbly once it is up

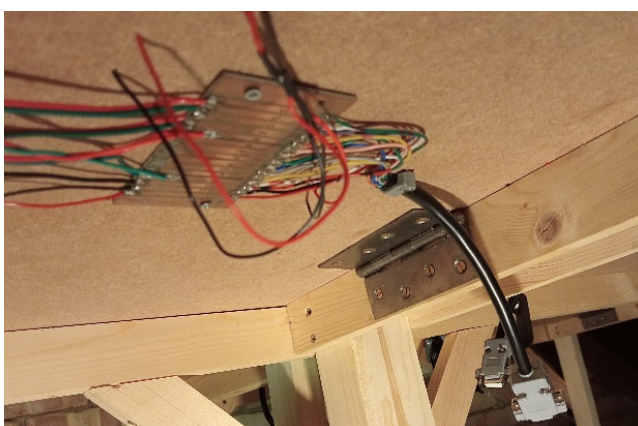
and standing, so the next job is to add on a support for each leg in order to make the board nice and sturdy. I will do this using a flat metal strip and drill a hole through the wood and use a nut and bolt to hold it in place.

As you can see in the picture to the right, I made a design of my layout in order to have a control box for my point motors. I decided to use buttons instead of switches (personal preference). In most cases it is two buttons I have used per point so one to fire the point motor one way and the other button to fire it the other way. On a couple of points, I have used one button to fire them



both at the same time. This is because it is two points joined together where you can change the line you are on so you can open two points with one button so a train can change tracks. The control box is made out of wood and I purchased a cut to size clear acrylic sheet to go over the design of the layout I made which is just a piece of card. The buttons hold nice and firmly in the acrylic sheet. I have had the box made so it is easily openable at any time, also inside is the power supply for the point motors which I need to have easy access to. I have decided to use separate power supply for point motors and for lighting that I will have on the layout or in buildings etc.

With my layout being in four sections means that I have had to wire board



to board. So, I have used a copper board to solder too. Then I have used multicore cable, which has eighteen cores which are identified by colour (bought from DMG Electech). I have used fifteen pin male and female connectors which join up nicely and this results in each board having power to track and point motors etc.

I have kept the wiring tight but still a tad slack in it so there are no hanging wires on the boards.



I have even got a little ahead of myself and have built a Metcalfe station kit which I purchased, and I must say it was a pain to get hold of a unopened kit as the kit had been discontinued by Metcalfe, so eBay became my friend. The platform is also a Metcalfe kit. I've added interior and exterior lights to the station building which I am running of a power supply separate to the



track (so I don't take any power from track). I have other buildings to add to the layout in the future that also have lights inside them. I personally really like adding lighting to buildings as I feel it brings them to life. I also have done a small amount of ballasting as you can see and so far, am pleased with how it has turned out for my first-time ballasting.

I must add credit and a thank you to fellow members John Gusterson and Gerhard Novak who have helped me along the way with the building process of my layout.

Any ideas or tips are always happy so would be nice to hear some of your modelling tips in the clubroom!

# **Milton Keynes Model Railway Society Annual Exhibition 2023**

The planning process for the exhibition is advancing very well with approximately 20 layouts planning to attend. We currently have 12 traders booked to attend but we are still hoping for more. These numbers will make the exhibition a great success.

It is great news that Cheltenham Models have agreed to attend the exhibition, this is brilliant news as they have cut back on the exhibitions they attend. Well done Dennis for your efforts to achieve this.

Last year's exhibition we only used the single hall at the venue, for this year we will be using the second hall as well to accommodate all of the layouts and traders that will be attending.

The exhibition leaflet shown on the next page is currently being distributed to as many retailers and exhibitions that we can reach. We can all help by sharing the date with as many people as possible. The exhibition is also going to be widely publicised on social media.

To make the exhibition a success the club needs everyone's help both before the event and on the day. Whatever you can do to help before or on the day please let the Exhibition Co-ordinator Russell Horne know, to relieve some of his stress.

Please keep any eye open for any Club Updates that James sends out on email as these could be making appeals for help.



# MODEL RAILWAY

# EXHIBITION

Saturday 10th June 2023



**10:00am — 4:30pm**

The Ridgeway Centre, Featherstone Road, Wolverton Mill, Milton Keynes, MK12 5TH

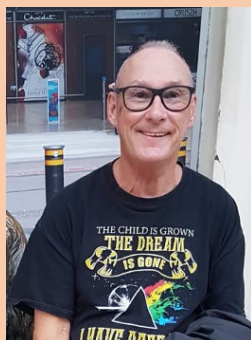
Adults £6    Children (5–16) £2    Under 5s go free

Layouts in all the major scales - Traders

Refreshments - FREE parking

## Member Updates

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the club. If you see them in the clubroom, please introduce yourself.



David Griffiths



Doug Irons



Richard Larbey



Shane Barry



The MKMRS Newsletter will only survive with your help, we need you to provide articles -

- ❖ These can be write-ups on exhibitions you have attended, modeling titbits, or anything that you think other members would find interesting.
- ❖ If you would like to be included in our “Meet the Members” articles in a future Newsletter, please send in your notes for inclusion.
- ❖ The articles need to be sent in by email to [MKMRSNewsletter@courtmk.co.uk](mailto:MKMRSNewsletter@courtmk.co.uk) they need to be the words that you want to appear, include any pictures that you want in the article. All can be sent to the above email address for inclusion.
- ❖ Hoping for lots of copy for the newsletter.