

Alan Gibson News Letter

Welcome to our Fifth News Letter, we were intending to produce these news letters on a regular basis, and while we were aware we hadn't produced one since 2012 we were shocked when we realised it is as near to a year as makes no difference since the last one. This is mainly due to having to relocate part of the business, see below. Hopefully we will get back on track with regular updates. The intention is still to use this News letter to keep customers up to date with the latest things within the business, these will include new products and developments, shows we are attending, kits we have available, etc. For those people who are seeing this news letter for the first time, the previous releases are available from the web site.

News

As mentioned above we have had a move forced on us. Now I could moan about the way this was handled at length (and have done) but it will be a waste of every bodies time. In a nutshell the local council decided not to renew its lease on a property that they were renting out as units and decided to keep it a secret up to the last possible moment. This left us with the worst kind of information, rumour. Ultimately because we were in an enterprise centre and it was intended to be easy to move and change unit size, we were on a 4 week license. Guess what, the council gave us 4 weeks notice! This all happened in February/March of this year and by April we were in our new unit. All our energy went in to trying to make sure that customers didn't notice any drop in service and on the whole I think we managed this quite well. However, to do this we did go about things in a particularly inefficient way. Usually a piece of equipment was only set up and put back to work when we needed it, for instance we only started using the whitemetal casting rig 3 weeks ago. Of course the other thing that saps time (as anyone who has ever moved anything will know) is that you can't find anything. This is frustrating as it adds 10, 15 minutes, an hour to any job that you do. Anyway, we're in, reasonably settled and it is 10 minutes walk from our house. Due to the move we have also rearranged the space we use at home, so all in all it has been busy few months but we're getting there, still not 100% but getting there. It was very tempting to just shut the door for a month, but that would have just brought other problems.

New Products

After reading the above it may come as no surprise that something has had to give and that is basically work on anything that isn't in the short catalogue.

Brass Centred Wheel Kits – We have some new wheel sizes on the way, the tooling parts are about 85% complete. It is a lot to ask to have them ready for the coming shows, but we'll do what we can with EM North looking very unlikely. We may be able to produce some of the 4'7" wheels that are not currently available, and that is our current intention.

Conversion Sets – We haven't been on top of these either, but the following will be available by EM North, Bachmann V2, D11/1, City with Hornby's GWR 42XX, 52XX & 72XX, Bachmanns 4F and the Helijan Class 16 already available from the existing range.

Castings – Again we haven't made the progress we were planning, but as we write we are having some new moulds made to improve the quality of some products and offer variations on existing ones.

Buffers – The buffers have also stalled but we will begin to work on these, if I can ever find the parts we were working on!

Catalogue – We are continuing to develop the catalogue. The emphasis is on the online version as we have to think about production costs of the paper version. Having said that we are still producing a few copies of the full version for sale at shows but in the main that will be available the online version. If that doesn't seem to be a particularly clear statement, then that is because it isn't clear in our heads. The Full version will hopefully eventually contain everything we manufacture; the standard version will contain everything we stock.

Over the period of time we've owned the business it has come to be a concern that we don't provide any guidance on how to use our main products, such as Driving wheels, Bogie/Tender Wheels and Rolling stock wheels. It seems to have always been assumed that the modeller will know what to do. This worries us as there must be numerous people who have bought our products and 'not got on with them' just for the want of a little information. We're not seriously considering putting instructions in every packet because if you bought loco and tender wheels for a Pacific you could have nine or ten bits of paper floating about, also, it would add cost to our packing operations. With all this in mind we've added a section to the Online/Full catalogue giving hints and tips for using and looking after our wheels products. If you're one of those people who don't like to be told how to do things, please don't read that section.

RTR Loco Wheel Conversion 'How to sheets' – Since Pete Hill has been producing 'how to sheets' for us, these (at least) have continued to be produced and we have added several new ones. The latest ones are Hornby 08, Bachmann 4F, V2, D11/1, 5700 & City, also the Heljan Class 16.

Upcoming Shows

Our forthcoming shows are-

EM North	Saturday 14 th & Sunday 15 th September, George H Carnall Leisure Centre, M41 7NF
Scaleforum	Saturday 28 th & Sunday 29 th September, Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Harvey Road, Aylesbury HP21 9PP NEW VENUE
Manchester MR Show	Saturday 5 th & Sunday 6 th October Armitage Centre, Moseley Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6ZT.
Warley MR Show	Saturday 23 rd & Sunday 24 th November 2012, NEC
Scalefour North	Saturday 14 th April and Sunday 15 th April Queen Elizabeth Grammer School, 154 Northgate, Wakefield, WF1 3QX NEW VENUE

York MR Show

Saturday 19th March to Monday 21st April Knavesmire Stand, York
Race Show Course

Kits

We have been steadily producing kits and kit components. Sometimes by the time we produce a batch of kits some people no longer require them. Whilst this is unfortunate for us, it means we have them in stock for other people to buy. Therefore available to buy now and at the shows listed above are

4mm S&D 7F

4mm LSWR O2

7mm LSWR O2

Tender Kits – We hope to have both BR and LMS Stanier Tender kits in stock and available at shows from now on.

We are currently packing

4mm LNER E4 / GE T26

4mm LNER J15

4mm GWR 850 Pannier

4mm GWR 850 Saddle

4mm GWR '1076' (Buffalo) Pannier

4mm MR/LMS 3F

4mm LMS 2P

4mm GWR '1076' (Buffalo) Saddle

7mm LBSC 54' Bogie Carriages

7mm S&D 7F

It is entirely possible that anywhere from some to most of these kits will be available at Scaleforum. We have been accumulating regular stock which will hopefully get us across the forthcoming 3 shows and we're hoping we can turn our attention to these kits between EM North and Scaleforum. We understand people might be keen to get hold of these kits but we intend to only make any surplus available from Scaleforum onward to avoid any distractions from the work at hand.

News Letter

If you picked this news letter up from an exhibition you may not be aware that we send them out by email. To stay up to date and receive future editions of this news letter you can subscribe to the email version by sending an email to newsletter@alangibsonworkshpo.com with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject field.

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