

Hello everyone! This is the first of what I hope to be a regular update on club events and club members during "Lockdown".

So far we are just over one week since we locked the doors on the clubhouse. Everything has been turned off at the mains, including the lighting. This just leaves the switch and plug under the consumer panel as live.

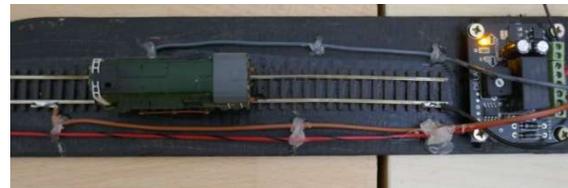
Ed Ody phoned me during the week to say he had finished painting the three remaining shelves, so keeping 2 metres apart we both went to the club and put them in place – but they still need screwing down. I also levelled one of the original shelves (the holes were in the right place but the upright was upside down), so we now have six shelves on the end wall.

Following my last email Robin has put a newsletter page on the website so everyone can have access when they want. Beyond this at the moment there is little more to say about the club and its activities.

I have been given a list of jobs around the house and garden that can be done and fortunately I went out and bought sufficient masonry paint for the house and lots of seeds for my veg patch. I have set a regime of working in the house until it gets warm (usually about 11am) and then its cutting grass and weeding at the moment. After 4pm its indoors again and back to the model railway.

When I last exhibited (at Bournemouth) a kind lady bumped her wheelchair into the layout. The tables moved and unfortunately it knocked over one of the locos and its wagons in the underground section of the mine. The loco going the other way crashed into it and I had 2 locos and 10 wagons in a heap in the mine tunnel. I thought I had planned for this but it was impossible to get all the debris out whilst the show was running and still keep the mine running. The whole board was slid out from the back and then item by item was pulled or pushed out. One loco became jammed and took some time to extricate. Revision of the system was called for and the solution was to have a single mine track, to

mount it on a board which could be easily slid out if a similar problem occurred. The whole underground part of the mine was redesigned to cope with this change and I was able to use a ten year old shuttle control to operate the system. Wires were attached on the surface but will be painted black so that they are not visible on the mine floor. The instructions claimed that turning the timer control clockwise reduced the delay, but after much frustration the loco reversed after four minutes. Turning the control to maximum delay resulted in only a two seconds delay. It appears that the manufacturer has now gone bust!!



Pictures show the new "slide-in" board, the board in the tunnel and the miners working.

Neil Carter had his 5 minutes of TV fame talking about gardening on the local news channel – how to enjoy your free time". Unfortunately I only caught the end of the report.

The next newsletter will be in a week. Send anything you have about your adventures to me in "word" and I will put it into newsletter form. Until then Keep Safe and Keep Well.
Ron
25/March / 2020