

Gauge O Guild
NOTES FROM TRADERS' MEETING
Held at
"GUILDEX", TIC, Telford, Saturday, 31st August, 2019

Attendees

Chris & David Stapleton & Nigel Bowdidge (Phoenix Precision Paints), Nick Tozer (Nick Tozer Railway Books), Mike Green & W Bath (Greenwood MRP), L. Fenelon (HMRS), I. Macdonald & John Gowers (MERG), Simon Roberts & Barry Cossins (Missenden Abbey Railway Modellers), Jim McGeown (Connoisseur Models), Trevor Smith (Duncan Models), Ray Heard & Peter Edwards (Ray Heard Model Railways), Natalie Jones & Kelly Harding (Signalling Record Society), Roger, Oliver & Holly Lewis & Kayleigh (Squires Tools), plus, Andy Duncan (Events Team Trade Rep & Duncan Models), Dave Smith (Events Team Trade Rep, Kettering Show Manager & Midland Railway Centre), Ade Haines (Artytype), Dave Edwards & Rob Bishop (Events Team Electricians), Dave Howe (Events Team Assistant), Jackie Kneeshaw (Events Committee Trade Manager) and John Edwards (Events Committee Secretary), Alan Redgwick (Events Committee Chairman), Steve Robinson (Guildex Show Manager).

Meeting opened at 17:25

- Jackie Kneeshaw (Trade Manager) welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the Traders' Meeting and for being here this weekend to make the exhibition a success. John Edwards (Secretary) stated that the key points from the previous Traders' Meeting held at Guildex 2018 had been circulated by email.
- Jackie K then raised the following points:-
 - a. Apologies were given in terms of a large number of traders not receiving car park passes and joining instructions by email prior to the event. Jackie stated that checks are being made with Artytype as to why there was a problem (ditto in terms of demonstrators). Jackie said that (hopefully) will be sent out electronically next year for return.
 - b. Jackie advised that flyers were now available at this show for the events being held in 2020. These will be issued to traders for their use tomorrow (Sunday 01/09/19). Jackie said that the Events Team fully appreciate the efforts traders make in helping with our marketing of events.
 - c. In terms of the possible sponsorship of publicity material, a questionnaire has been handed out to traders present and further discussions will take place over the coming months.
 - d. Jackie advised that Hall 1 would not be available during the breakdown period this year. **POST EVENT NOTE:** Hall 1 was made available by TIC for the breakdown, as the incoming show did not need Hall 1 until later in the evening of the Sunday.
 - e. Jackie advised all traders that children under the age of 16 are NOT allowed in the halls on build-up and breaking down of the exhibition. This apparently has given some traders, but this is a ruling by TIC.
TIC will be asked if a creche can be made available for future years.

(Action: Steve R)

Notes of Other Discussions & Points Raised at the Meeting

- 1) Rob Bishop and Dave Edwards (GOG electricians) reported that power outages had occurred today (Sat 31/08). This will be addressed and hopefully will not happen next year. However, it is important that all traders (& societies, demos and layouts) clearly state the power they require for their "needs" on their return forms. **(Action Jackie K)**

- 2) Natalie Jones (Signalling Record Society) enquired about the rules covering safeguarding. Jackie K gave a brief synopsis of the rules etc and stated that this was clearly covered in our Safeguarding Policy.
- 3) Jackie K said that we have been asked if there could be a late entry time (beyond the usual 7pm) on the Friday set-up day. Jackie said that we will ask TIC on this, but it does make it difficult for the Events Team, who will have been on site since 7am that morning.
(Action Steve R).
- 4) Jackie said that we have been asked if the increase in Ready-to-Run O gauge locomotives and stock could have an effect on traders attending our shows. A lengthy discussion ensued, with the general consensus being that traders were generally in favour of RTR increasing the number of people coming into O gauge, this could have a knock on effect for traders selling kits, detailing parts and other items but hopefully if someone comes into O gauge because of RTR, they may then be tempted to build rolling stock kits and other buildings / accessory items as well.
- 5) Jackie stated that we have received positive feedback in allowing early entry to some traders. This may be developed further, but it should be noted that only a select "few" are and will be granted this, so that key areas are set up early and aisles are not then blocked for lengthy periods preventing "normal time" entry to all the other traders, layouts, etc. It must be remembered that any traders (or others) being granted early entry MUST comply with the GOG Events H&S / CDM Standards, Rules and Requirements. An updated version of this document is currently being produced and will be made available towards the end of the year or early next year, after approval by the GOG Management Team. **(Action Steve R)** .
- 6) Nick Tozer said that all traders who have entered the halls during set-up must unload as quickly as possible and then take their vehicle out of the hall BEFORE setting up their stand/exhibit. The Events team supported this statement in full and will take a dim view of any who flout this requirement.
- 7) John Edwards (Events Sec) apologised to all traders/societies present for the period of confusion at the start of build-up in terms of the wearing of hi-vis jackets. The problem had been caused by an individual member of the TIC security team and was resolved by John Edwards and Alan Redgwick (Events Chairman) with the TIC Manager and TIC Senior H&S Officer. This did cause a period of approximately 45 minutes where anyone entering the hall had been told to wear hi-vis jackets, which was then resolved and rescinded as above. All traders and societies present at the meeting accepted the problem had not been caused by the GOG Events team and thanked them for the apology.
- 8) Dave Smith stated that not all traders are displaying their stand number on their stand. This is a requirement and assists those attending the exhibition to clearly identify stands. **(Action Required by all Traders etc at all GOG shows).**
- 9) Chris Stapleton (Phoenix Paints) pointed out that no show opening or closing times had been printed on the front of the show guide. **(Action Ade Haines)**. Also no rubbish bags had been provided to the stands. **(Action Jackie K)**.
- 10) Mike Green (Greenwood MRP) asked if online booking and payment for shows could be introduced. Jackie K reported that we are currently working on this and hopefully it will be introduced in the near future. **(Action / Progress reports – Jackie K)**
- 11) L. Fenelon (HMRS) said that at times when the tea trolley came round the hot water was cold. Also, the person with the trolley just kept walking past and did not stop to ask if anyone wanted refreshments. Jackie said that we will take this up with TIC.
(Action Steve R).
- 12) Oliver and Roger Lewis (Squires) said they are very pleased with the show so far, they appreciate the organisation and are most grateful for their early entry on build-up day. They did however say that some of the Gents toilets were of a lesser standard than could be expected. Jackie said that this will be taken up with TIC, but that we understand some of these are due for refurbishment. **(Action Steve R)**.
- 13) The MERG and Missenden representatives said that they were very happy with the arrangements and the show so far but stated that the menus in the food outlets were

somewhat limited. They asked if it would be possible for an area could be set up for traders & societies where they could pay to eat, separately from the general public. This would help in terms of time spent away from stands. Jackie said that this will be taken up with TIC.

(Action Steve R).

- 14) Jim McGeown (Connoisseur) said that he was very grateful for the Traders Discount Scheme and asked if it would be continuing. Jackie stated that that would be the recommendation from the Events Committee, but that the ultimate decision on this would rest with GOG Management, both in terms of its continuations and the levels of discount. Traders will be advised later in the year after the Management Meeting has been held. **(Action Jackie K).**
- 15) Andy Duncan (Duncan Models & Events Team Trade Rep) reported that the rumoured clash between Guildex and The Festival of Steam was not true.
- 16) Alan Redgwick (Events Committee Chairman) said that he felt that the show was going well and that there was a good feeling about the show. He thanked the Events Team and their co-opted helpers for their continued enthusiasm, professionalism and all-out effort.

Meeting closed at 18:15

Meeting Notes by John Edwards (Events Committee Secretary).

Confirmed by Jackie Kneeshaw (Events Committee Trade Manager).