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Yorkshire Dales
G Scale Group

Issue 22. 22/12/2014

****HAPPY XMASS TO ALL MEMBERS****

Dear member

Welcome to the Twenty Second addition of Traffic, the newsletter devoted to information regarding Yorkshire Dales G Scale Group. You will be able to read some interesting articles from our current members, find out about the forthcoming events. If you require any further information please contact any of the members below:

Chairman	M Humphris
Treasurer	D Newsham
Minutes	R Metcalfe
Publicity	P Inman

Visit the site. www.ydgs.co.uk (updates have been added including new photographs and the newsletters)

Feel free to send articles that you would like including in the Newsletter, it is what you make it so get those computers fired up and send me what you can (nicely formatted please).

Philip Inman.

ARTICLE 1

Greetings to all members of the Yorkshire Dale G scale group:

I trust that 2014 has been a good year for running your G scale stock. This year it does not seem that the group's indoor layout has generally seen any real intensive use and it does concern me that the investment made in planning, finance, time and construction over the last few years is not now being fully utilized. I would be very glad to hear from all of you as to your thoughts about the future use of our layout and the facilities at the Keighley Model Railway clubs.

On a more positive note the event at the Woodbank garden centre in September was well attended, very social and saw lots of members running their favourite stock. Thank you to all of you who worked so hard to make this work and successful.

I would like to think that next year we can provide an events calendar that offers increased planned and focused activities, but the question that needs asking is how does the present layout at Keighley fit in to this and does it offer members value for money and does it continue to motivate and serve our needs?

I am I suppose asking for your reflections on what the way forward for the group is? Lastly may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a enjoyable and active New Year.

Mike

ARTICLE 2

A visit to the 2014 Garden Railway Convention in Tampa Florida.

Having visited previous Conventions in Arizona and Washington State we decided to combine our annual holiday with a visit to the five day Tampa Convention. They usually give a good insight into all things G scale with a large selection of traders and dealers in attendance. The visits to the open gardens are good places to gain information by talking to the owners and seeing different layouts in action.

May 1st saw us on a train out of Durham to Manchester Airport to catch a flight to Orlando where we were to pick up a hire car and drive over to Tampa for the first five days. My wife Jean had booked a small cottage about twenty minutes from the Convention Hall which was on the University of Tampa Campus. I had previously paid \$100 dollars registration fee on the web site to the organisers so it was necessary to attend on the Monday morning to pick up registration and information packs. This would enable us to gain access into the dealers' hall and the open gardens.

Our first disappointment was that nothing was open until the Wednesday, only a visit to Disney World in Orlando to see the steaming of the Disney locos being made ready for the day's workings. To do this we would have had to be at the Convention Centre at 5am to catch a bus out to Orlando and travel over 90 miles and pay for the privilege. On reading through the information packs to travel to the open gardens would necessitate doing a round trip of 400 miles in temperatures of 80 degrees just to visit two gardens, as they were so far apart.

By the time Thursday came around we had to move out of the cottage and head north about 50 miles to our next accommodation. This put us further away from the convention but there was one garden we could visit in the same area where we were staying. This was small but nicely laid out in the owner's 3 acre property, complete with a lake. Friday saw us return to the dealers' hall, but again very few of the usual traders were there. USA trains, LGB of America, Accucraft, were noticeable absentees. Phoenix Sound, Just Plain Folk and Reindeer Pass were a few that were recognisable, so only a few dollars changed hands from us Brits.

In Spring Hill where we were staying in a villa, I found 'Dana's Railroad Shop'. She mainly dealt in HO and N gauges but did have some second hand items in G scale. A rake of 4 Bachman Heavy Haulers passenger cars caught my eye. These were fitted with interior lighting and metal wheels. So after a little haggling, and if I purchased three, I would get the fourth one free.



I came out of 'Dana's' with those encouraging words of "how on earth are you getting them home" from you know who! They are now nestling behind my B and O pacific loco and very nice they look too. Just one criticism is those couplers Bachman fit they are a nightmare for coming apart on the least undulation in the track.



So all in all a bit of a let down from the previous visits we have made. Poor organisation, distances too great but the weather was lovely and we hope Denver, Colorado, in 2015 will be better.

Alan Gardner.

**2014. Show Day at Woodbank.
And 10th Anniversary of the Yorkshire Dales Club.**





