



THE NORTH STAR CHRONICLES – a newsletter primarily for the model railway fraternity

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Editorial

This month the large scale aspect of the hobby is featured, large scale being defined as gauge 1, LGB and 16mm.

First the Carte Blanche website link to view the programme on Friends of the Rail is: <HTTPS://carteblanche.dstv.com/full-steam-ahead/>

Centurion Gauge 1 Meet

A national meet was held at the Bakenkop Laerskool in Centurion over 5 days in June with the first two days being closed sessions. Participants came from Cape Town, Durban, Kimberley, Kuruman and Witbank as well as the Reef. A great deal of fun was had by all and my thanks go to the organisers and to the school for providing a venue.

I am also grateful to Riekus van der Westhuizen of the Marklinist (refer North Star website) for the introduction to Marklin gauge 1 equipment.

As the photos below show it is of outstanding quality. The locos are digital, sound and smoke equipped. The rolling stock is simply stunning. But first let's look at the layout. This comprises a series of 16mm thick MDF modules 1200mmx400mm supported by steel legs all of which are robust and to a standard specification and thus totally interchangeable. The modules stand 1m from the floor. As the school hall floor is flat it is not necessary to incorporate leg adjusters for this venue.



***MDF baseboards left.
Wooden slatted
baseboards right.
Laying the track below.***



The track is not permanently attached to the baseboards requiring it to be laid every time the layout is set up but at least the baseboards can be stored at the school. Down one side there is a treated slatted wood section from which tracks glide off to a marshalling yard. The reason for incorporating a treated wood section is to provide a bay for live steam.

The marshalling yard in the middle of the layout. The intention is to incorporate something similar in my Umkhulu Modules layout



The track is all LGB i.e. 45mm gauge with code 332 brass rail. Given the size of the layout this has involved a significant financial outlay.

The control system is Marklin and LGB/Massoth DCC. While the largest number of locos was LGB, gauge 1 Marklin was also well represented. There was also participation by live steam and battery powered locos.

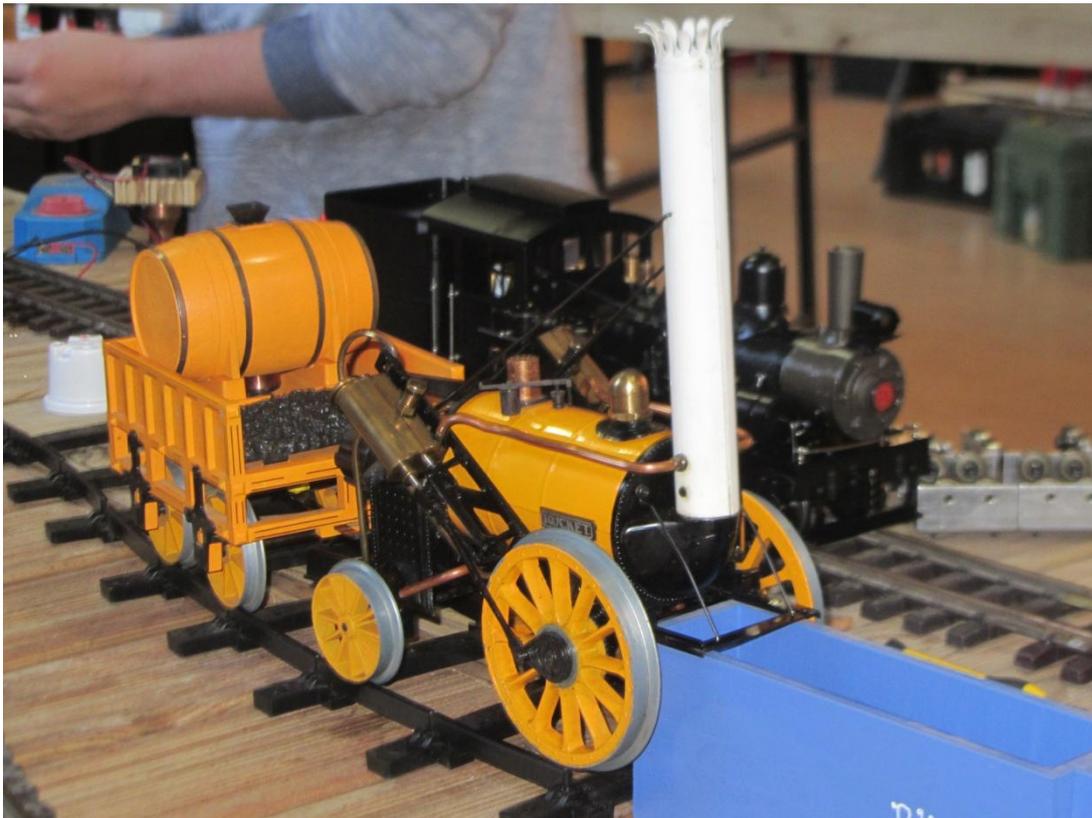
Overview of layout from the stage



Passing loops on the mainline



3½" gauge live steam Hornby Rocket back from the dead with new gas tank. Aster gauge 1 meths fired Alishan Shay behind



LGB RHB Allegra set (left). LGB RHB GE4/4 (adjacent)



**Live steam Asters: JNR C11 2-6-4T left. Alishan Shay right.
Good to see the younger generation involved!**



Marklin GT2x4/4 Mallet



Another overview of the layout. Note the loco and rolling stock boxes!



Aristocraft USRA 2-8-8-2 mallet



Marklin Gauge 1 'Crocodile'



Marklin P8 on left. KM1 Modellbau BR18.3 on right. Coaches by Marklin and wagons on left by Marklin and Hubner



Arguably the highpoint of the weekend – 4 Aster/LGB Garratts!



***Now you see it (the layout). A couple of hours later now you don't!
7 tired but happy gentlemen.***



There were several videos taken over the weekend which have been loaded on youtube. These can be viewed in the Gallery on the North Star website (www.northstarrailway.com). Here are some addresses:

<https://youtu.be/AyQ84UEu1Ek> <https://youtu.be/apMslrvsEc8>

<https://youtu.be/52ZGCGcu6pU> <https://youtu.be/LKlxp6MfrTQ>

<https://youtu.be/znzrSrCHpHk> <https://youtu.be/vFH70G9Aeg8>

<https://youtu.be/Oego1Nv97AY> <https://youtu.be/93vsxbGYA0A>

Hopefully this was only the first of many national large scale meets.

Reminder: Wings Wheels and Whistles, August 5th and 6th PMES.