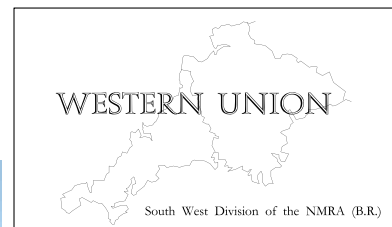


# NMRA Western Union Newsletter No5



## Pine Yard's switchers sort some cars

layout for more realistic operation, including running local freights to actually move cars from one place to another, and carrying out switching in the yards.

To this end Brian Moore has written up some of our ideas:

Well finally we are back on the main! with normal meetings. The Hilltop Community Centre have now secured ownership of the building and we have our meetings booked for the rest of the year. In the interim the HO layout builders have been discussing ways of improving the experience (and yes *FUM*) of using the layout. We are proposing to use the

Following the discussion last year to investigate the possibilities of improvements to running the club HO modular layout (as contained in a previous newsletter), the three layout owners and constructors (Mike, Steve and Rob) offer their views and plans on the future of the layout and how it will be operated:

- **The outside track of the layout can continue be used for the general running of trains by club attendees**, although the present lack of any storage facility will mean that *trains will now have to be removed prior to others being put there – but see below*. This is being done to free up the inner loop so that we can examine the possibilities of using both Mike and Steve's yards more prototypically. This obviously cannot be done if a variety of trains are constantly circling the layout in both directions! *Hopefully members will appreciate that this relative reduction in free access to endlessly "looping the loop" will be more than offset by involvement in prototypical operations.*

- **All club members are of course very welcome to participate** in the investigation into running trains (perhaps eventually on both running lines...) more prototypically, through the use of their own stock if wished. Assistance and support will be offered in the use of the Lenz handheld controllers and other DCC issues, to ensure that members do not feel excluded from developments – your support is very welcome.

- **Plans are afoot to construct an offstage storage facility for trains**, running a line off from Steve's boards; he will build the connecting board, and yard, which will lie behind his own track and yard. When built, this will make it easier to assemble trains, both for continuous running, and for operation. *Any assistance in the construction of the storage facility (including scenic work) would be gratefully received.*

- It is hoped that **Rob's present boards will be eventually replaced** by a larger set, presently being constructed with Steve. This is a big job with a demand for many resources and much time.

- **If any club member has a wish to construct boards** to add to the layout, or be involved in other aspects of practical club development, their contribution would be gratefully received (ie arriving in time to help assemble the boards (approx 8.30am), or to pack them up (approx 4.15pm).

- **Mike has set up a laptop programme** that will be able to control the whole layout via the Lenz DCC system – this will be invaluable when we investigate the possibilities of having a train dispatcher (especially when run in conjunction with a timetable and a hidden storage yard).

As always, it is hoped that club participants are able to contribute to the discussions in respect of future plans; hopefully you will appreciate all the hard work (and hard-earned cash) that goes into providing, expanding, developing, assembling and dismantling the layout, both on club days and at various other times, for our mutual enjoyment.



## Switching on 11th Avenue

Note we plan to have a discussion about this at the next meeting. Since coming up with the ideas we have tried using switch lists which proved interesting to operate and keeps at least two people occupied per train, along with yard operators. A dispatcher using the now tested computer to operate mainline switches seems to work well and will allowed a more organised use of the layout. We plan to fit signals in the future, but for now we will use numbered markers instead, these will allow the dispatcher to order a train to stop at a certain signal.

On the N gauge side the layout is expanding with Peter's new coal mine boards, and plans to improve the track layout. Computer control is also possible in the future for this layout as well.

Note the rent has gone up for the first time since 2003. At present I don't see a need to increase dues, we will see how the meetings go.



**UP switcher 1183 switches 11th Avenue's grain yard. Note the temporary signal by the caboose**

## Meetings for 2005 are:

**April 16th**  
**May 14th**  
**June 11th**  
**July 16th**  
**August 6th**  
**September 17th**  
**October 15th**  
**November 19th**  
**December 17th**

**Costs -**  
**£4 per person**  
**£2 under 16's**



**The expanded N gauge layout**

Other layouts sometimes attend, and if you have one you would like to bring please contact me to ensure there is space.

For those who bring boards for the HO modular layout. If you cannot bring your boards can you please let me know with as much notice as possible so we can work out what others need to bring.

## Directions to Hilltop:

**If traveling from Tavistock** take the turn off after the Crownhill flyover, go through the shops, keep in the lefthand lane over the flyover, taking the left which turns you back towards Tavistock. Keep left off the main road:-

**If traveling from the A38** turn off at the junction for Tavistock and follow the Tavistock route around the roundabout. Take the left immediately after passing under the next flyover:-

Take the right lane onto the roundabout, take the second exit onto Budshead Road. At the next roundabout turn right on to Tamerton Foliot Road, follow this road down to Tamerton Foliot up into the village on Fore Street. Go straight across all the mini roundabouts, when you reach the top of the hill follow the road to the left, then turn right into Linton Close. The community centre is right in front of you on the left side of the road. We use the large room immediately left after entering the building.

Contact- Mike Ruby, 17 Coombe Way, St. Budeaux, Plymouth, PL5 2HA. Tel 01752 369068 E-mail mikerub@supanet.com

