

## Scalefour North

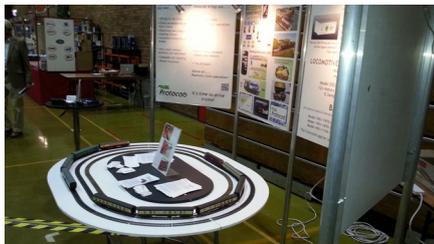
Although our presence at Scalefour North in Wakefield in on 6/7 April has been advertised in the last Club newsletter and in the Scalefour Society's newsletter, due to a misunderstanding on our part, we **aren't now attending**, so our apologies to the Society for the inconvenience during their planning and hopefully we can be invited back next year. Exhibition organisers plan these events well in advance, in some cases several years and although we try to be able to commit to key events, it's not always possible at present.



Salve! The 'tennis racket'. Our new demo layout, introduced at ModelRail Scotland, described below

## ModelRail Scotland 2019

It is *impossible* that we are over a month past our three day attendance at the largest show in Scotland - time is just *flying* by - and what a busy three day it was and we met lots of new and old friends! We had a new stand layout to replace the (affectionately nicknamed) 'doughnut' layout which has served us very well over the last three years at exhibitions. The new board was constructed in the three



Vale 'doughnut' weeks before the exhibition (not an accident, this was deliberate so that we could advertise the simplicity with which a new layout can be built from scratch in a short time, thanks to being freed from the need to wire the layout). We wanted to feature a circular section, and feature points and crossings to show how easy it was to get away from polarity switching. What emerged, thanks to playing with SCARM layout planning software, included a

shunting puzzle. Three parallel terminal roads, the left hand and right hand roads feeding to one direction of the circular track and the centre road feeding via a 'Y' point to both roads gave us the obvious nickname of the 'tennis racket'! We also decided to show the construction of the baseboard, based loosely on Hubert Carr's 'Geodeck' designs which has well stood the test of time, as well as three different methods of applying the landscaping: chicken wire and plaster, cardboard strips and plaster and polystyrene blocks and plaster. It proved to be a success and several visitors came along to see the board and scenery methods following recommendations from others around the show. We know that at least two visitors converted to the idea of Protocab although they had come along to see the layout initially! Who says that marketing doesn't work!?

We are delighted to let younger visitors take the controls and we are especially impressed that, far from our expectation that they want to see how fast the trains run, the young drivers take great care in bringing the trains to a controlled stop where required, and almost all prefer the Simulate mode of the 0201 to the Direct mode (although they are puzzled for a moment why the

loco doesn't move immediately when they turn the control knob! Our new layout not only maintains a continuous run element, it also features turnouts and a shunting puzzle which took us two hours to solve in the planning and a 10 year old at the exhibition took 10 minutes. Back to the drawing board!

The 'plank' on which the Minerva O gauge Pannier tank runs is always fun when we put a piece of paper on the stop at the end and challenge the young drivers to touch the loco's buffers to the paper without leaving a mark solely using the regulator and brake!

Although we didn't take any stock with us to Glasgow, there was a steady stream of orders which we fulfilled in the busy week after the show.

Interestingly to us, most of our orders were from modellers who had seen us one or two years earlier and had now decided that Protocab is the way forward. In two cases, the chance to use Protocab gave these new 'Owners' the impetus to build a new layout - wireless of course!

We've booked with organiser Iain to attend the 2020 show, *deo volente*.

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**A Welcome to Our New Club Members!**

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