

A MODELLING UPDATE

by Roger Tuke

Following the annual weekend Diesel and Electric Modellers United, DEMU Showcase exhibition, held for the second time at what is hoped to be its new regular venue, Sutton Coldfield town hall over the weekend of 17/18 June 2023, I thought it was appropriate to again provide a brief update for modelling members of what was there of Underground interest.

The highlight was that Revolution Trains had their N-gauge engineering prototype samples of a DM and Trailer car of 1938 Tube Stock available for viewing. I was indeed privileged to be able to take them out of the display case and lift them up to inspect. My first impression was how very small these models are, even compared to N gauge modern image Network Rail units alongside, but nonetheless they are absolutely exquisite models (*Below*).

These will be released as three and four car units in LT liveries and two car units in IOW liveries. For further information visit –

www.revolutiontrains.com

Hopefully, these releases will inspire some future N-gauge layouts in the future.

Photo: Roger Tuke

Of the twelve excellent layouts present in various scales, only one had any Underground trains visible.

Southgate Park is a 4mm/00-gauge layout from Mark Miller and Shane Wilton. This is their very impressive and entertaining 28ft long slice of Network SouthEast operating period, a portrayal of a possible location west of Kew Bridge/Brentford area that some may have seen before, as it started life as Northolt International built by Tom Curtis. They have done a lot to the layout since acquiring a few years back now and run some lovely NSE multiple units, coaching stock and freight train formations. The two line Underground track in the background has been relaid very prototypically, third and fourth rail, cable arch and cable runs along retaining wall, since I last saw the layout at the Stafford Barn Railway exhibition last year and there was two 1959 Stock units present, but the Underground lines are still not operational. I understand a shuttle operation is being considered. The 1959 Stock had started out as a EFE 1938, having had modifications to the cabs and recreated the look, but had been repainted in a weathered off white livery with the slightly darker grey cab doors, which somehow reminded me of the painted R Stock and didn't quite capture the unpainted aluminium look of the bodywork to my eyes.

Right: A stunning Gauge 1 model of Standard Stock driving motor car built, but not finished, by the late Eric Foster.

Lastly for the time being, I have to sadly advise that we have been forced to postpone the inaugural outing for our new Carlton Vale Underground layout that was due to take place at the Mid-Essex exhibition at Shenfield in September as mentioned in *Underground News* No.736. This has been necessary as the completion of wiring and building control panels has taken us longer than envisaged, not helped by one of my two fellow builders and my wife both having



major operations imminent this summer. Hopefully, it will appear at Shenfield in September 2024 and is likely now to make its debut at the weekend Jarrow exhibition in May 2024.

And finally, a treat. Your editor has shared some wonderfully evocative images of modelling from a Metropolitan Line "Mantles Wood" layout by **Paul Davis**, for you to enjoy.



