



ON-TRACK

KINGSWAY MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER - EDITOR ROGER M. HANDCOCK. ISSUE No:4 APRIL 2025

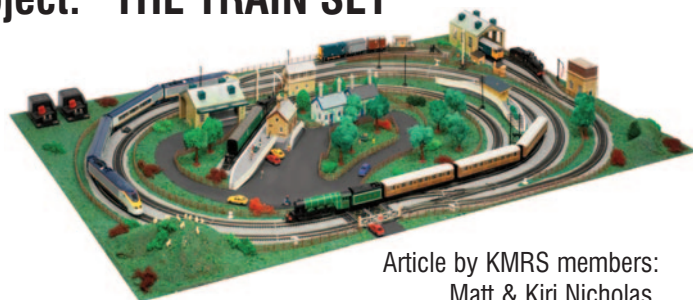
More Progress with Matt & Kiri leading the way with beginners in mind!

The Hornby TrakMat Club Layout Project: "THE TRAIN SET"

The club purchased the layout with the intention of it fulfilling two purposes, firstly to be used as a dedicated DC test track for club members to run their locos on, and secondly as a means of giving younger visitors to our exhibition in August an opportunity to have a go at running trains. When it arrived, it was in a rather sorry state, largely due to everything being "fixed" to the baseboard with blu-tack, including the track.

The layout was based on a Hornby TrakMat with first and second radius loops. As the vast majority of ready to run locomotives are designed to run on a minimum of second radius, it was decided to replace the existing TrakMat with an alternative one that had second and third radius loops. All the existing trackwork and electrics were stripped off the board, which has been partially framed by Colin Barker, and the existing TrakMat was removed. The new TrakMat was then stuck to the board with wallpaper paste which was a joint effort between Martin Potticary, Kiri Nicholas, and myself (Matt Nicholas), with some help from Bruce Varney, although Martin Potticary can take most of the credit. With the TrakMat stuck to the board, the track was laid and secured with track screws with the help of Kiri Nicholas and John Parker. This is the current state of the layout, and it is at the point where it can be used to run trains, although the controllers are not permanently wired up yet.

In addition to giving younger visitors to the exhibition an opportunity to run trains, I suggested using it as a demonstration of how a basic Hornby train set can be developed into a more realistic model railway in the hope that it may provide them with some inspiration. To this end the layout is being split into two halves, one of which will be built using basic Hornby buildings placed directly on the TrakMat, while the other half will utilise



Article by KMRS members:
Matt & Kiri Nicholas.

Metcalfe buildings, and be more developed scenically. We have placed an order with Julian for the Metcalfe buildings, and he has also supplied some ballast mat and some new Hornby buildings to replace some of the more tired ones that came with the layout. Pete Higgs has also very kindly donated a Metcalfe playground climbing frame, and a Scalescenes/ChrisInDen Models station building.

There is still a lot of work needed to get the layout ready for our exhibition in August, and any contribution from club members would be greatly appreciated.



**KINGSWAY
MODEL RAILWAY
SOCIETY**

KINGSWAY CENTRE MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

at the

**Kingsway Centre
130 Kingsway**

**WELLINGBOROUGH
Northamptonshire
NN8 2HF**

Sunday, 3rd August 2025

10.00am to 4.00pm

Admission: Adults: £5 - Children: £1

FREE PARKING

Layouts - Trade Stalls - Refreshments