

Pictures at an Exhibition

2003 York Model Railway Show Report

Day 1 & 2 – Dave Whittacker

2003 was DOGA's first year at the York Model Railway Show that took place at Easter in the Knavesmire Stand, situated at York Racecourse and, as usual, was organized by Mike Cook and the friends of York Model Railway Show. The Knavesmire Stand is a good venue with more than ample car parking. As far as I could see there were only two negative factors. Firstly the number of stairs to negotiate - not ideal for those of us with arthritic knees, even though well-used lifts are available! Secondly, during each afternoon, it became very hot on the second floor where the DOGA stand was situated - was it all due to the hot air generated by the conversations taking place on the lower floors? Maybe it came from Phil Parker who was assisting on one of the layouts downstairs? Only joking. Phil — honest!

It was the first time that I had volunteered and I manned the DOGA stand on the Saturday and Sunday. My companions were David Heller from The Wirral, Cheshire on the Saturday and Mike Metcalfe from Pickering, North Yorkshire on the Sunday. Although we had never met before, we got on well with each other and had a great time. My wife, Jean, also helped to man the stand to give us men folk chance to see more of the exhibition although I don't think that any of us had an opportunity to have a long look around the exhibition, as we were too preoccupied enjoying ourselves talking to visitors most of the time, giving advice and exchanging opinions on all aspects of model railways!

The DOGA stand was next to 'Ballyclare', an Irish Broad Gauge 4mm layout from North Down, Northern Ireland. It came complete with sound effects - sheep bleating, birds twittering, etc. One of our only two Northern Ireland members, Tom McKee, was on the operating team.

We signed up several new members during the two days including a friend of mine who is a fellow member of Manchester MRS - welcome to DOGA. John et al. Also we made quite a few sales of DOGA products with the track rubber being a particular favorite.

Day 3 – Colin Snowdon

If it's Easter it's York and that means out, of bed at 5am, for us Southerners it we need to reach York racecourse on time for opening- Once again Charlie Bloomfield had worked his logistic miracles and a group of eleven of us were going, return for £24 each. This group included the stand team for the day of Eddie Hughes, Gerard Pearson, Brian Roper, Phil Snowdon, and Me.

After an excellent run trip to York we made it to the exhibition via the special bus and opened up. As has already been indicated York show is big and also tall, although the racecourse stand is an excellent venue that seldom gave any indication that so many folk were there. There was consternation when we arrived for some reason water from the third floor had been running through the ceiling onto the large Southern Thornbury layout all night. The crew sweat blood to try to dry things out and get what I think is a very good layout going but to no avail. Bad luck guys. As you know we have never worked the York show before as exhibitors and the first two days had been run by a new 'Northern team' I'd like to record my thanks for all their work which it was clear had done the Association a great deal of good. I'm pleased to see that they had a good time. As I've said before working the shows is different from being a visitor and is a great deal of fun, even if you do get sore feet.

The upper floors of the stand do get hot and it was nice to be able to sit out on the terrace and enjoy some cool air when on your tea-break. The show itself was worth the trip as always and has earned its position as one of the premier shows in Great Britain. At closing time 20 members had joined us over the

weekend, including Parkside-Dundas and Railwayania. Not only that, but a huge range of our products had been sold. A train just past seven saw Phil and me hack borne by 10:30 tired but happy.

Is York worth going to ? Yes.

Is York worth attending as part of our stand team? Double yes!

*This article first appeared in the Summer 2003 issue of the DOGA Journal.
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