

EDITORIAL

Welcome to my second newsletter. I must admit that I am a little surprised to be producing this issue so soon after the first one but as some new information and photos have become available it is an ideal opportunity not to be missed and to be able to share these as soon as possible with you. I was initially hoping that the newsletter could possibly be generated quarterly but it is purely down to what content becomes available.

This second issue includes some significant information kindly supplied by Andrew Lance about some of Wrenn's plans for 1964 and especially beyond. After my appeal in the last Newsletter about the possible existence of any of the original layouts which appeared in the modelling press back in the 60's, I am delighted to report that one has been located. Sven Nilsson has kindly also shared some literature which was produced by Wentzels for their Swedish market.

**WRENN'S PLANS FOR 1964**

As I have mentioned previously on the website, I was informed by David Boyle that when his company, Dapol, purchased the remains of Wrenn after their final closure for business, there was actually very little paperwork which was brought North to Winsford. The majority of all of Wrenn's paperwork had been sent for landfill, which obviously makes any retrieval of this information relating to Wrenn railways and most importantly the Wrenn Formula 152, range almost impossible.

Andrew Lance has recently obtained a couple of G & R Wrenn documents which seemingly had been issued to all Wrenn stockists during 1964. Luckily these items had been saved and now, for posterity by Andrew, he has decided to kindly share these significant documents with me. These are great, thank you Andrew.

The first document is a sales letter dated 1st July 1964 and comes from J C Wrenn, who was the current Sales Manager, which was sent to all UK Wrenn stockists. It states that there would be a change to the distribution of all Wrenn products (including both railway & Wrenn 152) and this would in future be handled by British Trix. The letter was issued at a crucial time since it stated that Wrenn were having very bouyant sales both in the UK and abroad. Seemingly it was intended to prepare the UK market for an increase in potential sales and demand with some dealer incentives.

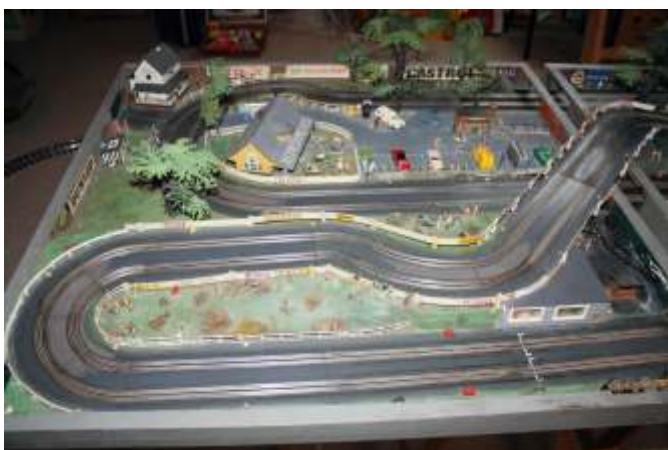
It then goes on to describe in detail the new Formula 152 developments starting with a description of the new DC motor which was being introduced into the cars and other DC related products in the range. It also reinforced to the dealers the difference between the previous AC system and the new DC cars. There is a section devoted to the 'New Cars' and whilst stating that orders could be placed immediately for the new BRM and Porsche cars they would not actually be available until Oct/Nov. The last piece of information in this section is the most significant which states that following the release of the BRM and Porsche cars, Wrenn were next 'expecting to proceed with sports racing cars, such as Aston Martin and Jaguar E type'!

So this answers the 'what was next' question. Some enthusiasts thought that since a Lotus Pit Name Board had been included on the Transfer Sheet that this could have been the next car. That would certainly have kept the designers busy with another small Formula 1 car but a sports car would have allowed so much more room! What a pity!

The second document includes details of an 'Early Ordering Incentive for 1964' since it states that Wrenn were already experiencing extra heavy export commitments. This incentive was introduced for the UK stockists, stating that for all bulk orders being placed with a value of over £50, a Wrenn formula 152 Set 0 would be supplied free. The document also includes a full Data Sheet with manufacturing details, dimensions and performance specifications for the new DC motor. Some of this information was published by Peco in their April 1964 News Special newsletter and an article in the July 1961 issue of Model Maker and Model Cars did evaluate the AC vibrator version.

'CRAVEN PARK FORMULA 152 CIRCUIT'

After my appeal in the last Newsletter for any possible information about the original enthusiast layouts that appeared in the modelling press of the time I am delighted to inform everyone that one of these has been located. The 'Craven Park Formula 152 Circuit' is currently residing in the UK and is being kept in good order by it's present owner who has kindly shared the included images below. This is obviously great news and possibly the other layouts listed earlier - 'East London', 'Brands Hatch' and the 'Travelling Man Circuit' are still out there. If you know of their existence please do let me know.



WENTZELS

As I have mentioned on the website Wentzels were the local importers for Wrenn 152 in Sweden. I did have some information on one of their Catalogues but Sven Nilsson, who lives in Sweden, has kindly sent some photographs of his collection of Wentzels Swedish versions of the Wrenn 152 Catalogues to share with you.

The first one is the earliest and is printed just in Black on White paper and is probably the first one produced since it is relevant to the first AC cars and just lists the Ferrari and Cooper. The others are printed in Black and Red on White paper and are obviously later versions. The middle one includes the Ferrari, Cooper, Maserati and Vanwall whilst the one on the right hand side is obviously later still since it includes the Wrenn152 full range of six cars. Thank you for these Sven.



This extract from one of the Catalogues above shows an enormous landscaped Wrenn 152 circuit which is over 4.5 metres long! Wow! Now that is impressive! Since this has only been seen in this Wentzels Catalogue, and due to it's overall size, I think that it is safe to assume that the Swedish importers actually had this produced for themselves.....unless you know anything different?

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE LITERATURE**

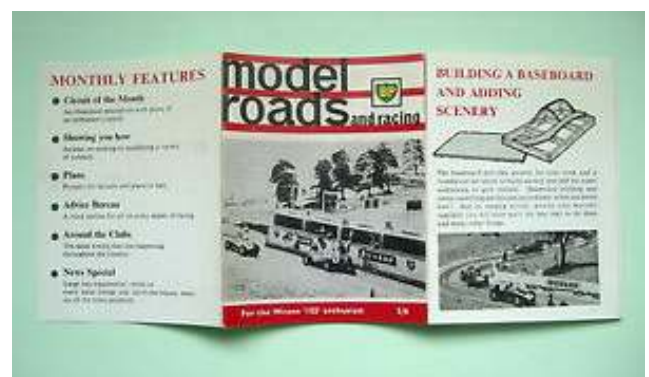
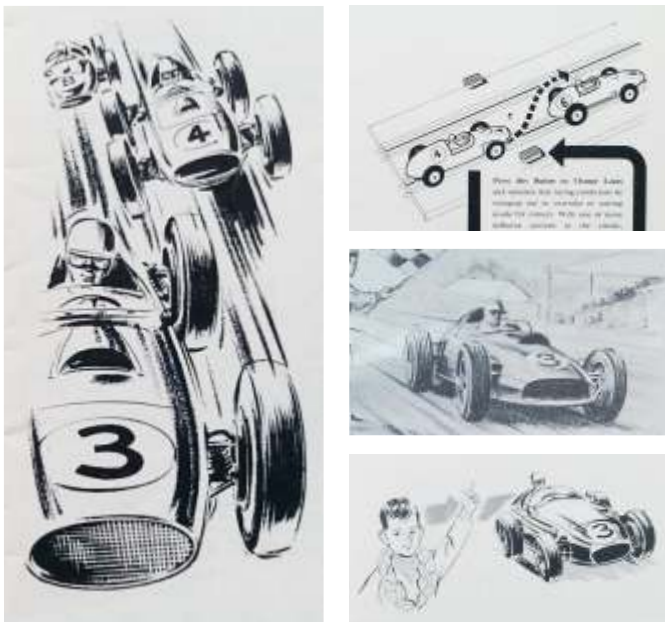
As I mentioned in the first Newsletter, I would hope that these photos which Sven has kindly supplied of his Wentzels Catalogues will ultimately contribute to a library of photos or scans of any foreign language literature for ultimate inclusion on the website. If you have any available I would certainly be grateful to receive them if you would like to share them and then the literature library can start to take shape.

TRADE ADVERTISEMENT EXAMPLES

As previously mentioned here is a sample of trade advertisement examples. If you have any others and would like to share them please consult the website and if they do not appear I would be grateful to receive a scan or photo of them.

The standard sections started with an introduction titled 'Now that you own a Racing Set...', then 'Planning your circuit', 'Building a baseboard and adding scenery', 'The other chap's circuit' and finally 'Maintenance'. This latter section was targeted with one of two manufacturers of oil products BP or Shell.

From examples seen these first leaflets were produced to be included with Wrenn, VIP, Scalextric, Minic & SRM sets, was there one printed for Airfix? After Peco changed the name of the Model Roads and Racing magazine to Miniature Autoworld these leaflets were produced again but only a few examples of these have been seen. This time only ones for Scalextric & SRM have been found, were there any others produced?



PECO LEAFLET

Peco produced a range of small folded leaflets to promote their new Model Roads and Racing magazine during 1963/64 and these were supplied to the trade for inclusion within set boxes. They were each printed in a different colour and customised, for a seemingly UK-only market, with specific manufacturers and one of these was 'For the Wrenn '152' enthusiast'. They all included a number of standard sections but with photos of landscaped layouts of the specific manufacturer and finally there was a tear-off section at the rear of the leaflet for the owner to give to their local newsagent to place their order for the monthly delivery or reservation of the new magazine.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Site includes a forum for all slot car manufacturers including Wrenn 152 and a Swap Shop.
www.slotforum.com

Site covers Wrenn railways and Wrenn 152 and includes a list of currently available items for sale.
www.wrennspecialist.co.uk

French manufacturers of reproduction urethane tyres for Wrenn 152 who sell via eBay
Shop - slotcarstyres Seller - dauremy