## EDITORIAL

Welcome to my fifth Newsletter which starts the second year of the Newsletters. This issue includes articles on the recent UK Slot Car Festival, news of a video of Wrenn 152 layout available on YouTube, a new display cabinet specifically for your Wrenn 152 cars, my experience of building another scenic layout after a gap of 50 years and the discovery of an original Wrenn factory drawing. I do hope that you enjoy reading this.


## UK SLOT CAR FESTIVAL 2017

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, I had been persuaded to exhibit a Wrenn 152 layout at this year's festival and I used this opportunity to promote Wrenn formula 152 to the current slot racing and collecting fraternity. I am very grateful to have had some of you Newsletter readers introduce themselves over the week-end, especially Rob Miller, Jonathan Hewitt \& Steve Mann, but it was a little surprising to discover that the majority of the older public had not heard of, or even seen Wrenn 152 slot cars being raced. So luckily this was their opportunity.

For the exhibition stand I built a small scenic layout which was mounted onto a baseboard similar to one of the original factory-built layouts and provided both vibrator-motor \& DC-motored cars for the visitors to race and hopefully appreciate the difference in the driving techniques. I am happy to report that apart from the loss of one flexible pick-up all of the cars came through their endurance unscathed which just goes to prove how well the Wrenn 152 cars were engineered and built with each one being over 50 years of age! I decided to run the cars on new tyres from the French company Slotcarstyres which gave each of the cars a very good turn of speed.

## UK SLOT CAR FESTIVAL 2017 continued

I certainly feel that the week-end was an all round success in promoting Wrenn 152 to a mostly new audience and I was delighted to be awarded the winner of the 'Best Track at the Show' voted for by the organisers. Please accept my indulgence in providing you with a couple of photos below if you missed it.


## YOUTUBE VIDEO

I have only just discovered a video which has recently been uploaded to YouTube at the beginning of March which shows Sam assembling Wrenn 152 track in the layout of the Pau circuit from the Wrenn Circuit Leaflet (but not actually Monza) on his home floor and running a pair of AC vibrator motor cars around the track. It is getting some positive comments so will also help in promoting Wrenn 152. The video is called 'Unboxing the Wrenn 152 Racing Slot Car Set' which shows Sam performing, although we should excuse the mistakes since he really is heavily biased towards model railways, but it is nevertheless very interesting and only lasts 19 minutes.


## WRENN 152 DISPLAY CABINET

A new display cabinet has been specifically designed as an attractive unit to display your collection of Wrenn 152 cars. It measures $510 \times 210 \times 80 \mathrm{~mm}$ and provides a secure environment which can be placed within a larger display cabinet or on a shelf, keeping your cars on display, safe and out of the reach of dust. The display cabinet can hold up to 12 cars, which is the maximum number of car types and colours which Wrenn produced, but has a facility to accommodate your growing collection without visually looking as though there are any 'missing' cars from a minimum of 4 cars. This has been achieved by simply including a number of interchangeable road surface panels which offer a flexible solution to displaying your collection of Wrenn 152 cars. This means that $4,5,6$, $8,9,10,11$ or 12 cars can all be displayed within the same cabinet. I took the prototype to the recent festival and it received some positive feedback so if you would like any further details do please let me know. I have included a few photos opposite.

## WRENN 152 DISPLAY CABINET



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## BUILDING A LAYOUT

If you are wishing to race your Wrenn 152 cars then you may be considering having a permanent layout, especially if space is available. As anyone who is interested in Wrenn can testify being only 1:52 scale there are so many advantages and you can have a 'layout on a table top' just as the old advertising used to promote. I would just like to recount my recent experience when building the layout for the Slot Car Festival which may encourage you to finally take the plunge.

In order to save time with the deadline approaching, I decided to have the timber baseboard made at a local joinery company. I had chosen the layout that I wanted to produce and the baseboard size was finalised at $1275 \times 762 \mathrm{~mm}$ (or 4'-2" x 2'-6" in old money). The construction chosen was similar to the original baseboards supplied by Wrenn of a timber frame which was glued and screwed together with a plywood top which was then glued and nailed on to the frame. Next it was the choice of colour for the scenic mat to cover the baseboard. I decided to use any pieces of reasonable track in order to mimic what anyone would have to do. The items of track chosen were all covered with a black, possibly rubber, coating which I did manage to remove with lighter fuel and the contract strips and connectors were cleaned with a fibreglass eraser. This removed all of the rust and also the original coating leaving them bright and polished, see the photo below. So I would suggest that most items of track can be resurrected with some work.


## BUILDING A LAYOUT continued

As I have mentioned previously, the relative height of the buildings to the track should always be considered, especially when using track clips which raise the track off the level of the baseboard. I had decided to include a Trackside Pit building and also a Grandstand so it was the former which was the issue. To accommodate this I fitted the building to a piece of styrene to lift it up to the correct height. I also decided to increase the width of the area in front of the pits by cutting off one of the side pieces of a straight piece of track which could feature some racing personnel.


Filling the Grandstand with Wrenn spectators can be very expensive so I reached a compromise. There are a number of cheap O guage sitting figures available which are intended for model railway use. I do appreciate that they are slightly too big, being 1:48 scale, in comparison to the Wrenn ones but are not really noticeable if you do not mix them. With the increase in size of the figures in the Grandstand there can only sensibly be two rows of figures so I decided to glue a number of them with PVA glue onto thin styrene strips which rest on alternate 'steps'.


# WRENN formula 

NEWSLETTER No5

## BUILDING A LAYOUT continued

Finally please find a couple of photos below of the completed layout with an option that I considered of including a number of trees.


So, yes it is possible for you to have a scenic Wrenn 152 layout.... it is just a matter of starting. Over to you.

## STOP PRESS

I have just found what seems to be the original factory drawing produced by the Wrenn engineers for the modification to the chassis tool to enable the insertion of the Maximiser motor into the Vanwall chassis and it is dated March 1967. Do you know of the existence of any other original Wrenn 152 items or drawings, I would certainly be grateful to know so that they can be recorded.


## 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 either direct online at www.slotcarstyres.com or via eBay as seller dauremy.

