

EDITORIAL

Welcome to my Summer Newsletter of 2022, which is the first one of my 7th year of producing them. I think that it is amazing how much more information and examples have been discovered in this period. Just when you think that you have exhausted all of the current information about a particular subject, something new turns up. We are all learning....all of the time. In this issue I am delighted to say that I have been very lucky to discover a significant number of original artworks, and also some visuals for alternative items that never reached production. The main article features on this with an in depth look at one of the visuals and one of the photos. These are followed by more lists of Wrenn 152 in magazines and a 'Stop Press' section. I do hope that you enjoy reading it.



ARTWORK COLLECTION

Recently, I was very lucky to discover a collection of a number pieces of original Wrenn 152 artworks, visuals, illustrations and photos. The seller stated that they had been part of the late David Boyle's collection. You may remember that David owned Dapol when Wrenn finally closed their doors on business and he bought what was left to use in his company's model railway business. The artworks include some for the Catalogue, the 'Real Life Racing Circuits' leaflets, one of the show-cards and also a number of the advertisement artworks. Amongst these latter ones are some that I have not seen before, so perhaps you can help with identifying these? There are some photos that include one of the medium-size, landscaped, high density layouts that appears in the A10-Instruction Manual, and there are some illustrations that were seemingly prepared for inserting into the Catalogue. Another great photo is one that was taken of the Wrenn exhibition stand that was taken to the 1965 Brighton Toy Fair which includes the layout showing the second prototype of the Pit Lane-Changing track as well as having some Wrenn railway track around the perimeter of the 152 racing track. Finally there are some items that were produced as finished artworks but never used. Please see later article and photos opposite.

ARTWORK COLLECTION - continued



EXTENSION PACK VISUAL

Within this collection was a full colour visual which seems to be a different version of the Extension Pack box lid but unfortunately it is undated. There are some quite significant differences to the final production version, so I am assuming that this was generated as an alternative colour-way. As can clearly be seen in the photo over, the first difference is on the lid top. There are two lines of printed text, one in Green and the other in Black. These were not used in the final production artwork since that

EXTENSION PACK VISUAL - continued

only included the 'Extension Pack' text in Red and not having any mention of 'Triple Electric Model Motor Racing' nor the text information 'to convert Set No1 to Set No3'. Secondly the two shorter lid sides have different logo layouts to each other, both using Green instead of Red on the central 'formula' block. Also the lower lid side uses an incorrect logo layout plus the Green module of the left hand side. Finally on the top, blank side, Cedric Wrenn states that this visual was 'for colours only!' and 'it should not be given to the block maker since it would cause confusion'. This last comment would seem to imply that another, previously supplied, artwork was the one chosen to move forward with that we are used to seeing. Should you have any additional information on this, it would be great to see it.



LANE CHANGER TRACK & PIT LANE

You may remember my article back in Newsletter No7, where I looked at Wrenn's 'mock up' of their second version of the Lane Changing and Pit Lane tracks on the layout and exhibition stand at the 1965 Brighton Toy Fair. The reproduction of the photo that appeared in the April 1965 issue of Miniature Autoworld was not very good and details were certainly lacking. However I am glad to be able to let you see a better reproduction of that photo below that I have recently discovered. I have

LANE CHANGER TRACK & PIT LANE - continued

also included some enlargements of details of the two pieces of track so that you can appreciate how the Wrenn engineers had resolved the function of these pieces. In the lower photo enlargements I am hopeful that you see how the pick up rails in the crossing of the Lane Changer and the Pit Lane were actually split to accommodate the necessary breaks in the circuit. It also seems as though there were a number of single, small, cylindrical metal activating buttons for operating the lane changing facility. This 'mock up' seems to have been the final attempt to get this complicated piece(s) of track working and the wiring underneath the track pieces may have been quite intricate. As usual, I am appealing for anyone with any additional information to please share it.



WRENN 152 ADVERTS IN OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Wrenn, as you will probably have realised, produced a number of advertisements for their Formula 152 system. Hopefully I have captured all of those that were generated for the relevant modelling magazines in the Advertising section on the website. However there seems to have been a number of others which appeared in some railway modelling magazines, (full size) motoring magazines as well as in a number of other magazines and leaflets. As you can appreciate, being able to record each of these is difficult without actually seeing them. So this is obviously an 'ongoing' project and may never be complete. Please find a few examples below.

The first photos are from the 1962 Racing Car Show programme where Wrenn had a layout on show.



The following are a few examples of Wrenn's 152 advertising from the motoring press.



WRENN 152 ADVERTS - continued

And finally this is an advert for the Model Roads and Racing magazine, which appeared in the November 29, 1963 issue of Autosport. It includes one of the photos that were taken of the Wrenn 152 Brands Hatch layout that was used in their magazine earlier that year.



WRENN 152 IN SLOT CAR DIRECTORIES

Wrenn 152 appeared in a number of contemporary slot car directories and market reviews. This following list is again probably not definitive but hopefully includes most of this type of publication and should you have any further information on any others, it would certainly be great to hear from you.

'Model Maker and Model Cars', April 1961 - 'Electric Model Car Racing Directory'.

'Model Maker and Model Cars', December 1961 - 'A Circuit For Christmas?'

'Model Cars', April 1964 - 'Who's who'.

'Miniature Autoworld', June 1965 - 'Square One - part 1'.

The following, on the next page, is a list of special supplements that accompanied the Meccano Magazine which featured directories of slot car manufacturers that did include Wrenn 152.

WRENN 152 IN SLOT CAR DIRECTORIES - continued.

'Raceways & Model Cars' September 1964. Apart from the review of Wrenn 152 there are two photos, a large, Black & White one of the Craven Park layout on the cover of the supplement (probably this was also taken by the Meccano team) and the other is one of the largest factory-built layouts probably supplied by Wrenn. There was also a large full colour photo of the layout that was actually included on the front cover of this issue of the Meccano Magazine as well.

'Racing Roundup' September 1965. This review includes a photo supplied by PECO and there is also a photo of the Brands Hatch landscaped layout.

'Slot Scene - The First Decade' October 1966. This includes the review of Wrenn 152, a photo of one of the medium sized factory-built layouts and even the last factory advertisement in a small classified section at the rear.



STOP PRESS

COLLECTION FOR SALE

I was recently contacted by one of our Wrenn 152 enthusiasts in Italy to inform me that he is wishing to sell all of his collection. Although it is quite large and ideally he would like to sell all of the items as one job lot, he has broken it down into a number of separate 'Lots' in order to hopefully make it easier to assess what he has to offer. There are over 35 No Cars (mostly Vibrator-motors but there are some DC cars) and a few Buildings, Boxed Sets and a large amount of Track, including some of it boxed. He has kindly prepared a spreadsheet of all of the items together with some accompanying photos of the individual 'Lots'. If you are interested, I can put you in touch with him.

TRACK WANTED

One of our Wrenn 152 enthusiasts in America has set himself the task of building a 6-lane Wrenn layout! As you can probably imagine that will be a huge undertaking. He is currently looking for a number of T-12 Curves, which are obviously the hardest to locate. If you have any of these pieces of track spare, I would be grateful if you could let me know.



USEFUL CONTACTS

Rob Miller has a website forum for Wrenn 152.
www.tapatalk.com/groups/wrenn152/

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

This French manufacturer is again making the reproduction urethane tyres for Wrenn 152 and they are selling direct from their website.
www.slotcarstyres.com