

Reinier Hendriksen reports from the

First Dutch Narrow Gauge Exhibition



On the evening of Friday, 20th June seven Dutch narrow gauge modellers and their helpers gathered in the Narrow gauge Museum near Leiden to set up their eight layouts for their BIG weekend.

Weather conditions were bad during Saturday and Sunday, with heavy rain, strong winds and the sun kept hidden behind the clouds - not a good start for the long waited Summer. More a weekend to stay at home and put the central heating on 'high'!

On Saturday morning, however, the doors were opened at 10:30 and we welcomed the first visitors. Set before them were a range of narrow gauge layouts in four different scales. In 'G' scale Fried Lagerway took his narrow gauge engine shed, complete with realistic sound and Guillaume Veenhuis was present with his 'Hatley' layout. Somewhat smaller in 1:35 scale Otto Schouwstra showed his Van Gelder Zonen Papier, complete with diesel sounds. From time to time you could even here the birds singing and the moles digging underground! Otto was awarded the Museum's 'Narrow Gauge Model' award for his layout.

In 'O' scale Guillaume Veenhuis (again!) was exhibiting 'Watkijk', a variation on 'Katwijk' where the Museum had its original base a few years ago, and Jeroen Kamphuis showed 'Stone Valley'.

No 009? Oh yes there was! In our favourite scale there were three layouts: 'Dunalistair' - part of Ted Polet's Craigcorrie system recently featured in the News; 'Lladtwoc-U' by Marco Nuessink, as seen in Railway Modeller, and my

own 'Moors End'.

In addition to all these models, visitors could ride on the trains hauled by one of the Museum's steam locomotives.

For the exhibitors and their helpers it was a wonderful weekend. Despite the bad weather nearly 400 people visited the Museum during the weekend. We hope to repeat the event - with different layouts - in 1999, see you there!

[For anyone who could not visit, you may be interested to know that 'Dunalistair', 'Lladtwoc-U' and 'Watkijk' are due to visit ExpoNG at Swanley on 1st November. Don't miss them!]



Top: "Now, I know there's a train there somewhere", Ted Polet ponders over 'Dunalistair'.
Bottom: The happy gang pose in front of a couple of the Museum's steam locomotive exhibits.