

**Reading Society
of Model
Engineers
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**Free to members
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The Prospectus

August 2025



Sleeper replacement continues on the raised track. A massive task by the Wednesday Warriors to which we give our thanks for all the hard work done at our site.

Photo John Billard 3 August 2025

**IN THIS ISSUE
WP CONTINUES HIS JOURNEY INTO
CZECHIA**

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

John Billard

A few salient points from the July trustees meeting; as always there were financial details to be considered such as card payments and how refreshments for members had to be administered. In preparation for the AGM details have gone to the independent financial examiner.

Our membership stands at 96 which is a good number. We are able to recruit regularly where the low £25 fee is an advantage.

Painting and track maintenance continues and the container roofs examined for rust. Solutions for the raised track loading bay are being looked at again. Good progress is being made by Mike Manners on upgrading our signalling systems. His adoption of electric points on the passing loop on the ground level has been welcome and very successful. Keeping vegetation under control is a permanent task.

We are considering making a public running day a fund raising event for a local charity. The next meeting is on 11 August.

WOLVERTON PUG GOES TO CZECHIA

13TH TO 23RD SEPTEMBER 2024 Part 4

Today's plan is to get to Kolin ready for the heritage diesel rail tour on Friday.

We travelled via a place called Jindrichuv Hradec, where on the right-hand side next to the main station is a 760 mm gauge railway (the Jindrichohradecké Místní Drahy or JHMD railway). Sadly, it is currently out of use. The rolling stock is mainly stabled in the open. The line departs parallel with the main line going east and after a while there is a short dual gauge section for the 760mm gauge to cross the main line to continue north to Obratán. Just after this junction another 760mm branch, then separates and travels south to Nova Bystrice. Yet another part of this system runs into Horní Cerekev, which we pass through on our way to Kolin.



When we got to Kolin, the River Labe was very high and fast flowing. We got off the train at Kolin Zastávka a suburban station and checked into our hotel the Kolin Falcons Pension, which was right beside the station.

The next move was to go to a place called Kutná Hora, which is two stations back down the line we came in on. It is a renowned tourist town.

At Kutná Hora the overhead power supply changes from 25kv coming from the south to 3000v dc from there onwards to Prague, usually this is not a problem as most locos and units are dual voltage. However, the train we caught was a commuter, loco hauled service hauled by one of the few remaining older electric locos which can only work 3000v dc, a class 150 no

209. It terminated at Kutna Hora but needed to run round for its return journey towards Kolin. As the voltage change was at the end of the platform the loco could not run round. What happened next was extraordinary.



A small 0-4-0 centre-cab diesel shunter was attached to the front of the 150 electric loco and set off with it, out of sight round a corner. It then returned pushing the electric at reasonable speed, stopped, and obviously having been uncoupled prior to pushing it back, it let the powerless loco free-wheel past its



train in the station, until its momentum caused it to slow down at which point the driver applied the brake and the loco raised its pantograph now back under the 3000v dc supply. It was then able to move over the crossover and reverse back onto its train job done! Fly-shunting 21st Century!

Our next move was to transfer to a small two-car DMU 914.182/814.182



Regio Nova, rebuilt from 4-wheeled 010 class. No 271, and preceded down a non-electrified single line branch, two stops to Kutna Hora Mesto, on the line to Zruc Nad Sazavou Zastavka. Opposite Kutna Hora Mesto station in heavily overgrown sidings there lurked some very old rusty coaches, some of which looked as if they may have been former early electric stock. Two of the vehicles were

branded, 'United States Army' and 'Transportation Corps USA 96026?' respectively. There appeared to be some sort of small shunter also visible. Interestingly there was a website scrawled on another vehicle www.modresipy.cz. If you Google it and translate, it says 'Blue Arrows' Kutna Hora Local Railway Association and little else apart from a picture of a bridge abutment and a blue and white vehicle on the line underneath!



If someone wants to do further research let me know what you find via the Editor!

A longish uphill walk takes you to the magnificent Gothic St Barbara Church, from where there are fantastic views of the surrounding countryside in the valley below. The town itself is not exceptional.

We returned to Kolin for the next night at the Kolin Pension Falconi. Because of late booking following loss of original itinerary, we spent three nights in three different hotels in Kolin. *To be continued*

FOR SALE

A 5" Britannia *Rudyard Kipling*, built from a kit, has run on steam and air.

Full set of kits for a 5" 9F, started but not completed.

Myford 7 lathe with numerous tools.

Emco lathe with 3 phase transformer

A pillar drill

Can be viewed in Caversham, Brian Cutts, 01189 472 987

DIARY

AUGUST 2025

Sunday	3rd	Public running	Setting up from 09.30 onwards
Saturday	9th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	11th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Saturday	23rd	Club running	10.30 onwards

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	7th	Public running	Setting up from 09.30 onwards
Saturday	13th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	15th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Saturday	27th	Club running	10.30 onwards

Meetings are held every Thursday at 19.30 in the club house.

The Wednesday Warriors do the hard work at the club site from 09.30.

Meetings are held every Thursday at 19.30 in the club house.

*Opinions expressed in PROSPECTUS are the personal views of the contributor and cannot be taken as reflecting the views of the trustees or editor. **The deadline for the September issue is 20 August***

Contributions may be submitted in hard or soft copy to the editor.

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