

WHEELTAPPER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

WESTERN PROVINCE LIVE STEAMERS

President	Arthur Zuhlsdorff	Date	March 2012
Vice President	Bernard Ridley		
Chairman	Ian Dorrat	WPLS	P.O Box 15810
Vice Chairman	Bobby Moore		Panorama
Secretary	Wouter Bergakker		7506
Treasurer	Mervyn Knickelbein		
Committee	Basil Lotter	Web Site	www.wpls.co.za
	Bernard Taylor		
	Mark Schmitt	Track	Bertie Genade St.
	Michael Barnes		off Frans Conradie
Editor	Justin Shaw		Parow
Public Running	First Saturday of Every Month	Club Day	17th March 2012

Around the club

It has been a great start to the year with running days and work days being well supported! Ash pits in the station are almost completed meaning that there will be a place for you to clean your fire even if there is another locomotive ahead of you, please make use of the ash pits and save our station sleepers. Speaking of fire, we had quite a large fire on February's running day that started under the bridge and worked its way along the cutting, members were just getting things under control when the fire department (on their way to another call out) saw the smoke and came to investigate, their help extinguishing the fire was welcomed as tired breathless members stepped back and watched how the pros do it, a big thank you to everyone who helped!

Around the middle of February, some vandals decided to lift up some track, luckily not much damaged was caused although it did take two working days for a small team to fix the mess.

There has been some activity around signal cabin and points leaving the station, can't report much more but it seems progress is being made towards automated points.

A warm welcome to the Hunn family (Neil & Melissa and their two daughters Charné & Audrey) as well as the Lock family (Gavin & Suki and their son Dylan & daughter Anya) whom joined the club at the beginning of this year.

A congratulations is in order to Percy Le Roux who has completed his J Tank featured in September 2011 WheelTapper, as with most freshly build locomotives, there are a few teething problems but it has already completed a few laps around the track!

This picture of the cab gives you an idea of the superb finish!



Percy Le Roux's J Tank

News Letter Articles

Trying to follow in the footsteps of the previous editors of the WheelTapper has turned out to be a bit more challenging than I expected! I would like to keep the newsletter interesting and have a few technical articles to keep the brain ticking over. Please pass on any interesting articles you may find to me for the newsletter. I am also open to suggestions and criticism, feedback and articles from the members would be much appreciated.

Justin Shaw

Track Development

With the holiday season well and truly over we believe that it is time to look forward and plan future track extensions.

In April last year whilst hosting a successful National Steam Meet , our track was generally agreed to be, although far from being the longest in South Africa, one of the nicest and best laid in SA. Since that time new work on the track has mainly been associated with the station points, the making of 30 degree and 45 degree cross-overs and completion of five additional ash-pits.

We would now like to establish a plan for future track construction, covering the next few years. Naturally your committee wants to see all club members contribute by making proposals.

As has happened in the past, these suggestions must be practical, and within the financial and physical resources of the club. To this end, attached to this issue of Wheeltapper, is a copy of our existing facility. Printed in dark ink is fully established track to which we do not foresee any change.

Please draw your suggestions for **New Work** on the document and come and explain them to us on one of three future Saturdays.

As has been announced in previous Wheeltappers, we now hold a Club Day on the third Saturday of each five-Saturday Month. This Club Day was initially intended to give the hard core of members (who spend their time on the first Saturday of the month entertaining the Public and on the three remaining Saturdays maintaining the site) a break to socialize and to enjoy the comradery of like-minds without any pressure. We would love some of the older members to join us on these occasions and possibly bring their older locos for the newer members to appreciate and learn from.

THIS CLUB DAY AFTERNOON finishes off with a simple braai with boerewors rolls at approx. 3pm.

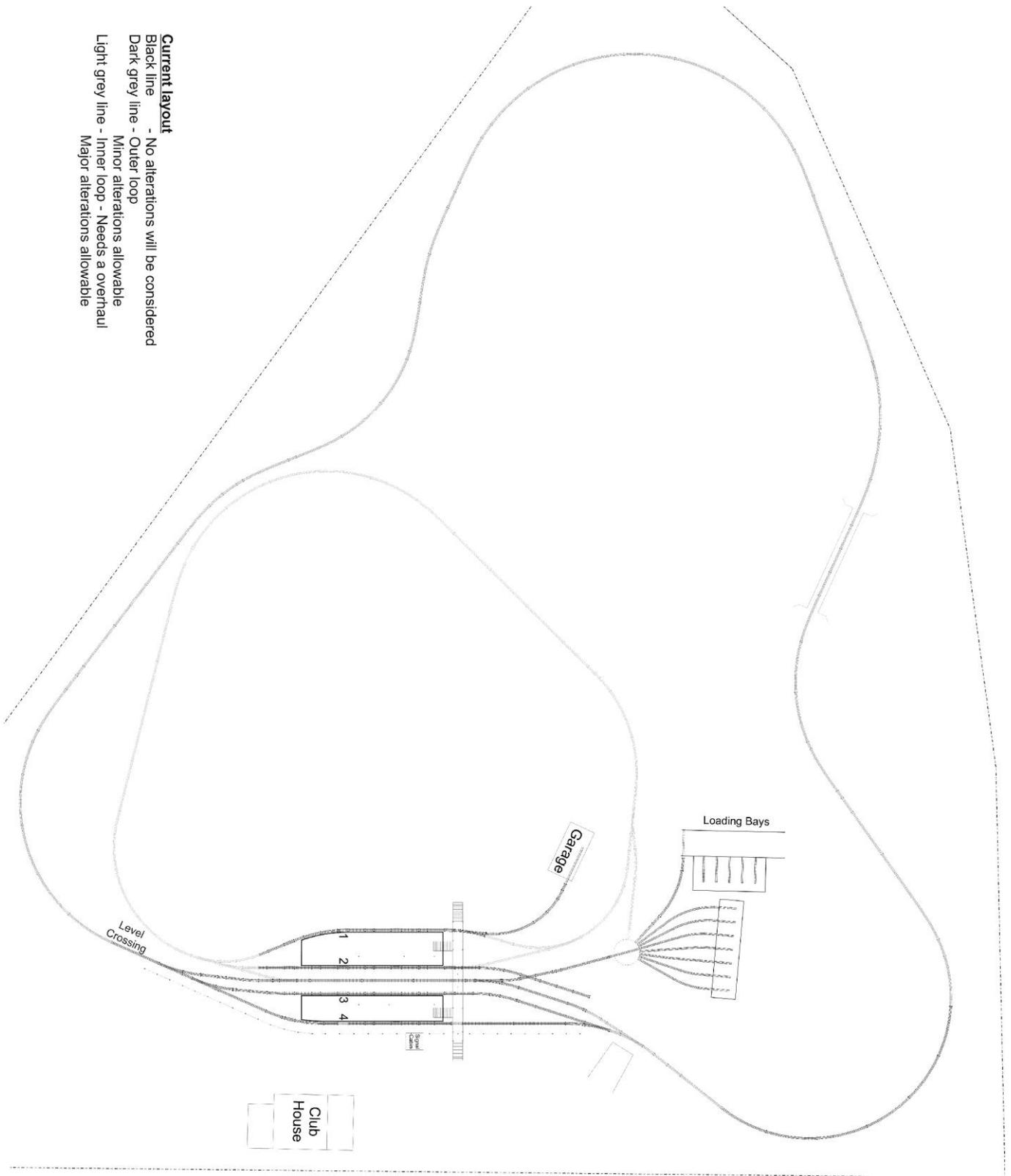
March Club Day on Saturday 17th March will be a good day to start the review of track suggestions followed by Saturday 24 March and Saturday 31 March the final one, after which we will evaluate all ideas.

We really believe that the existence of an overall plan with estimated completion periods of each phase will stimulate further interest in the club by both older and younger members alike.

SO DO MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE!

IAN DORRAT.





- Current layout**
- Black line - No alterations will be considered
 - Dark grey line - Outer loop
 - Light grey line - Inner loop - Needs a overhaul
- Minor alterations allowable
- Major alterations allowable