



Three versions of the MAN TGX 8x4 heavy haulage tractor from NZG.



The Goldhofer six-axle STZ-H6 extending semi-trailer with MAN TGX tractor unit from Conrad.

Model Trucks and Construction

Mike Forbes and Steven Downes report from this year's Spalding Model Truck & Construction show for those who were not able to make it....



The two-axle TGX with the latest version of the Mercedes-Benz Actros tractor unit from NZG.

There were lots of new models on display, including many fresh from the Nuremberg Toyfair, for visitors to have a closer look at, as well as collectors and modellers with their own models on show – and there were some great dioramas to see – plus plenty of traders offering models for sale. Unfortunately, the show was hampered by bad weather, snowfall on the Sunday morning making travelling conditions difficult, which resulted in a lower than expected number of visitors on the day. For those that turned up, there were plenty of new and interesting models on display. For those who were not able to get there, here is a run-down of what there was to see...

Fresh from Nuremberg
NZG recently announced its new range of MAN trucks and several examples of these were displayed, consisting of a two-axle TGX V8 in black, a three-axle TGX 6x4 with Nootboom Pendel X trailer in an Anthracite colour scheme and three versions of the TGX 8x4 heavy haulage prime mover, including an orange R6 version with rear tank and a chrome and company liveried version of the V8 version with rear mounted



MAN HAK with Atlas skip body.

SHOW REPORT

Displaying their enthusiasm



Each year, there are more displays by collectors and modellers of their model fleets. The standard of modelling and presentation has been universally high. We have seen some of the models at previous truck and plant shows and it was good to have the opportunity of another look at them, while there were many that have not been seen before. The exhibitors came from all over the



Above Part of the display of TWH and Sword Models on Steve Bates' trade stand.
Left Foden S70 in Metropolitan Water Board livery.

UK, from the North of Scotland to the South Coast. Both halls at Spalding's Springfields Exhibition Centre were in use, the smaller hall containing a large 'play-pen' demonstration area, for the radio-controlled model truck enthusiasts to operate their large-scale vehicles. Complete with realistic sound systems, they manoeuvred around each other, as well as escaping to 'drive' around both halls from time to time... A large display, including a depot and a quarry, was mounted by Ian Maclean from near Inverness, with a whole fleet of 1/50



Left and below Two views of Ian Maclean's large display of 1/50 scale vehicles in Wimpey livery, mainly clever conversions of different diecast models.



scale vehicles in Wimpey livery, mainly clever conversions of various diecast models. It was interesting to work out the origins of all these trucks and the parts used to convert

cooling pack, functional steering of the front two axles, fifth wheel coupling and front bumper mounted towing bar with detachable cover.

New MAN models from Conrad include the 'oldtimer' HAK 15.200 two-axle truck with Atlas skip body featuring an opening bonnet, detailed cab and removable skip and a two-axle TGS M tipper truck with detachable gritter box and snowplough with fold down sides on the tipping body and roof mounted warning beacons.

The Goldhofer six-axle STZ-H6 extending semi-trailer from Conrad features detachable loading ramps that can be stored in the compartment under the trailer along with functional steering of the trailer axles, two of which can be raised off the ground, just as on the full sized trailer. The model is supplied with a MAN TGX XXL SLT prime mover which has working steering of the front two axles and a detailed rear tank and cooling system, complete with small fan and metal housing and tilting cab revealing the engine beneath. The MAN TGX is also the prime mover supplied with the Goldhofer vessel bed trailer which can be configured in a number of different options with the supplied parts, allowing both width and length extension with plastic deck panels and detachable gooseneck.

For construction fans, the exceptional 1/50 scale Liebherr LTM11200-9.1 mobile crane from NZG was displayed to its full height, which makes an impressive sight, with exceptional levels of detailing



MAN with snowplough and gritting equipment from Conrad.

New Holland backhoe-loader and wheel loader from NZG.

Liebherr R944C tunnelling excavator from NZG.

The 1/50 scale Liebherr LTM11200-9.1 mobile crane from NZG was displayed to its full height at the show.



Above and right Just some of the many models displayed by members of the North East Diecast Collectors Club.

them to represent vehicles once in the Wimpey fleet.

Les Edwards, a local modeller, whose 1/76



scale conversions have often featured in our letters pages, had a number on display, with fleets from London Brick, Marston Brick, Blue Circle, plus a variety of tippers, using Roadscale, Langley, Marquis and other parts, to convert EFE and other models to his own specifications.

Stan Walton, Ray Mackay Senior and Junior and Andrew Chadwick from the North East Diecast Collectors Club had a whole range of their excellent handiwork on display, including ice cream vans, as seen in last month's letters pages, recovery vehicles,



fairground vehicles, Leggetts Freightways and Dinky Supertoys conversions.

Robbie Holmes also of Northern Scotland had a wide-ranging and spectacular display,

which won him First Prize for the Best Table. As well as forestry, scrapyard and garage dioramas, he had a depot display, featuring models of the vehicles of D Steven & Son of Wick, as well as a model of the Northlink ferry to the Orkneys, with trucks re-finished in the liveries of Oban Express, Northwards, Macaskill and other operators serving the North of Scotland and the Isles, all in 1/50 scale.

Winner of the second prize was Bruce Ralston from East Sussex, with a fine display of 1/50 scale plant, including Euclid,

Left and below Excellent fun fair transport in miniature from Ray Mackay Junior.



throughout, including independent steering of all nine axles and working X-pattern extending outriggers, with plates that pin onto the main screw down jacks. Even the crane mats are supplied in the box, which is great to see. The seven-section telescopic boom is very heavy, with a fully replicated boom raising mechanism and Y-guying system which can be fully deployed to give a height of 2.5 metres when used with the supplied lattice jib.

The new version of the Liebherr 630EC-H40 tower crane from Conrad, the largest 1/50 scale tower crane so far produced was on display and features new pennant lines to prevent the jib from drooping which was noticeable on the previous version. Each lattice mast section has an integral platform and access ladder, complete with safety cage and photo-etched walkways have been added along the entire length of the jib. The model can be configured with single or double lifting block and the trolley traverses smoothly along the jib.



Above Liebherr LB28 drilling rig from NZG.

Below Norscot's Caterpillar G3516 Gas Engine.

Right Cat AP655D paver with canopy from Norscot.



Dieci Pegasus 50.21 tele-handler from Ros.



RTG RG21T tracked piling hammer from Bymo.

The new range of New Holland models looks very impressive, consisting of the exceptionally detailed B115B backhoe loader, which is the most realistic-looking backhoe I have seen in 1/50 scale with all the hydraulic lines replicated along with working steering of both axles and fully-functional front and rear digging equipment. Joining the backhoe is the W170B wheel loader and both are produced by NZG. The three 'first metal' prototypes of the E215B tracked excavator from Motorart were also displayed and have some interesting boom options.

Liebherr is expected to release a raft of new models this year and three from NZG were on display during the day, including the RL64 pipe layer, which features metal linked tracks, a working boom with hook

block and detachable counterweights fitted to the side-mounted balancing arm. The R944C tunnelling excavator (supplied with both road header cutting attachment and rock pick) has captured the movement

and functionality of the full-sized machine perfectly and is another surprise release from NZG, which demonstrates the fantastic levels of detail which are now possible on a 1/50 scale model. The LB28 dedicated



Below Some of Les Edwards' 1/76 scale lorries.

Right Robby Holmes' forestry diorama.



Terex and Caterpillar models, including developments and conversions of standard models, incorporating a high level of additional detailing.

Other plant on show included Roddy Turner's dragline in 1/76 scale, which still dwarfs its operator as he sits and controls the model machine, just like the real thing. There were also Paul Jones' working Meccano models of a dumptruck and loader, a large-scale steam wagon in the livery of the legendary Davis Bros company, and lots of hand-built, kit-built and converted models



of trucks and lorries in many scales, from 1/76 to 1/24. One stand had a mix of scales, which made an interesting display, while

others ranged from the Emhar Bedford 'O' kits, built and finished in a range of different liveries, to something like 60 different Corgi Classics tankers – did you know there were that many in the range?

Everywhere, the enthusiasm and knowledge of the collectors and modellers was apparent, with discussions going on with visitors about the details to be seen and enjoyed.

There were also plenty of models for sale as well, with traders putting on special displays of model trucks and plant, as well



Trucks re-finished in Scottish liveries on Robbie Holmes' Northlink Ferry.



Some of Bruce Ralston's Terex plant models.

TRUCKS AND PLANT SPALDING SHOW

Atlas AS300 tandem drum roller from NZG is tiny in 1/50 scale.



drilling rig is another good release from NZG with poseable boom, adjustable drilling auger and Kelly bar and extending track frames with metal linked tracks.

Norscot has unveiled its new range of Caterpillar tracked and wheeled pavers and a sample of the AP655D tracked paver with canopy was displayed, featuring an extending screed, rotating rubber tracks and tipping hopper sides. Another recent release

Liebherr A924C wheeled excavator in G Mesken livery.



Liebherr LR634 tracked loader in Heffner livery.

from Norscot is a highly detailed 1/25 scale replica of the Cat G3516 Gas Engine.

Other models on display included the tiny 1/50 scale Atlas AS300 tandem drum roller from NZG, the 360 degree rotating Dieci Pegasus 50.21 tele-handler from Ros, with both personnel basket and lifting jib, and the new RTG RG21T tracked piling hammer from Bymo, while several company liveried models were also shown, including the Liebherr L586 wheel loader in Vinci decoration, the Liebherr LR634 tracked loader in Heffner decoration and the Liebherr A924C wheeled excavator in G.Mesken decoration. **DC**

Right Roddy Turner operates his 1/76 scale dragline excavator.

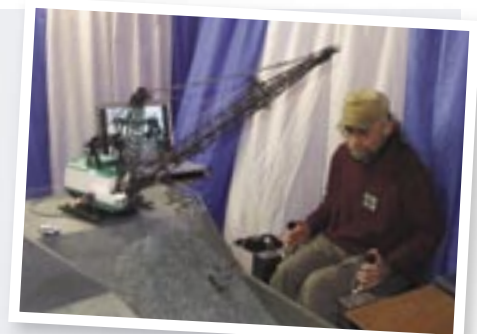
Below How many Corgi tankers can you see?



as specialised dealers in photographs and literature, including brochures and books.

Outside, for those who braved the weather, there was an AEC Matador recovery vehicle in the livery of the Western Welsh bus company, a Foden S70 heavy haulage unit in Metropolitan Water Board livery and a Peter Brotherhood-made roller on display, in addition to the Commer in the main hall.

It was a shame that the weather kept some enthusiasts away. Hopefully, our report will help to make up, as well as



encouraging you to make the trip next year. If you like trucks or plant, you won't be disappointed...