



**THE RAILWAY CORRESPONDENCE
AND TRAVEL SOCIETY** (Founded 1928)
Monthly Magazine 'THE RAILWAY OBSERVER'

85 Bissley Drive
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 3UY

25th February 1997

Dear Alan

Before the news, there are the regular set of "Adverts" reminding everybody of where supplies of things can be obtained, and when information is required to be returned to whoever.

1) Society Stationery

New Members Packs, Headed notepaper, forms, stickers, mugs, posters etc. Write to Bob Ballard at 1 Henders, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK11 1RB. (note: if prior notice is given to Bob, you can collect from Collectors Corner).

2) Society Publications

Please send your orders to Geoff Baylis, 6 Cherry Lane, Hampton Magna, Warwick. CV35 8SL.

3) Spare RO's

Contact David Bird at home - 16 Welby Close, Cox Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 3PY.

4) Indoor Meeting Programmes

For Publication in commercial magazines send your fixture lists to Keith Slaney at 37 Parkside Close, Meanwood, Leeds. LS6 4LZ - Remember, there is a 3 month lead time in the publishing of fixtures so the September fixtures need to be with Keith by the middle of June.

For Publication in the RO send your fixtures to John Richards at 54 Roakes Avenue, Addlestone, Surrey. KT15 2HA.

In addition, following the 1995 Officers Conference decision to circulate copies of all programmes to every Branch, please supply me with 30 copies for me to circulate.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEETINGS RECEIVE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY TO ENCOURAGE NEW MEMBERSHIP AND TO KEEP WHAT WE HAVE!

5) Meeting Reports

Send to Richard Morris at 20 Leckhampton Place, Old Station Drive, Leckhampton Road, Cheltenham, GL53 0DD - Remember to keep the report to about 80 words, otherwise the editor's scissors will receive some exercise.

6) Branch Activity

If you have any concerns to raise with the MC, change of committee, or any general questions, contact me please.

That's all in the commercial break this quarter, now for the main feature:

A) ANNUAL MEMBERS WEEKEND 1996

This was a very successful weekend in Sheffield which I hope all that attended enjoyed as much as I did. Enclosed are the minutes from the Conference, which I would be grateful if you would pass on to those who attended.

B) BRANCH PROGRAMMES

Please find enclosed the winter/spring programmes for the Cheltenham, Merseyside and South Essex Branches and the full 1997 programme for the Bristol Branch. There are still several Branches who have never sent me fixture lists, in spite of repeated requests, please remedy this!

C) ACTIONS FROM THE OFFICERS CONFERENCE

I thought that it would be a good idea, to re-summarise the actions from the Officers Conference that require action from the Branches.

- 1) If you have not yet supplied a list of speakers to Ray Mulligan, as requested in my newsletter to you exactly a year ago. If you feel that you cannot supply any names, would you please write to Ray to say so.
- 2) To repeat item 4 of the adverts, please send your meeting programmes to Keith Slaney, John Richards and myself as soon as they have been prepared.
- 3) Following on from the Society efforts last year, it is now essential that the Branches do everything in their power to recruit as many new members as possible this year.
- 4) If you send a circular to all of your Branch members during the year, please send a copy to me for reference.
- 5) Many Branches were asked at the conference to increase their efforts to attend exhibitions, to make money for the Branch and to aid recruitment. If you need any help - or identities of local events, please do not hesitate to contact Bob Ballard.
- 6) To confirm item 5 of the adverts, due to space limitations in the RO please keep your meeting reports to about 80 words per meeting, and supply them regularly to Richard.
- 7) Due to changes, we now need help from the Branches to identify outlets for the sale of our publications, we no longer have a distribution chain helping us. Please supply any possible locations to the Publications Committee, via either Peter Davies or Reg Wood.
- 8) Please ask your membership if any of them would like to be part of one of the publication teams, either researching, or more especially ghost writing, contact Reg Wood for further details.

The Management Committee have now had two meetings since the Officers Conference, and have been considering all of the actions that were requested of them at the meeting, further details once final decisions have been made.

D) NEW PUBLICATIONS

The next publication is the "Railways of Keynsham" which should now be available. This will be followed later in the year by the "Standard Tanks", which still needs some photographs and a little work on the manuscript. Many other titles are under way, but it is currently unlikely that there will be a third new book during 1997.

E) SALE OF MEMBERS BOOKS

Some Branches sell members books on their behalf at exhibitions, with the member making a donation to the Branch funds for their help. It has been suggested that other Branches could take up this idea, but it is important that the books are priced sensibly. If you need any help contact Terry Silcock or Bob Ballard by post, detailing the books title and its condition.

That's all for now, hope to see many of you at Watford for the AGM.

Steve Ollive
Honorary Branch Organisation Secretary