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BRANCH NEWS LETTER

No.1 - September 1997

Welcome to the first Branch News Letter. This replaces the Branch Organisation Secretary's circulars and the various circulars sent by Society Officers dealing with publications, VAT returns etc. Although Branch Secretaries remain the contact point it is for all members of the Branch Committee and other members that might have an interest in the contents. However, this is not just for Society Officers but also for the Branches. If there is something you do, or if you have goods or books to sell that you think other Branches might be interested in or if you know of a particularly good speaker (or who to avoid) then don't keep it to yourselves, tell us and it can go in the next **Branch News Letter**.

NEW BOOKS

The Publications committee are pleased to announce that three new publications will be available for sale by the annual members weekend.

The first is a new title in the BR Standards series, the Standard Tanks, and will be on sale at a price of £18.95.

The other two titles are long requested reprints from the LNER series, part 1 at a cost of £12.95 and part 2A at a cost of £14.95.

Please place your orders with Geoff Baylis, who I am sure will arrange for them to be at Bristol for your collection.

In addition, there is still a special offer on the whole Great Northern series of 4 volumes, at £40.95 post paid, or £35.00 if collected from Branch meetings.

Please publicise all of the above titles, and try to encourage as many members as possible to purchase their copies through the Branch sales.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS NEWS

For those asking about progress in the LMS series, there are no books ready for publication in the near future, however progress is being made on many manuscripts.

Another new series is now being worked upon, BR Diesel and Electrics, and a coordinator has now been appointed to steer the project. Two manuscripts for this project are progressing well.

Further information on these and other aspects of publications will be available from Reg at the Officers Conference.

WORKING TIMETABLE INFORMATION

All Branches will have received timetables from Malcolm Riley covering many interesting locations around the country as well as comprehensive information concerning Mail trains. Malcolm has had some feedback about the content and locations, but would appreciate comment from anybody about aspects of them. Do you and your Branch members find them useful? Malcolm has spent an awful lot of time in preparing these, and would like to know that they are appreciated and are being used.

ANNUAL MEMBERS WEEKEND / OFFICERS CONFERENCE

You will all have seen the advance notification of the weekend in Bristol on 21st-23rd November, with a very good programme put together by the Bristol Branch. The booking form will appear in the October RO. Please advertise the weekend as much as you can and encourage as many as possible to attend.

LOCAL CONFERENCES

In my last letter I raised the proposal to organise local conferences, which I had hoped could have been organised during September or October. Unfortunately due to various pressures and the summer recess, only one has managed to be organised. I hope that there will be feedback at the Offices Conference from the participants at the York meeting. From the feedback that I have had from some of you there are still some questions to be answered about the organisation and funding, these will be discussed at the Conference, with a view to them being arranged in the New Year.

BRANCH FIXTURES

In with this newsletter, you will find copies of Branch Fixtures for Cheltenham, East Midlands, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Ipswich, Lancs & North West, Peterborough, South Essex, Sussex, West Midlands, West of England, and West Riding. You already have copies of the Bristol and South East Branch fixtures which covered the whole of 1997.

Please make these available to your members, so that anybody travelling around the country can attend other Branch meetings.

THE INTERNET

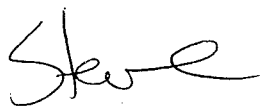
As you will already be aware, the Society has a page on the Internet run by Ronnie McAdam in Edinburgh. Having looked at it quite recently, there is a lot of information about the Society, including all fixtures, and access to all kinds of railway information. It is well worth having a look at, and advertising to the membership.

The page is <http://members.aol.com/rcts>.

Ronnie would welcome observations from around the country, to provide an overall picture of activity around the country. Not surprisingly, Scotland is quite well covered.

Information can be sent to Ronnie by post at 137 Mountcastle Crescent, Edinburgh. EH8 7SY, or by E-Mail to rcts@aol.com.

I look forward to seeing you all at Bristol in November.



Steve Ollive
Honorary Branch Organisation Secretary.