
NEWSLETTER TO SOCIETY OFFICERS

The summer is now well under way, and I hope that you are all enjoying the hobby outdoors, before resuming the indoor meetings. In this newsletter are details of this year's conference in Chester, advance notice of next year's AGM location, together with various Society activities.

Annual Members Weekend

This will take place in Chester, at the Queen Hotel adjacent to the station, on the weekend of 13th to 15th November. Proceedings will commence on the Friday evening at 20.00 with a talk by Robert Casselden entitled 'BR in the blue and grey era'. On Saturday we will spend the day at the East Lancs Railway, and will include a steam hauled return trip along the line and a visit to the works at Buckley Wells. The reunion dinner will be in the Queen Hotel at 20.00 including an after dinner speaker. Initial details are in the September RO, and full details including the booking form will appear in the November RO. Please advertise this event at your meetings and try to encourage as many people to attend as possible.

Officers Conference

As usual this will take place on the Sunday morning of the Annual Members weekend. Following on from last year's meeting, part of the meeting will be dedicated to presentations from the area meetings, and a follow up to all of the actions described in the last newsletter. In addition, as always, we look forward to agenda items from Branches and other officers. Please can you send these to me by the 10th October so that I can circulate them to the Management Committee prior to the meeting on 22nd October. The agenda will be sent out immediately after that meeting.

Area Meetings

Thank you to all of those who have given up your time to attend these meetings, this is very much appreciated. It is hoped to continue to develop the role of these meetings and representatives from each group will be helping the Management Committee as part of the think tank idea, and have been asked to attend part of the two Saturday Management Committee meetings. In addition, we hope to have a brief meeting on the Saturday evening of the Annual Members weekend between the return from the East Lancs visit and the dinner.

Society Secretary

It is with regret that I have to inform everybody that due to pressure of work commitments, Peter Davies has felt it necessary to resign from the post of Society Secretary. I am sure that you would wish to join the Management Committee in thanking Peter for all of his efforts on behalf of the Society during his period of tenure.

Branch Meeting Programmes

Enclosed with this newsletter are copies for each branch of the meeting programmes from the following branches: Bristol; Lancashire and North Western; Thames Valley; West of England; Hertfordshire; London; Humberside; and Sussex. For those branches who have yet to send me copies for circulation, please send them in to me as soon as they are available, and I will circulate them. Can I also remind you to ensure that John Richards receives a copy for publication in the RO, and Ronnie McAdam for the Internet and commercial magazines.

Society Badges

Following discussion at the last officers conference, the Society will be investing in a standard badge to be issued to all officers together with a supply to branches for members use at exhibitions. Please can you ensure that I have a full list of your Branch committee members by the end of October, so that we can produce the name panels in a standard format.

Society Image

As a follow up to David Burton's presentation on behalf of the Cheltenham Branch at the last conference expressing concern about the image of the Society, I have included a copy of the Cheltenham summer branch programme which included a follow up note from David to each of the members in the Cheltenham branch. Please would you consider its content and of following up its content within your own branch.

The 1999 Annual General Meeting

This meeting will take place in Reading on the 17th April 1999. A full weekend programme is being planned by our hosts, the Thames Valley branch. I hope that details will be available at the Officers Conference.

The 1999 Annual Members Weekend

As is customary at this time of year, my thoughts turn to the Officers Conference for the next year, and as usual, I am looking for a branch to volunteer to be the host. If your branch would like to act as host, please contact me as soon as possible. I hope that I will not have to try to twist an arm or two when I meet up with you all in Chester.

I look forward to seeing you all at Chester.



14th August 1998.

THE RCTS TOMORROW

In the May issue of The Railway Observer you will have read on page 177 that our Management Committee has been considering the image of the Society and its future aims and interests, and they believe professional help should be sought. The Cheltenham branch committee supports this view.

Many of us are aware of vast changes in the railway scene compared, most easily, with the days of steam which ended in the 1960s, and when the effect of Doctor Beeching's report was reducing the network. As a result of privatisation our railways are now embarking on huge changes again, and it is hard to grasp the developments of which we are assured within even the next few years.

Alongside the times of change our Society is changing little. Commercial companies have taken the market in rail tours and in publishing stock books, whilst there are now many magazines containing fast news and excellent photographs to be bought from our newsagent.

Indeed, such magazines are sold to about 150,000 enthusiasts. The presentation of The Railway Observer has endeavoured to move with the times, but volunteers cannot compete with profit-making enterprises and their facilities for producing information to satisfy the person who expects instant news.

Against this evident enthusiasm for railway observation it is regretful that RCTS membership is falling. Yet surely there must be scope for a vigorous amateur society to cater for the broad-minded rail follower today? Our Society has strengths in its long history, high reputation and healthy resources, but a new vision is being sought to move us forward alongside the exciting railway future starting to show itself out there on the line.

This note comes to you as one of 144 members allocated to the Cheltenham area branch. Amongst such a number is there one with experience in the world of marketing, public relations, psychology or whatever is need to offer some guidance in the right direction?

Can you please help our Society by responding to the RCTS chairman Rodney Lissenden at his address?

19 May 1998

RAILWAY OBSERVER DEFICIT

	1993/94 Actual £	1994/95 Actual £	1995/96 Actual £	1996/97 Forecast £	1997/98 Budget £
RO Costs	47004	50626	56739	51300	50500
Magazine Fees	38378	38545	42413	44285	46350
RO Deficit	8626	12081	14326	7015	4150
Subscription	£12	£12	£13	£14	£15
Shortfall per Ordinary Member	£2.50	£3.40	£4.00	£2.03	£1.22

BRANCH BALANCES

BRANCH BALANCES AS AT 31 OCTOBER										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	%AGE CHANGE	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
BRISTOL	276	308	364	318	404	376	371	390		5.12
CHELTENHAM	766	227	498	1032	1019	1701	922	848		-8.03
E.MIDLANDS	458	260	394	508	480	742	806	799		-0.87
FURNESS L & L	213	285	336	391	457	518	573	651	A	13.61
HERTFORDSHIRE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	375	403	302	A	-25.06
HUMBERSIDE	606	519	-42	1368	603	150	-2	784	A	-39300.00
IPSWICH	208	235	331	331	331	314	355	305	A	-14.08
L & NW	314	314	404	449	487	503	477	447	A	-6.29
LONDON	405	560	508	225	652	683	575	649	A	12.87
MERSEYSIDE	416	358	270	219	227	326	338	333		-1.48
N.EAST	579	485	439	555	498	324	452	467		3.32
NORTHAMPTON	516	206	594	606	696	670	858	913	A	6.41
PETERBOROUGH	313	347	259	209	210	243	185	129		-30.27
SCOTTISH	864	935	905	598	590	617	666	550		-17.42
SHEFFIELD	371	532	580	704	667	742	640	581	A	-9.22
SOUTH of ENG	211	230	529	467	483	522	444	430		-3.15
SOUTH EAST	N/A	N/A	313	867	969	1495	830	1009		21.57
SOUTH ESSEX	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	346	383	479	460		-3.97
SURREY	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	822	2360	1091	A	-53.77
SUSSEX	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			#VALUE!
T VALLEY	82	82	127	66	209	345	801	801	96	0.00
WEST of ENG	320	349	271	220	517	278	241	330	A	36.93
WEST MIDLANDS	423	439	1000	957	1100	1366	1186	1120		-5.56
W RIDING	795	445	304	376	550	416	612	605	A	-1.14
TOTAL	8136	7116	8384	10466	11495	13911	14572	13994		-3.97
TOT BRANCH EXP	1782	1739	1972	2014	2365	2305	2273	2400	EST	
DONATIONS TO CENTRAL FUNDS										
CHELTENHAM					500		500	300		
HERTFORDSHIRE								400		
HUMBERSIDE					500					
SOUTH EAST					500		1000	500		
SURREY								1000		
WEST MIDLANDS							500			
TOTAL					1500	0	2000	2200		
NET BRANCH EXP	1782	1739	1972	2014	865	2305	273	200		
NOTE-(A)-Details from April 1997 Branch Return										
- Branch Balances are stated net of outstanding Debtors and Creditors										

BRANCH INCOME

[illegible]

BRANCH REIMBURSEMENTS

	BRANCH REIMBURSEMENTS FROM CENTRAL FUNDS AS AT 31 OCTOBER										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	%AGE CHANGE		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£			
BRISTOL					266	276	344	330		24.64	
CHELTENHAM					400	410	415	480		1.22	
E.MIDLANDS										#DIV/0!	
FURNESS L & L					120	120	105	94		-12.50	
HERTFORDSHIRE										#DIV/0!	
HUMBERSIDE										#DIV/0!	
IPSWICH										#DIV/0!	
L & NW					193	185	254	127	A	37.30	
LONDON										#DIV/0!	
MERSEYSIDE								16		#DIV/0!	
N.EAST							24			#DIV/0!	
NORTHAMPTON						27				-100.00	
PETERBOROUGH					15	15	29	22		93.33	
SCOTTISH										#DIV/0!	
SHEFFIELD					176	165	165	77	A	0.00	
SOUTH of ENG					64	67	69	95		2.99	
SOUTH EAST										#DIV/0!	
SOUTH ESSEX										#DIV/0!	
SURREY										#DIV/0!	
SUSSEX					N/A	N/A	N/A	15			
T VALLEY					200	200	200	150	A	0.00	
WEST of ENG					81	62	115	75		85.48	
WEST MIDLANDS										#DIV/0!	
W RIDING					481	484	476	564		-1.65	
SUSSEX START UP								188			
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	1996	2011	2196	2233		9.20	
RETURNED TO CENTRAL FUNDS											
CHELTENHAM					500		500	300			
HERTFORDSHIRE								400			
HUMBERSIDE					500						
SOUTH EAST					500		1000	500			
SURREY								1000			
WEST MIDLANDS							500				
TOTAL					1500	0	2000	2200			
NOTE-(A)-Details from April 1997 Branch Return											

Branch allocation of all members to date, to compare >>									1994 1995 1996 & 1997				
Branch	Nov 1994	Jul 1995	Nov 1995	Jun 1996	Nov 1996	July 1997	Oct 1997	Nov 1997					Branch
BTL	166	171	171	166	166	161	165	169					BTL
CHM	157	151	152	164	165	155	157	156					CHN
EMD	215	211	226	219	222	210	212	212					EMD
ESX	128	121	129	130	130	124	129	130					ESX
FLL	77	75	81	79	81	78	79	79					FLL
HER	----	269	273	268	268	251	253	254					HER
HSD	81	79	79	80	83	81	81	81					HSD
IPS	84	85	90	89	89	86	88	90					IPS
LDN	607	177	179	179	174	157	158	160					LDN
LNW	195	191	203	194	195	182	185	187					LNW
MCN	156	152	156	147	153	149	151	156					MCN
MIS	195	182	190	179	182	112	112	113					MIS
NEA	149	138	141	142	145	137	138	140					NEA
NHN	172	161	163	166	170	170	173	172					NHN
OSE		19	19	15	15	16	17	16					OSE
OSS	63	43	44	43	44	36	36	37					OSS
PBR	74	81	84	88	92	89	88	88					PBR
SCT	148	142	149	152	152	140	140	141					SCT
SEA	152	167	177	175	183	187	188	189					SEA
SFD	92	89	92	90	92	88	91	94					SFD
SOE	169	148	156	154	157	144	145	148					SOE
SRY		212	220	219	224	211	215	216					SRY
SSX						75	75	74					SSX
TVY	137	123	131	131	133	127	128	130					TVY
WEN	170	162	168	165	170	159	162	164					WEN
WMD	286	271	277	269	268	247	248	250					WMD
WRD	271	263	270	274	277	272	274	274					WRD
Totals	3944	3883	4020	3977	4030	3844	3888	3920	0	0	0	0	

RCTS

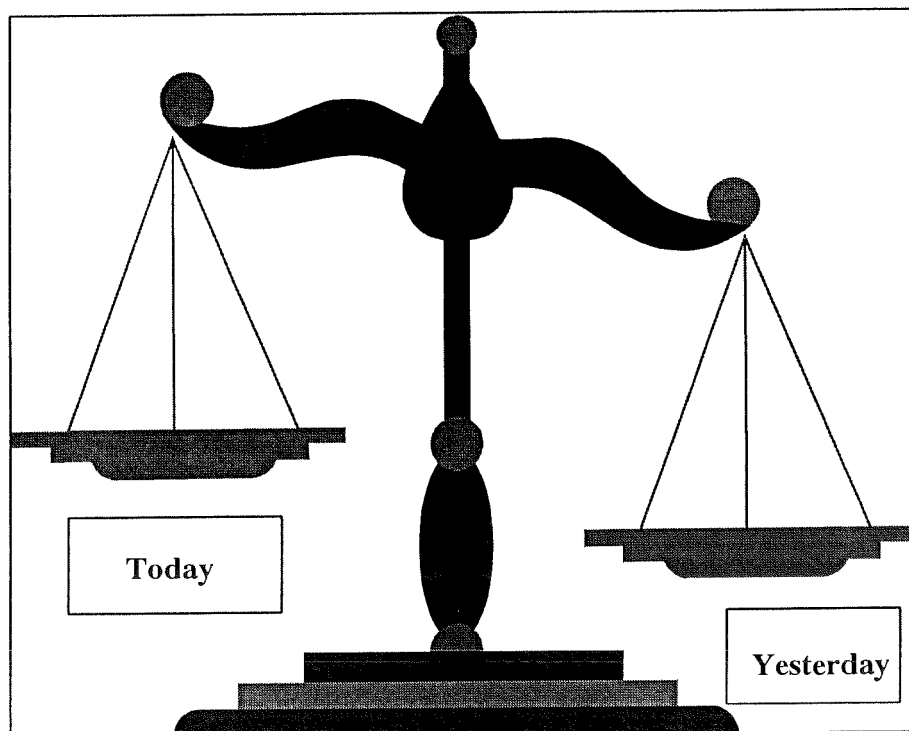
Membership statistics 1995, 1996 & 1997

Information at November 1997

Details	Current	1996	1995
Ordinary Subscription (UK file)	3431	3495	3513
Overseas	44 3475	50 3545	56 3569
Life Members (UK file)	361	365	365
Life Members (Overseas)	9 370	8 373	7 372
Status HLM (UK file)	35	37	38
Status AHL (UK file)	40 75	40 77	41 79
Totals	3920	3995	4020

Note

The total number of members in November 1994 was 3,944 and in December 1993 was 3,933.



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RCTS		Details of new members allocations for the year to date from January 1997												
Branch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Branch	
BTL	1		2	1		1	1		4	4			BTL	
CHM		2	1	1					2				CHN	
EMD		1		2	1	1			2				EMD	
ESX		1	2		1	1			5	1			ESX	
FLL	1	1		1									FLL	
HER	5	1	2	2	1				2	1			HER	
HSD	1					2	1						HSD	
IPS						2	1		2	2			IPS	
LDN				1										
LDN						2	1		1	2			LDN	
LNW	2		1						3	2			LNW	
MCN	1						1		2	5			MCN	
MIS					1	1				1			MIS	
NEA	1	1			3				2	2			NEA	
NHN	1		2	1				1	2	2			NHN	
OSE													OSE	
OSS										1			OSS	
PBR	1												PBR	
SCT		1		1	2	1	1						SCT	
SEA	1	1			1	5	5		1	1			SEA	
SFD			1			1	1		3	3			SFD	
SOE	2		1						1	3			SOE	
SRV	5		1		3		1	1	3				SRV	
SSX			1		1								SSX	
TVY	3		2	1				1		2			TVY	
WEN		1				2	1		5	2			WEN	
WMD	2			1	2	2	1	1		2			WMD	
WRD	3	2	2					1	1				WRD	
Totals	30	12	18	12	16	21	15	5	41	36	0	0		
1996	56	40	18	22	15	21	8	21	11	10	21	33		
Sum of totals for 1996 >			276					This years total to date >			206			

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RCTS		Details of new members allocations for the year to date from January 1996												
Branch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Branch	
BTL	4	2			1	1	1			1			BTL	
CHM	3	2		2	2		2	1		1	1		CHN	
EMD	3	1	1	1			3			1		1	EMD	
ESX	2		2	2		1			1		1	1	ESX	
FLL	1	2		1		1							FLL	
HER	3	5	3		1		2	1				2	HER	
HSD	2			1	1	2						1	HSD	
IPS	1	3		1	1						2	1	IPS	
LDN	1	4		1		2						1	LDN	
LNW	5		2		1				1		1	2	LNW	
MCN	1	2				1		2	1	2	2	2	MCN	
MIS			2			1					2	1	MIS	
NEA		1	1	2		1		1	1		1		NEA	
NHN	2	2	1					2	1		2	1	NHN	
OSE													OSE	
OSS	2	1											OSS	
PBR		1	2	1	1			1	1				PBR	
SCT	2	1		1	1	1			1				SCT	
SEA	4	1		1	2	6		4			1	5	SEA	
SFD	3	1		1				1		1	1	2	SFD	
SOE	1	1		2				2					SOE	
SRY	6	2		1	1			1		2		1	SRY	
SSX												7	SSX	
TVY	1	1	1	1					2		1	1	TVY	
WEN	4	1			1	1		2	1	1			WEN	
WMD		3	2		1			3	1	1	3	3	WMD	
WRD	5	3	1	3	1	3					3	1	WRD	
Totals	56	40	18	22	15	21	8	21	11	10	21	33		
1995	36	26	17	12	13	28	15	13	57	71	30	23		
Sum of 1995 totals			341					This years total to date >				276		