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NEWSLETTER TO SOCIETY OFFICERS

85 Bissley Drive
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10th January 1999

Dear Malcolm

This is my last newsletter to you all in my role as Branch Organisation Secretary, as I am now taking on a new role looking at Information Technology, the Internet and publicity. From now on, Steve Hodge of 20 The Lorne, Great Bookham, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT23 4JZ, will take on the role of liaison between the branches and the Management Committee. Please direct all general correspondence for the Management Committee through him.

May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the help and support that you have given to me during the ten years that I have performed this role, and I hope that you will support Steve in a similar way.

Following on from discussions at the Officers Conference, I am currently helping Ronnie McAdam in looking at the way our Internet page is set up and used, with a view to increasing the amount of information available and the currency of the information present. In addition, following the comments made by Geoff Cooper-Smith about availability of computer equipment, I hope to have some thoughts over computer usage for the benefit of the Society. I would certainly like to see more information moved between Society Officers in electronic rather than paper format, as this vastly reduces the amount of retyping and risk of transcription errors. One of the first stages of this has been the provision of a new computer system for Alan Cooke in his role as Society Secretary and Post Box. The system includes a scanner so that typed text can be converted into an electronic text format for immediate use by RO editors. Improvements are also being made in the computer equipment used by the RO editors, in an effort to reduce the time and effort taken to produce the RO each month.

With regard to the minutes of the Officers Conference held in Chester last November, I am currently reviewing what I have produced so that I can finalise them and produce a list of actions for everybody to have as soon as possible. I hope that I can distribute both the minutes and the list of actions by the end of January.

With this newsletter you will find copies of the latest program cards from Bristol, Cheltenham, Hertfordshire and Thames Valley Branches. I would be grateful if you could continue to provide programs to Steve Hodge, Ronnie McAdam and John Richards, for distribution and publicity purposes.

I hope that you all now have your new Society badges and are using them at all events that you attend. From the comments I have received so far, it is apparent that clear and consistent identification of people representing the Society is of benefit to the Society.

Steve

Stephen M. Ollive
RCTS Management Committee