

RCTS

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

Web Site: www.rcts.org.uk

Branch Liaison Secretary

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NEWSLETTER No 10

APRIL 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

As you read this you will no doubt be preparing to head for the AGM weekend at Folkestone. You are wished a pleasant journey and we look forward to seeing you there. Remember that the Agenda and various Officers' reports are in the April R.O. Also please note that the Minutes of the 2002 AGM are on Page 467 of the October 2002 Railway Observer.

2. OFFICERS CONFERENCE MINUTES

Minutes from the Officers Conference at Bristol in October are enclosed with this Newsletter. Copies for those attendee's who do not appear on the regular circulation list are sent with the Branch Secretary's copies for distribution by the Branch. (In some cases, where Branch Officer changes have taken place since October these are sent direct).

ADDENDUM

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an amended Page 1 of the OC Minutes. West Midlands Branch has been omitted from the original printing. Please use the enclosed single side printed sheet as your page 1. Do not destroy the collated copy as page 2 is on the reverse. Thanks.

3. 75th ANNIVERSARY RAILTOURS

In an effort to encourage more members to join in with events surrounding our 75th Anniversary celebrations we are offering a £10.00 discount to members who wish to participate in one or both of the advertised Railtours. A provisional itinerary and booking form are enclosed with this communication, further information and copies can be obtained by visiting the Society's Web Site at www.rcts.org.uk. The Railway Observer will present its booking form in the May 2003 issue. Bookings are being dealt with directly by Pathfinder Tours to whom booking and remittance should be sent as soon as possible. The offer of an across the board £10.00 reduction applies to members plus one other participant (thus a maximum of two persons claiming discount is allowed with any one booking). When booking participants are advised to submit the discounted cost, the society will make good the deficit directly with Pathfinder.

4. REGIONAL MEETINGS

As we approach the spring/summer season it is time to think about Regional Meetings, a draft Agenda will be produced shortly. So far the EMNESH group have arranged their meeting for Wednesday 14th May 2003 at Darlington. London & South Group will meet at Ightham and the Northern Home Counties Group at Digswell on 7th June 2003. Wessex Group has provisionally nominated 21st June for it's meeting. Draft agenda's will be produced following the AGM. Any Branch with issues that would like putting onto the national agenda should communicate these to me as soon as possible.

7. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Discussion points for this years round of Regional Meetings includes;

a) Society Web Package

The Society's Web Presentation Package. Details relating to this appeared in newsletter No 9 and a separate sheet is enclosed with the Regional Meetings Agenda. Groups could consider whether it would be a viable proposition for one to be available to each group, possibly funded jointly by each group. Agreement and arrangements would have to be made for usage at events, storage of equipment, transport to and from events, associated products (possibly a dedicated stand) and of course insurance.

b) Co-ordination of Meeting Dates.

We are aware that in some area's Branches adjacent to each other meet on the same night. This should be discussed with the view to making changes so those fixtures do not clash. It is to everyone's benefit to stagger the meeting nights thus giving the opportunity to increase your attendance's at Branch Meetings.

It might also be a good idea for Regional Groups and Branches with very close Boundaries to work together and discuss publishing a combined fixture lists.

8. BRANCH FIXTURES - PRESENTATIONS

Here we have two possible sources of Speakers for Branch Meetings

David Kelso has spent a lot of time recording the works and progress on the CTRL Section 1 to such an extent that he now has presentations available on the subject which he is willing to present to branches.

A "taster" was presented at the AGM at Folkestone. "David has a very extensive collection of pictures of the CTRL dating from the start of work in 1998. He has put together a number of slide shows and is willing to visit branches with one of his shows. Please contact David direct on **webmaster@rcts.org.uk** or telephone 01843-868124."

Graham Zeitlin, a career railwayman, is a possible speaker for Branches. Graham has written a book entitled "Staying on Track" and offers copies to members at £12.50 post-free. Any branch wishing to discuss trade rates for sales stands should contact Graham at the address on the enclosed flyer.

9. SURPLUS SOCIETY EQUIPMENT

Alan Cooke has two surplus to requirement-items. These are available from Alan at no cost but the Branch agreeing to relieve Alan of these must meet the carriage/transport costs.

1. PRIMAX COLORADO DIRECT 9600 Flatbed Scanner [a simple flatbed scanner that does a reasonable job on text & photos.
2. A Smith Corona 3111 Fax Machine that it uses plain paper and has an inkjet printer.

Please contact Alan in the first instance at 23 Haig Drive, Slough SL1 9HA or by Email to Alan at - ajc@rcts.freeseve.co.uk

John Day/Ipswich 5th May 2003