

NEWSLETTER 21



OCTOBER 2005

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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21.01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our pre-Conference Newsletter, amongst the items below are some very important matters that directly refer to the Members Weekend and Officers' Conference. Enclosures with this are documents relative to the Officers' Conference and secretaries should ensure that their Branch delegate attending the conference is provided with copies. Some of the remaining Branch programmes are also enclosed, those missing still to be submitted for circulation.

21.02 MEMBERS' WEEKEND

The weekend events at Wrexham are approaching very fast and all members booking for the weekend should have received the information and booking details from Gordon Davies at Merseyside, Chester and North Wales. If you haven't then please contact Gordon urgently on 01244 520710 to rectify the matter. It should also be noted the success of the event means that the Hotel is full and only bookings for the outdoor events can be made.

21.03 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

We would hope that all Branches would be represented at the Officers' Conference taking place on Sunday 30th October. Branches should ensure that their delegate(s) are furnished with the Agenda and it's attachments [enclosed with this Newsletter].

A point to be noted is that it should not be assumed a member of your Branch serving on the Management Committee or as a Society Officer is your BRANCH delegate. Please make sure you afford any assumed delegate the courtesy of discussion before nomination.

The enclosed Branch/Officers' attendance record [to Secretaries and Society Officers] should be completed and passed to John Day before or at the Conference. This includes completion for any apologies.

Please also note that apologies **MUST** be tendered prior to the Officers' Conference, if after Wednesday 26th October then Emails and home phone **WILL NOT** be actioned as I will not have access to those facilities. Please use my mobile 07703 484904 or telephone the hotel reception [01978 291010] and leave a message for me in the event of a late call-off. Thank you for your attention to this.

21.04 NEW IMAGE LAUNCH

The "New Image" for the Society was successfully launched at Crewe on 10th/11th September and now it is time to consolidate the hard work put in by John Lewis and his team. Whilst developments will continue, especially to the Website, branches should by now be distributing the leaflets and using "New Image" presentation packs and it's associated inserts. The September RO had the launch wrap round cover, a design that will take effect from January. Of course we will be keeping up our trend of having a photograph on the cover each month so don't despair on that one.

Letterhead logo A4 paper and logo compliments slips have been distributed to all branches and as per guidelines issued with the pack should now be used for all future communications both within and outside the Society.

21.05 SOCIETY WEB SITE

Visitors to the site may, for a while, notice problems with slow updates. David Kelso is currently working very hard to update the Society's Web Site in connection with our "New Image". It is hoped that the new site will be up and running in January 2006 and everyone should look forward to the exciting changes that are taking place. Branches should ensure that their web correspondents are aware of information sent to them separately by David and that they should act accordingly. It is in the best interests of the Society that accurate and up to date information is available for publishing on the web pages.

21.06 60001 LOG

Branches are reminded of an amendment to details given in the last Newsletter for reporting sightings and information about of "our loco" 60001. Details by Email should go to Andrew Lait at 60001log@rcts.org.uk and not to his personal address as previously suggested.

21.07 BRANCH FIXTURE PROGRAMMES

It is necessary to raise a number of matters concerning branch fixture programmes in an attempt to improve the way we advertise our meetings to our members, within the press [popular railway and local news sources], on the website and general advertising.

The key points in this effort are:

- Ensuring speaker details, name, presentation title and information are correct at the time of submission for distribution or publication.

Ideally, we would like all branches [several already do] to produce a brief introduction to the speaker and subject, four lines of text across an A4 sheet would be an adequate benchmark to work on.

For examples just look through the branch fixture programmes already circulated. An analysis of these will quickly identify the differences we need to address.

- **Subject Matter.** Instances have come to light that when some speakers arrive at meetings the billing does not represent a fair reflection of the presentation. This can be easily rectified and overcome by discussing with potential speakers the content of their address. Especially when historic information is part of the talk.

Get a clear understanding of the time period the presenter is working to. Quote months/years/era/grouping wherever possible.

This will avoid any confusion, especially when some members/guests attend a meeting with dedicated subject matter only to find that the presentation bears no resemblance to that advertised.

21.08 OLD STATIONERY

Branches and Officer's still in possession of any era old stationery should cease using this immediately and dispose of obsolete supplies. One way of achieving this is to bring your old stock to Wrexham and pass to Terry Silcock who will use the plain side of sheets for drafts, catalogue sheets and displays within the Library.

21.09 STATIONERY SUPPLIES

New Image Society stationery should be ordered from Bob Ballard prior to the weekend in order that the order can be prepared for collection at Wrexham by your branch. There are still some stocks of "old style – 60001" plastic bags, please order these as well for your branch. New Image supplies will be available once stocks of these are depleted.

Supplies of Pens, Stickers and Car Stickers will be available at Wrexham on a first come first served basis, if you would like to order in advance please do so in the appropriate place on your attendance form. Announcements will be made as to how these will be distributed whilst we are at Wrexham.

21.10 BRANCH VACANCIES

Merseyside, Chester and North Wales Branch successfully advertised their vacancy for a new secretary on the Society Website. Please be aware that advertising of this nature for branches is, and will be, permitted. In the event that you require this facility please contact David Kelso, either through your Web Correspondent or directly from the branch. This could also be a useful tool for branches without web-correspondents to advertise for one within their branch membership boundaries.

21.11 SOCIETY HEADBOARDS

The Society is keen to locate and control the whereabouts of any Society Headboards that may be held by individuals or branches. If you are holding one on behalf of the Society can we please be notified and reunited with said headboard. These would generally be required at AGM or Members' Weekend events and if held centrally could be loaned out if required for other events during the year.

21.12 SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVE

A new catalogue has recently been published of our Society Photograph lists.

Branches can obtain a copy on CD by Emailing David Cole at dfrcts@hotmail.com. The lists can then be printed for branch use or to use on sales stands at exhibitions.

Lists available are:

1. Steam Locomotives [73 pages]
2. Diesel Locomotives & Multiple Units [43 pages]
3. Electric Locomotives & Multiple Units [19 pages]
4. Coaching Stock [13 pages]
5. Rolling Stock other than coaches [5 pages]
6. Buildings & Infrastructure [27 pages]
7. Signals & Signalling Equipment [6 pages]
8. Overseas Railways [13 pages]
9. Miscellaneous [13 pages]

Lists contain details of the ordering procedures for hard copy or by electronic transmission and also an order form.

21.13 MEMBERS' WEEKEND AND OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2006

We are looking for a volunteer branch or Regional Group to host the 2006 event and offers to host this should be made to John Day before or at the Members' Weekend. It is the belief of the Management Committee that with the Regional Groups now firmly established the event should be rotated year on year amongst the five groups.

In the event that no offer is forthcoming by the time the Agenda Item [12] is reached at the Officers' Conference a "seeded" draw will take place to establish which group will host the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Members' Weekend's. It will then be the responsibility of the Regional Group to decide whether they will work as a group or an individual branch within the group will take the responsibility. The seeding is seen as the fairest way of administering this bearing in mind that Northern Home Counties hosted the 2004 Norwich Conference and will thus host the 2009 event. This year's host group will then take up the reins for the 2010 conference.

21.14 2006 SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Attention should be made to the October RO Page 465 which outlines the new procedure for renewing subscriptions. Branches should encourage it's members to renew promptly and be prepared to receive renewals at Branch Meetings and forward these to Steve Ollive.

21.15 BRANCH MEETING SURVEY

Branch Secretary's will receive with this Newsletter a Survey Form, we are seeking information about how each branch administers their branch meetings, how they finance entrance donations, draws, draw prizes, refreshments etc, etc; Please complete this form and pass to John Day at Wrexham. This information will be passed to the development Sub-Committee to assist them in their reviews and deliberations during the next few months. Thank you for your attention to this.

John Day, Ipswich

21st October 2005