

Steve
Bob,
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Gavin
Alan.



NEWSLETTER 22

MARCH 2006

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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22.01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first newsletter to be produced since I took on the role of Branch Liaison from John Day. John was appointed Society Secretary in January. Those officers who in future would prefer to receive their copy of the newsletter electronically, please send me a request to the my address; - liaison@rcts.org.uk. Remember that if at any time in the future you change your internet service provider, please let me know your new e-mail address otherwise you will not receive any further copies by e-mail.

22.02 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

As noted above John Day has taken over the role Society Secretary from Alan Cooke. Alan on the other hand is taken over the responsibility as Anglia, LNE & Midland Main Line editor for the R.O. replacing John Baker, who sadly passed away last year. See page 1 of the January edition of the R.O. for full details of the changes on the management committee.

22.03 AGM WEEKEND

The weekend events at Bradford are approaching very fast and full details are in the March edition of the R.O. and on the website. A varied and interesting schedule of events has been organised by the West Riding branch. Information on the weekend's events is in the March edition of the R.O. as well as the booking form. A copy of the booking form is also available on the website if you do not want to use the copy in the R.O.

A change has been necessary to the booking form since publication of the R.O. regarding the Sunday visit to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway. The KWVR cannot now carry out the Silver Service lunch in the dining car. Instead there will be on offer a lunch comprising Soup with Roll & Butter, followed by self-serve sandwiches and apple pie and cream then coffee/tea served at your table.

A fully inclusive cost for rail travel, visits and lunch will be £20.00. If you wish to take part in this event please indicate and remit accordingly on the booking form. Would you please announce this change at your next indoor meeting.

22.04 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

The minutes of the Officer's Conference held at Wrexham in October 2005 have now been prepared and published by John Day. If you were in attendance at Wrexham, a copy of the minutes is enclosed with this newsletter. You may also find additional copies enclosed, which are for other branch members who were in attendance at the

Officers' Conference. These copies are marked with the delegate's name, could you please forward these additional copies. Many thanks.

22.05 SOCIETY WEB SITE

The launch of the 'new' website has been delayed due to the heavy workload of the Webmaster, David Kelso. It is anticipated that the new website will be launched in time for the AGM weekend at Bradford.

22.06 STATIONERY SUPPLIES

Bob Ballard advises branches that new supplies of the Membership Packs have been taken into stock. Bob will be Bradford for the AGM weekend so if any officer who requires additional stock of new image stationery should contact Bob on 01908 562195 or e-mail him at: - wrb.rcts@btinternet.com with your requirements. Bob will have your order at Bradford ready for collection.

22.07 RECRUITMENT LEAFLETS

When the new image was launched at Crewe in September last year, thousands of the new recruitment leaflets were distributed to the vast crowds in attendance. Subsequently many more have been distributed at national and local exhibitions as well as indoor and outdoor fixtures. We have successfully recruited new members with the distribution of these information leaflets. However do your local railway preservation sites, museums, libraries, tourist information centres, railway stations have these leaflets on display in a prominent position? With the tourist and leisure season about to start, now is the time of the year for every branch to make concerted effort and get the leaflets on display in as many suitable places as possible. Could branch committee members at their next committee meeting please identify suitable locations and make arrangements to get a supply of the leaflets on display. These leaflets are no good in Bob Ballard's garage; they need to be out there, on display generating interest and recruiting new members to the society. As in item 22.06 above, these leaflets are available from Bob and I am sure he will more than pleased if you order your supplies from him in time for the summer season. Those of you not attending the AGM can have your stationery and leaflets distributed from Bob in the normal way.

22.08 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Since the new image launch last year the Publicity & Marketing committee has evolved to become the 'Development Committee'. Under the chairmanship of Richard Neale, the 'new' committee is looking further as to how we as a society maintain its position as 'Britain's Leading Railway Society'. The committee is identifying possible avenues to further enhance and develop the society.

Many issues are being discussed but one of the points of discussion is the success of the new image. As mentioned in the previous paragraph (22.07) the distribution of the new recruitment leaflets is paramount to the continuation of the society, as we know it and especially in the recruitment of new members. Could all branches advise Richard Neale as to where (railway preservation sites, museums, etc) the recruitment leaflets have been distributed so that the development committee can monitor the success of the leaflets. Richard can be contacted on 0151 608 4296, or e-mailed at rnealeat@supanet.com or by mail at 6 Cambridge Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, CH42 8PR.

22.09 BRANCH MEETING ADMINISTRATION SURVEY

Last year branches were asked to complete a branch meeting administration survey as part of the remit of the Development Committee. So far 20 branches have responded. Outstanding reports are awaited from the following branches:-

DISCUSS
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Cheltenham
Furness, Lakes & Lune
Peterborough
South Essex
Surrey
West Riding.

If those secretaries have misplaced their copies of the survey forms, additional copies can be obtained from Richard Neale. Richard can be contacted on 0151 608 4296, e-mailed at rwnealeatl@supanet.com or by mail at 6 Cambridge Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, CH42 8PR.

Please could all the outstanding surveys be with Richard Neale by the 31st March.

22.10 MEMBERS' WEEKEND AND OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2006

The 2006 annual Members' weekend is again to be held in Wales. This year the Bristol branch are working together to hold the weekend in Cardiff on the weekend 20th to 22nd of October. The Quality Inn on the northern part of the city has been booked for the event. This hotel is Three-Star rated and has extensive leisure facilities such as an indoor heated swimming pool, spa bath, sauna, steam room and gymnasium. If you do not want to travel on any of the excursions, bring your wife or partner and enjoy a leisurely weekend relaxing at the hotel. Provisional plans are for a visit to the Brecon Mountain Railway and to Barry to visit the Vale of Glamorgan site. Alternative visits for the Saturday and Sunday are also in preparation. More information will be available in a future newsletter.

22.11 DEPOT VISITS RESTRICTIONS

Malcolm Riley has prepared a list containing information on the availability and restrictions regarding depot visits. A copy of the list can be obtained from Malcolm Riley at 12 Hope View, Shipley BD18 2NG. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelop with your request.

22.12 REGIONAL MEETINGS

There have been some changes to the Regional Meetings Chairman this year. I have stepped down as Chairman of the North West & Midlands Group. Ian Derrick from the Lancashire & North West branch has taken on the responsibility for that group. Ken Wilson from the South of England branch has taken over from Paul Snelling and finally Bob Ballard, Milton Keynes branch has taken over from David Cole. My personal thanks to Paul & David for all the hard work that they have done over the last few years in organising the meetings, getting the minutes prepared and distributing all the documentation.

The dates and visiting MC representative for the 2006 Regional Meetings have been confirmed. Draft agendas and an update to the 2005 Action Points document will be sent out to the Regional Meeting chairman in due course. The local group chairmen will be contacting each branch with further details nearer the event.

The schedule of meetings with the MC representatives is as follows:

EMNESH – Wednesday 10th May – 11.00a.m. **DAVID BIRD**
North Road Museum, Darlington
Chairman – Carey Vessey

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES – Saturday 3rd June **RICHARD MORRIS**
Digswell Village Church Hall, Warren Way, Digswell (Welwyn North)
Chairman – Bob Ballard

LONDON & SOUTH – Saturday 3rd June. 11.00a.m.
(Venue to be confirmed at a later date)
Chairman - Ken Wilson

DAVID PICK

NORTH WEST & MIDLANDS – Saturday 17th June, 12.30p.m.
The Town Crier, Station Road, Chester.
Chairman - Ian Derrick

ALAN COOKE

WESSEX – Saturday 17th June, 12.00noon
Manvers Street Baptist Chapel, Bath
Chairman - Callum Macleod

REG WOOD

Could each branch make every effort to get at least one delegate to attend your local Regional Meeting this year. The Regional Meetings have proved to be an invaluable tool in the development and continued success of the Society.

22.13 BRANCH AGM RETURNS

Could all branch secretaries note that in future all branch AGM returns are sent to me at the address above and not to John Day. Many thanks to the branches who responded to the request for outstanding returns that appeared in the August 2005 Newsletter.

22.14 SURPLUS PUBLICATIONS

The North East branch has requested that if any branches have copies of the books, 'High Level Bridge' and 'Newcastle Central Station' could they please send them to the branch chairman, David Tyreman. The branch North East gets requests for these titles at meetings and at exhibitions and as they have been out print they are no longer available. David has the opportunity to sell these books and would appreciate any available copies. You can bring your spare copies to the AGM weekend at Bradford or send them to David at: - 27 Baroness Drive, Denton Burn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE15 7AT.

22.15 EXHIBITION SIGNS

The MC has purchased ten lightweight plastic signs suitable for use at exhibitions. The signs depict the new image logo and are in full colour. Each regional meetings group will be allocated two signs each. Can the regional meeting chairmen in consultation with their group branches decide which branch will be custodians for the signs. Each group can share the signs between themselves subject to demand. The signs will be available for collection at the AGM weekend at Bradford.

22.16 BRANCH FIXTURE LISTS

With the launch of the new image logo can all branch / fixture secretaries ensure that the new logo (as shown on the first page of this newsletter) appears on all forthcoming indoor and outdoor fixture lists. Some branches have already developed some excellent material and this shows the new image in fine style.

22.16 BRANCH ATTENDANCE REGISTER

The majority of branches have an attendance register at all indoor meetings to record those members attending as well visitors. Those branches that do not have a register are encouraged to operate a register as this will help with future branch development and as a tool to encourage requirement of visitors who attend on a regular basis.

W. Gordon Davies

2nd March 2006