

NEWSLETTER 23



JULY 2006

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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23.01 VACANCIES

R.O. EDITOR

As mentioned in the May RO, David Bird has stood down as Managing Editor. Callum MacLeod has stepped into the breach and is at present acting Managing Editor. Callum has stated that this is a temporary arrangement until a new editor is appointed.

If anyone is interested in filling the vacancy or you may know someone who is please contact John Redgate, Society Chairman as soon as possible.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Tony Skinner, Society Treasurer is requesting assistance with the maintenance of the Society's financial records. The position requires someone preferably with a good knowledge of branch finances and returns as that is the part of Tony's tasks that help is required. A good working knowledge of Word and Excel is important. Please bring this to your committee's attention. For further details please contact Tony on 0191 297 1624.

23.02 NEW BRANCH SECRETARIES

Ipswich Branch.

As you all know John Day stepped down some time ago as secretary of the branch but due to an administration error the new secretary was not shown correctly in the R.O. inserts. John was succeeded by: -

Stephen Cobb
247 Britannia Road
Ipswich IP4 5HF
Tel: 01473-420037
email: ipswich@rcts.org.uk

Sussex Branch

Paul Snelling has announced that he has stepped down as secretary of the branch. He has been succeeded by:-

Paul Baston
23 Bramber Way
BURGESS HILL
RH15 8ER
Tel : 01444 253657
email : paul.baston@virgin.net

Surrey Branch

Steve Hodge has announced he has stepped down as secretary of the branch. To date a successor has not been appointed so in future editions of the RO and on the website the position will be shown as a **VACANCY**. Any volunteers in the Surrey branch, please?

23.03 MEMBERS' WEEKEND AND OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2006

Details for the 2006 Annual Members' weekend have now been virtually finalised. The Bristol branch has put together a varied and interesting agenda of events for the weekend. Based at the Quality Inn, which is situated at near Junction 32 on the M4 at Merthyr Road, Cardiff.

Commencing on Friday the 20th of October the weekend starts with a presentation by Jeff Morgan, Chairman of Glamorgan Railway entitled 'Barry Docks and Railway'.

On the Saturday take part in "The Black Diamond Experience" at the Brecon Mountain Railway. The owner of railway will give a talk and a viewing of rolling stock and shed will take place. A trip has been arranged by steam train for a round trip to Pontisill.

Later in the day we will depart for Barry Island and visit the Barry Island Railway.

A sandwich buffet lunch plus refreshment will be available on the day.

An alternative trip has been arranged on the Saturday morning to Cardiff Bay with a tour the Waterfront, Welsh Assembly Building and Pierhead Exhibition GWR Roll of Honour plus a waterbus ride from Mermaid Quay.

The guest speaker at the dinner on Saturday evening has yet to be announced

On the Sunday morning whilst the Officers Conference takes place a trip to Castell Coch in Tongwynlais is on the itinerary.

Sunday Lunch will be available at the hotel for those wishing to participate.

Single rooms are limited so why not bring your wife, partner or friend or share a room with a branch colleague. The hotel has superb leisure facilities so have a relaxing weekend in the Capital of Wales.

Please make every effort to support the event, It would be advantageous to see at least one representative from each branch at the conference this year.

Full details for all the events as well as a booking form will appear in the August edition of the R.O. See you all in Cardiff.

23.04 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development sub-committee is in the process of preparing a 'Officers Handbook'. This handbook will contain useful information for officers in the society.

A draft copy has been prepared but addition work is required before publication. It is envisaged that copies will be available for inspection at the Officers Conference at Cardiff in October.

Last year branches were asked to complete a branch meeting administration survey as part of the remit of the Development Committee. The final analysis has been prepared and is attached to this newsletter as **APPENDIX A**. Additional comments added to the survey forms are shown on **APPENDIX B**. If you have any queries regarding the data contact the chairman of the Development Committee, Richard Neale on 0151 608 4296 or e-mail Richard at rwnealeatl@supanet.com or by mail at 6 Cambridge Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, CH42 8PR.

22.05 REGIONAL MEETINGS

All the Regional Meetings have taken place and the minutes from those meetings have been prepared and despatched to me for processing. An Action Points document disseminating the points and comments recorded in the minutes is in the course of preparation and will be presented to the next Management Committee meeting in August.

Copies of the Action points document plus the MC responses will be circulated to the Regional Meetings Chairmen in late August.

22.06 EXHIBITION SIGNS

As mentioned in the newsletter 22 the MC has purchased ten lightweight plastic signs suitable for use at exhibitions. These have been distributed to various branches. If any other branches require additional lightweight signs, will branch secretaries please let me know by the 18th of August so that they can be ordered and made available for collection at the Member's Weekend at Cardiff.

22.07 LIBRARY NEWS

Surplus Books and Magazines

As a result of a number of donations, bequests and purchases there is a considerable quantity of books and magazines (bound and unbound) available for sale from the Library. These are offered for sale by branches at Exhibitions and other events, with branches given 25% of sale price, if taken on sale or return and 30% if purchased by the branch. There are also quantities of out of print RCTS books available, terms for these are only a 15% discount as most have been "bought in" for resale.

Branch loan boxes

These boxes of between 30-50 books, exchanged periodically have proved popular with many branches. Their dispersal from the main Library also helps to ease pressure on shelf space. Boxes can be created, collected or exchanged either at Society's AGM/Members' weekend or by prior arrangement in the afternoon BEFORE the normal Library opening times. If the latter is desired it is ESSENTIAL to make a prior appointment with Terry Silcock, as he cannot cope with two such visits simultaneously.

Library contacts: E-mail Librarian@rcts.org.uk; private phone no: 020-8866-3432.

Society E-mail groups:

There are two E-mail groups of which Terry Silcock is the owner; RCTSOfficers@yahoogroups.com restricted to Society Officers, which includes YOU and any branch committee member. Its purpose is to improve communications between all the Society's officers. Attachments are permitted, and the Newsletter is also distributed by this method, so that more than one member of the branch committee can receive a copy and easily print additional copies. To join this group, just send an E-mail to: RCTSOfficers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, include subscribe in the subject line, and your society office and name, if it not obvious from your e-mail address, in the contents of the e-mail.

RCTSLibrary@yahoogroups.com restricted to RCTS Members. Lists of new sales and loan items from the Library are regularly sent by E-mail. Queries may also be submitted and answered. There is an area at Yahoogroups from where digital files of the Library catalogues: books, magazines, rail tours, accident reports, may be downloaded. To join this group, just send an e-mail to:

RCTSLibrary-subscribe@yahoogroups.com include subscribe in the subject line and only your membership number and post code in the contents of the E-mail.

Lost E-mails from the Society Librarian.

Those of you who receive the RCTS Officers group E-mail, will know that some members' E-mails systems have deleted messages from Terry.silcock@btinternet.com, because they are presumed to be pornographic.

Please check how your filters are set up, particularly the anti-virus and parental controls on your computers. The default settings, as supplied, are often too

restrictive. If you do not get a reply from Terry within 14 days, try leaving a message on his voice-mail:0870-131-8711 or if more urgent phone his private number: 020-8866-3432.

23.08 RECRUITMENT LEAFLETS

Bob Ballard still has stocks of the recruitment leaflets so if on your travels you have the opportunity to place some leaflets at your local preservation site, library, museum or and other suitable place replenish your stocks by calling Bob on 01908 562195 or e-mail Bob at: - wrb.rcts@btinternet.com with your requirements.

Just after the launch of the leaflets each branch was given a roll of labels with the local branch secretary's name and contact details and these labels were stuck on the rear of the leaflets. Additional rolls of labels can be obtained from 'Able Labels', Earls Barton, Northampton, NN6 0LS. Telephone number 0870 444 2733. Labels are available in 250, 500 and 750 rolls at £5.95, £7.90 and £9.75 respectively. Please ask for Block Lettering in Black.

22.09 RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE

The South East branch which meets at Ashford, has developed an incentive scheme for its branch members to recruit new members. An example of the leaflet which was distributed to the local members is show as **APPENDIX C** which at the end of this newsletter. You may wish that your branch participates in something similar to the South East branch by modifying the leaflet to your local needs.

22.10 FIRE REGULATIONS

There are new fire safety regulations coming into force on the 1st of October 2006 that will affect the properties where branches meet. In short, the owners of the venues where we meet will be required to enforce fire safety regulations and will require secretaries and/or any other responsible branch officer, to complete a training and awareness document to ensure that as the responsible person at a meeting they are aware of what is needed in the event of a fire. This could also require carrying out an evacuation procedure. The suggested objective for this should be for Branch Secretaries to contact the owners / managers of their meeting venues to ascertain what they require secretaries to do.

23.11 ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE R.O.

If you require additional copies of the R.O. for inserting in the New Members Information Packs please contact Richard Morris on 01242 516747 or e-mail Richard at Richrcts@aol.com

23.12 LONDON'S TRANSPORT MUSEUM

I have received a folder from London's Transport Museum containing details of the various tours that are available. With London's Transport Museum at Covent Garden closed for a £19million re-build, tours of the Museum Depot at Acton are available. Any branch wishing to organise a visit to Acton or attend any of the other tours on offer please contact me and I will post the folder to you. However if you wish to get further information directly from London's Transport Museum, contact Dawn Ross who is the Group Visits Co-ordinator on 020 7565 7265, fax 020 7565 7253 or e-mail Dawn at groupvisits@ltmuseum.co.uk

23.14 BRANCH FIXTURE LISTS

I have received some copies of 2006-2007 branch fixture list for distribution. These will be distributed with the next newsletter. I have included the fixture list for the LCGB London meetings for your information. This appears at the end of this newsletter.

23.15 INDOOR MEETINGS

With some members reluctant to travel in the evenings or with public transport not serving the needs of members, the Northampton branch has experimented with afternoon meetings. These have been extremely successful with a high turn out of both members and visitors. Branches should consider this as an option to 'test the waters' and see what your branch members think of the idea. These afternoon meetings could be held at an alternative venue to the normal place. The results could prove interesting

W. Gordon Davies

18th July 2006

APPENDIX A

ANALYSIS OF RETURNS - BRANCH MEETINGS SURVEY 2005

	YES	NO
Do you charge entrance donation at door	19	3
Do you charge non members more than members	17	5
What do you charge members	20	2
varies between 70 pence		
average £1-20 & £2-50		
What do you charge non members	20	2
varies between average £2-00 £1 & £3		
Season ticket facility offered	2	20
General sales stand at meetings	18	4
Society publications sold	14	8
Slides/photos sold	10	12
Other merchandise sold	17	5
Refreshment break	9	13
Do you serve tea/biscuits	5	17
Is this included in admission donation	5	17
Bar facilities at meetings	11	11
Draw held at meetings	13	9

N.B. General comments received in addition to these returns are on a separate sheet.

Many thanks to the 22 branches who submitted their returns. Awaited are those returns from Cheltenham, Furness Lakes & Lune, Peterborough and South Essex

Richard Neale May 2006

APPENDIX B

Autumn 2005 Branch Administration Survey – Additional Comments Received

We provide a monthly bulletin with details of local railway news, forthcoming rail tours and diary dates, e.g. Forthcoming speaker, local heritage railway events and society events. This then goes on the website Branch News page. We have a notice board at the meeting to display items/notices of possible interest to members.

We have a range of folders containing information, e.g. meetings of the branches. Handouts of interest, lists of passing times when available. These are announced at meetings and left on display.

We have a large selection of new and second hand railway books at meetings the profit from which provides the finance to keep the Branch running. Some years since it was anybody's while setting up a stall for those attending.

Our venue does not allow charges for meetings. Few visitors in any case – Book titles seen many times already.

Room hire charge is quite low. No specific sales table but choice from which raffle draw winner may select.

Door charge reflects room hire charge. Still do not meet our costs so reliant on sales stand activities to cover shortfall.

The hire cost of the venue has a direct bearing on the level of donation sought from attendees. Our branch currently pays £45 per night, an amount, which we don't often cover by donations on the door – and we have the prospect of an increase in rent from the end of next year. If numbers don't increase, donations may have to.

We have reduced donations by 50p for over 60's.

Room on first floor – creates difficulties for carrying materials up and down stairs especially with few helpers around.

We have our events in meeting room that coincides with public dancing in the main hall. We can use bar from 20.00 hrs onwards.

Intervals are used to collect voluntary donations and attendance book circulated.

The Library box is available at our meetings.

A refreshment break is taken if requested by a visiting speaker. Not generally, because the length of meetings would result in many members leaving early to catch transport. This can be a problem for any meeting going on from 21.20 hrs and our normal finish time is 21.30 – 21.45 hrs

We have bar facilities at one venue the other is Methodist property. We attend as many local events as possible with sales & publicity stand

Draw discontinued at our meetings many years ago when we lost our source of discounted books. May be investigated again.

Car parking. If a branch can offer a venue with free parking it can, obviously increase its attraction to members and visitors. Even if a branch is well served by public transport, people will be deterred from attending meetings because of the relatively late night journey home unless they can use the car – if they have one.

The analysis sheet does not indicate variations in what is for sale at meetings across the country.

APPENDIX C

Below is a copy of the document produced by South East Branch for distribution to their members, branches wishing to adopt a similar initiative can use this as a “template” – making alterations to suit the needs of their branch.



South East Branch

The Society has a target for this year of “**a new member per member**” and to achieve this the branch has decided to provide you with an incentive to recruit a new member.

Your committee is sure that you have at least one railway enthusiast friend who has attended one or more of our meetings. Now is the time to enroll him as a new member. By doing so you will help to ensure the future of the society and of this branch.

Sign up a new member this year before the end of June and you will receive a year’s free membership for 2007 provided your new member renews his subscription for 2007. If you sign up a new member for a three year subscription we will refund your 2006 subscription now. If you sign up more than one new member and they all renew then we shall make a special award to you as **recruiter of the year**

All you have to do is to ensure that you over sign the application form and hand it together with the necessary finance to one of the branch committee members so that it can be photocopied and recorded.

Membership packs that include an application form are available at the front desk.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain

Central London Branch Meetings

Although the RCTS is no longer involved in the running of these meetings, society members are still very welcome to attend. Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at **The Model Railway Club, Main Hall, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9DA** starting at 19.15 and finishing between 21.30 and 22.00. Refreshments are available from 18.30 and during the break. It is necessary to ring the lower doorbell for entry. A donation is requested at all meetings.

April 21st *The West Highland line* **John Birkbeck.** John specialises in recording not just the trains but also the setting and infrastructure of the railway. The West Highland will be a perfect subject!

May 19th *Pier Railways of Great Britain clockwise from Bognor to Brighton.* **Nick Kelly.** This will be another look at the more unusual aspects of the hobby.

June 16th *Steam America West* **Ray Schofield.** Steam in some of the western states and in Canada.

July 21st *Steam around Cambridge 1959-61.* **Geoff King.** This is a return of his 1979 show which is well worth repeating after 27 years!

August 18th *Members slides, any topic, all welcome.*

September 15th Title to be announced. Currently in hand.

October 20th AGM plus Slide Competition, rules to be announced. This will include a selection, by popular vote, of the entry to the Branch section of the Club photographic competition at the Annual Reunion.

November 17th *The Life and Times of 48773* **Jeff Ryan,** Chairman, Stanier 8F Society.

December 15th *Pictures from the Dave Mills collection* **Roger Whitehead.** The late Dave Mills took many pictures of steam; Roger shows a selection from the 36,000 slides available.

January 2007 *Just in front of the good Doctor* 7th edition **Blake Paterson.**

Outdoor fixtures

June 23rd WCML Evening *Trainwatch* at Northwick Park between Kenton and South Kenton. Meet at 18.00 at the footbridge or by prior arrangement. Later refreshment to be decided on the night.

Saturday September 30th A walk, guided by Don Kennedy, is planned to follow the route of the London and Blackwall Railway in Docklands, ending at West India Quay, for a meal and/or visit to Docklands Museum. Meet at 10.00 at Tower Gateway. Further details to be announced.