

NEWSLETTER 25



MARCH 2007

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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25.01 NEWSLETTER 24

My apologies to all of those members who received paper copies of Newsletter 24. Due to a fault on the printer certain pages had faint grey lines and small ink blotches on certain pages. As I had just come back from holiday and timescales were short, it was essential the information on the Members' Weekend was distributed so there was no time to get the printed repaired. All is now well and this newsletter should be crystal clear.

25.02 SOCIETY SECRETARY

John Day has at very short notice had to go to the United States due to a relative being rushed into hospital. He will not return home until mid April. Any e-mail's should be sent to John in the normal way but should also be copied to John Redgate, Society Chairman and myself; e-mail addresses are:- chairman@rcts.org.uk and liaison@rcts.org.uk

25.03 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2006

The minutes of the Officer's Conference held at Cardiff in October 2006 have now been prepared and published. A copy of the minutes is enclosed with this newsletter. For those of you who receive electronic copies of this newsletter can you please ensure that all the delegates from your branch receive a copy.

Those of you who receive paper copies will 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.

25.04 AGM WEEKEND, COVENTRY

The West Midlands Branch who are the hosts for the AGM Weekend at Coventry inform me that there are still a few rooms available at The Hylands Hotel and there are places available for the dinner on the Saturday evening. Full details of all the activities is available in the January *RO* or on the Society website. Please note that the visit on the Saturday to Tyseley TMD and Loco Works is full but there are one or two places available for the visits to The Midland Railway Centre at Butterley on the Saturday and to the Stratford Barn Railway on the Sunday morning.

To avoid disappointment, get you booking form in the post to Derek Morris as soon as you can.

The April *RO* will also include a separate AGM supplement that contains the meeting agenda, officers' reports, financial statement, auditor report and some superb colour photographs featuring Society activities during 2006. Those attending the AGM should ensure that they bring their copy of the supplement to the meeting together with their copy of the 2006 AGM Minutes.

25.05 THE RAILWAY OBSERVER

a. Model Railway Exhibitions and Swap Meets etc

Following recent discussions and representations from some branches it has been agreed to revise an earlier decision regarding advertising branch activities at Model Railway Exhibitions and Swap Meets etc. It will now be possible that these 'outdoor activities' will appear in the *RO*. Can all branches please advise Geoff Brockett when they will be attending exhibitions and swap meets. This information will be collated and published in the *RO* at a time as yet to be determined by the *RO* Managing Editor. In addition to this events will in future be advertised on the Society's website so please ensure that your Branch Web correspondent submits details for their inclusion. Contact details for Geoff Brockett are in the February 2007 insert.

b. Vacancies

Please note that there are *RO* vacancies for a new Scotland Editor (from end of May) and for Editorial Representatives for Anglia plus Irish Railways & Preservation. Those interested in railway news from the non-Welsh Celtic fringe should do their best to get the Scottish and Irish vacancies filled. If there is anyone in your branch that would assist with these tasks please contact Callum MacLeod, *RO* Managing Editor

25.06 WEBSITE

There is a new feature on the website entitled 'Meet Us'. This page lists events which the society is planning to attend with a sales stand such as Model Railway Exhibitions and Swap Meets. For those of you with Internet access, go to the RCTS website welcome page and on the green panel centrally placed on the screen you will see 'Meet Us'. Tab on this and you go directly to the page with all the relevant information.

25.07 PUBLICATIONS

a. Out Of Print Books

BR. Standards Part 1 and 3 are now out of print. Supplies at our Coventry stores are getting extremely low. With the success of sales especially via the Internet on e-commerce the society have outstanding orders to fulfil. The publications subcommittee is requesting that all branches return their surplus copies of BR Standards Vols.1 & 3 to:- M. S. Robertson, 5 Ebro Crescent, Binley, COVENTRY, CV3 2DR

Those branches whose members are attending the AGM at Coventry have an ideal opportunity to save on postage and return the copies direct to Mike Robertson who will be in attendance at the Hylands Hotel to collect your stock.

b. Jubilee Covers

As is the usual practice when a new book is published spare copies of the cover sheets are produced and these have been successfully used in the past as advertising posters for the new books either at branch functions, exhibitions or on sales stands. There will be supplies available at Coventry so if anyone wants to reserve some copies call me or e-mail me at my address above.

c. New Publications Stocks

Any branches requiring additional stocks of publications can send their orders to Peter Davies, Sales Manager on the normal publication order form and it will be arranged that their order will be available for collection at the hotel at the AGM weekend at Coventry. You can also send in your requirements to Peter by e-mail at :-peter@littlecote.freemove.co.uk

d. RO Binders & Year Stickers

New stocks of *RO* binders are on order and these should be available for collection at Coventry. The new stocks have slightly wider spines, which will accommodate all your *RO*'s with all those additional pages. Peter Davies has also ordered extra year stickers, which attach to the spines. Please order your binders and sticks as mentioned in 'c' above.

25.08 BRANCH AGM REPORTS

My thanks to all branches for sending me the branch AGM reports. These are all read and any issues will be raised by the MC. Please remember AGM reports can either be sent by post or e-mailed to me at the address above.

25.09 NEW SOCIETY CLOTHING

Our colleagues at the Humberside Branch are busy at their looms and are in the process of producing a new range of clothing, which will incorporate the new Society logo. The range will include 'Polo Shirts' and 'Fleeces' in navy blue. Only one colour is being produced as this keeps the costs down but they will be of high quality. The range will be available mid-summer and will be on sale at the Members' Weekend in Basingstoke. So if you have a birthday coming up and someone offers to buy you a Polo Shirt or Fleece, politely say 'No' and wait for the Society ones!

25.10 REGIONAL MEETING ACTION POINTS

The full and final report on the action points raised at the 2006 Regional Meetings plus feedback on progress will be issued to all regional chairmen for onward distribution to the branches will be circulated before the 2007 meetings take place. Your regional chairman will also confirm the date, venue and MC representative who will be attending your group meeting. A draft agenda for the 2007 meetings will also be distributed. If you have any topics that you think need to be discussed please contact your group regional chairman.

As in previous years a number of branches were notable by their absence at the Regional Meetings thus missing once again the opportunity to interact with their neighbouring branches within their group and with the MC member present. Could all branches please ensure that they have at least one branch member present at their local Regional Meeting this year.

25.11 STATIONERY

Stationery Supplies of A4 headed paper, compliment slips and membership packs are available from Bob Ballard in the usual way.

Branches should note that the latest 2007 version of the Membership Application Form is available from Bob as well as the latest Publication List, which should be used in the packs. Any outdated versions must be destroyed.

Bob will be attending the AGM in Coventry so anyone wishing to have further supplies of the above should write, phone or email Bob. Contact details are in the March RO insert under 'Other Officers'

It is also hoped to have supplies of carrier bags with the new Society logo by the AGM Weekend so again requests to Bob will result in sufficient quantities being available.

It should be noted that Bob will only be attending the AGM meeting so orders will need to be collected immediately after the formal meeting concludes.

25.12 NEW BOOKMARKS

New magnetic bookmarks with the new logos are on order and these will be available for distribution at the AGM weekend at Coventry.

25.13 SOCIETY BRANCH OFFICERS' HANDBOOK

Work is well advanced with the production of the branch officers' handbook. Each branch will have one copy and this will be issued to and held with the Branch Secretary. Amendments to the handbook will be issued when necessary and distributed with future newsletters. Distribution of the handbook will take place at the AGM weekend at Coventry in April.

25.14 SURVEY OF OTHER RAILWAY SOCIETIES

As you have seen in the RO a considerable amount of work is going on to start new branches at various locations. The development sub-committee is collating information on potential new locations and details of which other societies may be functioning in towns where we feel the Society could set up a new branch. All branches are requested to enquire with their members and send details of other societies in your town or area using the attached form (**Appendix A**) which has been devised for you to collate the information required. Could you please send the information to Development Sub-Committee Secretary, Ken Wilson at 18, Pine Avenue, Poole, BH12 4AG or by e-mail to kenwilson@beeb.net by 23rd June 2007

25.15 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2007	AGM	20 th – 22 nd April	West Midlands	Coventry	Hylands
	MW	19 th – 21 st October	Surrey	Basingstoke	Holiday Inn
2008	AGM	25 th – 27 th April	Northampton	Northampton	Park Inn
	MW	tba	Humberside	tba	
2009	AGM	tba	East Midlands	tba	
	MW	?			
2010	AGM	?			
	MW	?			
2011	AGM	?			
	MW	?			

Work is now going ahead with planning the AGM & Members Weekends up to early 2009. Details will be available in the RO and on the website nearer the event. As you can see from the table above, no branches have as yet volunteered to host any events after the spring of 2009. If any branch or regional group is able to host an event please contact John Day for the AGM weekend and Gordon Davies for the Members Weekend.

25.16 AND FINALLY

For those officers who want to receive electronic copies of future editions of the newsletter, you can send me your e-mail address and you will be included on my distribution lists and get the newsletter the moment it is published. Your committee members could also receive this newsletter in electronic format, as an e-mail attachment, if they join the RCTS Officers e-mail group at Yahoo Groups. This will make it easier for you to produce copies for your committee members or save you having to do that if they join this free group which, is exclusively for RCTS Officers. To join just send an e-mail to **RCTSOfficers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com** and include in the text of the message your name and your "office" within the society. For any queries regarding the RCTS Officers E-mail group at Yahoo Groups contact Society Librarian Terry Silcock.

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside the society.

W. Gordon Davies

9th March 2007