

NEWSLETTER 29



MARCH 2008

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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29.01 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2007

The minutes of the Officers' Conference held at Basingstoke in October 2007 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 please note that the minutes are on another attachment to the e-mail.

Those of you who receive paper copies may also find additional copies enclosed; these 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 them to the appropriate member. Many thanks.

29.02 SOCIETY RECRUITMENT LEAFLETS

A revised edition of the Society recruitment leaflet has been printed. These incorporate the names of the new branches formed since the leaflet was launched in 2005. With the days drawing out, the weather improving (hopefully) and the holiday season about to start, now is the ideal time to get the recruitment leaflets to preserved railways, museums, libraries, tourist information centres and any other suitable location. There are 30 branches in the Society and every branch should make every endeavour to distribute them far and wide. It may be impossible to travel to some locations but one branch has written to all the preserved railways within its area (11!) sending fifty leaflets for display plus a request for fifty of that railway's leaflets to be sent to the branch for display at indoor meetings. The response from those railways has been excellent. An example of that letter is appended (**APPENDIX A**) so maybe your branch could try something similar. If it works for your branch please let me know. Although we have new leaflets please use up the ones before you supply the new issue.

With the increase in postal charges the distribution in bulk of the leaflets to each branch is getting very expensive. An ideal opportunity to distribute these leaflets would be at the AGM weekend at Northampton as well as the next round of Regional Meetings. If there is anyone within your regional group who could distribute the leaflets at the next round of Regional Meetings then Bob would be very grateful if you would contact him. Will every branch please contact Bob with their requirements. 'Millions' of these revised leaflets are with Bob Ballard so please contact Bob for your supplies. (*Contact details in the Branch Officer's Handbook*)

29.03 MEMBERSHIP PACK FOLDERS

Bob Ballard has 30+ boxes of the Membership Pack Folders in his garage and he would at some time like to get the car back into its rightful place, the garage!!!

With a new season of exhibitions and trade stands about to start could every branch take at least one box of the membership pack folder for use locally. Bob can at any time throughout the year supply you with updated inserts, as these are re-printed from time to time. An ideal opportunity to distribute these packs would be at the AGM weekend at Northampton as well as the next round of Regional Meetings. If there is anyone within the regional group who could store a few boxes for regional use then Bob would be very grateful. Will every branch please contact Bob with their requirements for the membership packs. (*Contact details in the Branch Officer's Handbook*)

A question was raised at the 2007 round of Regional Meetings on how effective the leaflets and membership packs are. Vron Cooke, Asst Treasurer New Members has compiled the latest recruitment statistics and these are appended (**APPENDIX B**) to this newsletter. An explanation of the data is as follows:-

Columns **A** to **D** log the members recruited and membership pack sent out in 2007 and 2008. Columns **E**, **F** and **G** logs the routes by which the new members have come from for the last twelve months; so you can see the proportion of those recruited by way of:-

E - paper forms, the old fashioned way. (April-Dec is for 2007)

F - the printed form from the website. (April-Dec is for 2007)

G - online, e-recruitment.

Columns **H** -- all the lines and columns are totalled so 99 is the grand total of the rows and the columns added together.

J – Summary of all packs distributed 2005 to 2007

As you can see we recruited 139 new members in 2007 so the distribution of the leaflets and the membership packs is vital for the recruitment drive to gain new members. Please do your utmost and distribute as much of the recruiting material as possible.

29.04 BRANCH OFFICER' HANDBOOK

Amendments and updates have been made to certain pages of the Branch Officers' Handbook and these pages are included as '**Issue 3 - March 2008**'.

Enclosed are copies of those pages for Branch Secretaries that receive paper copies of the Newsletter. Electronic copies will be sent out to those Secretaries who have requested updates via e-mail, which will follow separately.

It is imperative that the previous pages, now amended and updated are **REMOVED** and **DESTROYED** so that the information in the Handbook is kept up to date.

29.05 AGM WEEKEND, NORTHAMPTON

The Northampton Branch who are the hosts for the AGM Weekend based at Northampton inform me that there are still rooms available at The Park Inn and there are places available on the visits and for the dinner on the Saturday evening. Full details of all the activities is available in the February RO or on the Society Website. To avoid disappointment, get you booking form in the post to: Derek Lovell, 20 Smith Close, Piddington, Northampton, NN7 2DW 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's report and some superb colour photographs featuring Society activities during 2007. Those attending the AGM should ensure that they bring their copy of the supplement to the meeting together with their copy of the 2007 AGM Minutes. Spare copies will not be available.

29.06 DIGITAL PROJECTORS

At the last Development sub-committee it was suggested that some sort of policy guidance was needed regarding Digital Projectors, to avoid branches investing in expensive equipment that is going to rapidly become obsolete and therefore a waste of funds, however it was stated that technology was advancing at such a rate that it would be impossible to define a recommended specification at this time or offer any advice. It was added that future developments could see the more universal use of a projector, which accepted and ran CDs without the need to have a laptop available.

The development sub-committee is very interested to learn from branches of their experiences with this type of equipment. If any branch owns, hires or uses the equipment of a branch member to give digital presentations at branch meeting could they please submit details of the make and model, along with a summary of their experience of using it. You may be a member of another society or organisation where digital projectors are used so all information is of value. Please send the relevant information to the Development Sub-Committee Secretary, Ken Wilson at 18, Pine Avenue, Poole, BH12 4AG or by e-mail to kenwilson@beeb.net by 21st June 2008

28.07 RAILWAY OBSERVER CD ROM's

Whilst sales of the CD-ROMs of the RO's are going very well Society Librarian, Terry Silcock states that there is an opportunity to encourage branches to assist with their sale and receive a small financial reward for them in return. Terry has developed a sales flyer, which can be printed or photocopied for display at exhibitions, sales events and branch meetings. The Society Treasurer has agreed that: if the branch includes a branch code on the form then for EACH CD ordered on these forms Terry will donate £1 from library funds to that branch.

On the last page this Newsletter is a copy of the order form for the Railway Observers on CD-ROM. Would you please produce further copies of this for display at branch meetings and sales events. If you insert your branch code, then when Terry Silcock receives any sales orders, he will donate £1 for EACH CD ordered to YOUR branch funds. This will be either as a reduction in the money owed to the Library funds for the sales of second-hand books or at the end of the year as a straight donation. Because of the implications of VAT and the quantities which are being ordered it is not practical to supply stocks of the CDs directly to branches to sell on a commission basis. Your help will be appreciated.

The order form appears as the last page on the printed version of this newsletter or as a separate attachment on the e-mail version.

28.08 SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The BR Standards Part 4 book dealing with the 9F freight locomotives will not be available at the AGM weekend as suggested at the Members' Weekend at Basingstoke. It is hoped that this book will now be published later in the year.

28.09 CHICHESTER BRANCH

As from April the newly formed Chichester branch will have appointed their main branch officials
Contact details are

Secretary -	Mrs. Rosie Jacobs, North Common Farm, Landford, Salisbury SP5 2EL	Tel. 01794 390241	
Chairman -	Bruce R. Oliver, Yorke House, 59, Chelsea Road, Southsea PO5 1NH	Tel. 02392 811360	br@oliver59.plus.com
Treasurer -	Geoffrey T. Adams, 42, Corbishley Road, Bognor Regis PO22 9HS	Tel. 01243 862366	geoff.adams@tesco.net

29.10 '1968 AND ALL THAT'

From the 24 May until the 1 June 2008 The National Railway Museum at York is holding a 9-day extravaganza celebrating 40 years since the end of steam haulage on Britain's mainline railways. Enjoy theatre performances, live action and steam rides in the South Yard.

70013 Oliver Cromwell, will be the star of the show, fresh from its restoration plus there will be other locomotives that played their role in the farewell to steam, including 92220 Evening Star.

Tickets bought on the day will cost £11 for adults and £7 for concessions. Discounts are available for advance bookings via TicketWeb. Please telephone 0844 4771 000 or visit:- www.ticketweb.co.uk

The Society will have a sales stand at the event for the nine days. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist on the stand should contact David Tyreman, 27 Baroness Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7AT, Tel 0191 274 5696. The stand will be manned from 10.00 to 17.30 and David would like advanced notice of who is available so that the stand is not overwhelmed with willing hands on the same day.

28.11 OUTDOOR VISITS & FIXTURES

Many branches organise visits to various establishments throughout the year but the one thing that is missing from the RO and the website are group photographs of the participants on outdoor fixtures. Can all outdoor fixtures secretaries or anyone else for that matter please take at least one photograph of the group so that it can be published somewhere for publicity purposes. It does not need to be by a locomotive but a shot near a signal box, on the platform or in the café having a well-earned cup of tea. Details on how to send in photographs was covered extensively in Newsletter - 26 August 2007, however there has been a slight change in the information in so much that you now send your pictures to David Kelso, Publicity Officer. (*Contact details in the Branch Officer's Handbook*)

28.12 A NICE OF CUP OF TEA AND A SANDWICH !!

On various of my branch's outdoor fixtures I have noticed some of my colleagues presenting a discount card at station food outlets such as 'Upper Crust', 'Pumpkin', 'Caffe Ritazza', 'Delice de France' to name a few and receiving 20% discount on purchases. I am now also an owner of one of these cards and have saved on my purchases. The card which is free, is called a **BiTE** card and this can be obtained by applying on line at:- www.bitecard.co.uk It takes about four to six weeks for the card to arrive. (The product or the supplier are not endorsed by the Management Committee and the above is supplied for information only)

28.13 BRANCH AGM REPORTS

My thanks to all of you that have sent in your annual Branch AGM reports. Please keep on sending them to me at the address above either in paper or electronic form. A future newsletter will list those reports that are outstanding

28.14 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2008	AGM	25 th – 27 th April	Northampton	Northampton	Park Inn
	MW	24 th to 26 th October	Humberside	Scarborough	Ambassador Hotel
2009	AGM	24 th to 26 th April	East Midlands	Derby	Midland Hotel
	MW	?			
2010	AGM	?			
	MW	?			

Work is now going ahead with planning the AGM weekend in 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 or regional group have as yet volunteered to host any events after the spring of 2009. No volunteers have come forward to organise the Members' Weekend in 2009 so Scarborough 2008 may be the last event to be held. 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.

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
Branch Liaison Secretary

26th March 2008

APPENDIX A



123 Any Street
Anytown
AB1 2CD

5th March 2008

PUBLICITY LEAFLETS

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you on behalf of the XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Branch of The Railway Correspondence & Travel Society.

We hold one/two Monthly Meetings at Anytown and Thattown, which generally attract attendances of between 30 to 40 people, both Members and Non -Members.

I would like to display your 2008 Publicity Leaflets/Timetables at our Monthly Meetings, which will encourage our attendees to visit your Railway/Museum.

Would you please be so kind as to forward me 50 of your leaflets for display at our Meetings.

Perhaps you would be good enough to display 50 of our Leaflets since as reciprocal arrangement which can only be to our mutual benefit. In anticipation of your agreement I enclose 50 leaflets and I thank you for your assistance.

If you wish to discuss this matter further or you would like additional supplies of leaflets please telephone me on 01234 567890 or alternatively you may wish to e-mail me at:
bestsecretaryintheworld@abc.co

Yours Sincerely
Joe Bloggs
Branch Secretary

RECRUITMENT STATISTICS

APPENDIX B

	A	B	C	D
	MEMBERSHIP PACKS	NEW MEMBERS	MEMBERSHIP PACKS	NEW MEMBERS
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Jan	1	17	4	17
Feb	5	13	5	*10
Mar	6	10	1	6
Apr	1	6		
May	9	11		
Jun	5	10		
Jul	3	11		
Aug	2	6		
Sep	6	5		
Oct	3	16		
Nov	3	18		
Dec	1	16		
Total	45	139	10	33

E	F	G
PAPER FORM	ONLINE FORM	RECRUITED ONLINE
9	1	7
6	3	3
6		
3	0	3
8	2	1
7	0	3
5	0	6
1	4	1
4	0	1
7	2	7
2	3	4
5	3	8
63	18	44

H AGE RANGES						
Under 25	25-35	36-45	46-65	65+	?	TOTALS
2	2		5	3		12
			6	2		8
			1	4		5
		1	2	4		7
		2	2	1		5
			5	3		8
		1	3	2		6
	1		2	2		5
			2	2	1	5
		2	5	6		13
1		1	6	1		9
		3	10	3		16
3	3	10	49	33	1	99

* ONE LIFE MEMBER

	J MEMBERSHIP PACKS	NEW MEMBERS
2004		125
2005	41	114
2006	81	101
2007	45	139