



OCTOBER 2009

Website: rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

W. Gordon Davies, 13 Blackthorn Close, Broughton, Chester, CH4 0PY

Telephone: 01244 520710 ----- e-mail: liaison@rcts.org.uk

30.01 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE 2009

The agenda for the Officers' Conference is included as **APPENDIX A** to this newsletter. Can all secretaries please ensure that all delegates from their branch committee who are attending the conference receive a copy. Please remember to bring along copies of last year's Officers' Conference minutes and the 2009 Regional Meetings Action Points document.

If anyone has an item for 'Any Other Business' could you please send details in writing to the Society Chairman, John Redgate, at, High Lees, 7 Frieth Road, Marlow SL7 2QT. Tel./fax 01628 476265, e-mail: chairman@rcts.org.uk or myself (details above) no later than **NOON on Tuesday the 20th October.**

The Branch/Officers' attendance record (**APPENDIX B**) [to Secretaries and Society Officers] should be completed and passed to myself before the conference. Could you please indicate on the return any member who is attending conference for the very first time?

You can also send your information by post, to my e-mail address or leave a message on my telephone. This includes any apologies. Contact details above.

Please note that apologies must be tendered prior to the Officers' Conference by **NOON on Thursday the 22nd October.** e-mails and my home telephone WILL NOT be accessed after that time. You may leave messages with the hotel reception on 02476 402151 in the event of a late change of plan.

Again the MC states that it will meet the cost of one night's accommodation and reasonable travel costs for ONE delegate only from each branch attending the annual conference. Claims are to be submitted to Reg Wood, Society Treasurer, in the normal way.

33.02 MEMBERS' WEEKEND, COVENTRY

Due to track damage at Hampton Loade on the Severn Valley Railway our colleagues at the West Midlands Branch have had to amend the arrangements for the visit to the SVR. The passing loop at Hampton Loade is out of use and most probably it will not have been repaired in time for our visit. However the trip to the SVR is still going ahead and those members who have booked on this visit will be advised of the change to the SVR itinerary on their arrival at the Coventry Hill Hotel.

Due to the sporadic disruption to postal deliveries and the scheduled national strike of postal employees, the West Midlands Branch have decided not to post out the weekend confirmation letters and associated literature but will be contacting all who have booked for the weekend's events either by e-mail or telephone regarding the weekend bookings. All literature will be available for weekend participants on their arrival at the hotel.

33.03 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sadly no branch or regional group has volunteered to host the 2010 AGM weekend, therefore the MC has organised a one day event at the Hallmark Hotel, Derby on Saturday the 24th of April. The MC is arranging for a guest speaker to address the meeting. Full details of the day's event will appear in a future edition of the RO.

33.04 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

The MC has decided that the UK annual subscription will remain at £22 for 2010 despite recent and planned increases in postal charges. Any UK member wishing to renew for three years on an extended subscription will be able to do so for £61. Overseas members will be able to renew at a subscription rate of £33 within Europe and £38 for the rest of the world these increased arise due to increased postal rates. Three year renewal for overseas members is available at £92 and £105 respectively.

Members needing to renew their membership this year will receive an individual renewal letter. Those members who are already on the three-year membership package and life members will receive a letter later in the year asking them to check their details and advise of any changes.

Will Branch Chairman remind members at a suitable point at a branch meeting that members need to read carefully the instructions in their renewal letter, regarding payment and completion of the renewal form.

Please also remind members that in order to assist with the Society's administration, can members please try and renew before 31st December 2009 and that renewals can be made efficiently at branch meetings before that date. Each year we send out a large number of reminder letters which increases our costs and our administration work and will delay receipt of members copies of the RO. Should any member decide not to renew, it would be appreciated if they could advise Steve Ollive, 85 Bissley Drive, Maidenhead, SL6 3UY, as soon as possible, stating any reason for their decision. These letters will be passed to the Society Chairman John Redgate for review and provide useful feedback to the MC.

Full details on membership renewal will appear in the November RO.

33.05 MEMBERS BENEFITS

The Development Committee has negotiated with the Ian Allan Publishing Group a 10% discount on any publication published by Ian Allan including Oxford Publishing titles. A 10% discount is also applicable to the Ian Allan range of DVDs on production of the membership card at any of the Ian Allan bookshops located in Birmingham, Cardiff, London and Manchester and at Ian Allan Plus (previously Midland Counties Publications) at Hinckley. This and further announcements on benefits for members will appear in future editions of the RO and Branch Newsletters.

33.06 EXHIBITIONS

Bob Ballard has compiled the annual return for 2008 of the income generated for the society from branches attending exhibitions. Exhibitions generate a good source of income and are an invaluable platform to advertise Society membership and publications. The information (**APPENDIX C**) is published for your information.

Bob would like to remind Branches of the need to send him their exhibition returns once the figures for this current Society Financial Year are known. For those not connected electronically Bob will be sending out the usual proformas.

33.07 STATIONERY

If any branch requires any additional stock of stationery please inform Bob Ballard and he will bring your requirements to the Members' Weekend at Coventry. Bob's contact details are in the Branch Officers' Handbook page 9.01.

33.08 GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

The last two words in the Society's title are 'Travel Society'. Many branches members travel all over the place on outdoor fixtures to many locations such as preservation sites, railway installations or maybe the end of the platform to carry out some observations. There are many other occasions when members are together at indoor events such the regular indoor meetings, branch dinners or just a social gathering in the local hostelry. The RO editorial team are crying out for photographs which contain 'Society Members' so the next time you get a group of branch members together get that camera out, take a picture and send it to the RO photographic editor, David Kelso.

Details on how to send all types of photographs to David can be found on page 349 in the July 2009 edition of the RO.

33.09 LAMINATED POSTERS

Our Publicity Officer, David Kelso has produced a set of laminated posters measuring 9½ X 8½ featuring the modern railway scene. The top banner of the poster has RCTS boldly displayed on a maroon background whilst the bottom banner has the Society's full title on a blue banner. Examples of two of the photographs used can be found on rear cover of the December 2008 RO. These posters are ideal for displaying at indoor events and exhibitions. A set of 3 cost £10 and are available from David. His contact details are in the Branch Officer's Handbook page 4.01. David will have a set of the posters at the Officers' Conference for you to view.

33.10 THE RAILWAY OBSERVER

From January 2010 the covers of the RO will have different coloured banners each year. There will be four colours in the set and these will change each January. Having seen the proofs I am sure you will be very pleased with the change.

33.11 BRANCH HISTORIES

You will notice every month in the RO there is a profile of the members who tirelessly work to keep the Society's functions ticking over month by month, year by year. The series entitled Management Profiles will eventually come to an end. The RO editorial team have a new topic to replace the profiles and are now looking to publish a series in the future called Branch Histories. Now is the time to get the quill, pen, typewriter or the computer into action and for someone in your branch to write up a history of your own branch for future publication. Details on how to submit your article will appear in a future newsletter and the RO.

33.12 PHOTOGRAPHY AT RAILWAY STATIONS & PUBLIC PLACES

You sometimes hear and read of railway enthusiasts being challenged about taking photographs at railway stations and at public places. Our own website has a link to National Rail's website and here you will find The Train Operating Companies and Network Rail's comprehensive guidelines for enthusiasts who want to take photographs at railway stations.

The Metropolitan Police have amended its own guidelines to photography at public places. Their guidelines are available at **www.met.police.uk/about/photography.htm**

The British Transport Police have contacted the Society regarding a forum where interested parties can discuss various issues but in the meantime they have given the Society permission to have their telephone number 0800 40 50 40 printed on future membership cards. It would be a good idea to have this number programmed into your mobile phone which would then be readily available if you were to see something suspicious or unusual. For emergencies dial 999 as normal.

33.13 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2009	MW	24 th – 26 th October	West Midlands	Coventry	Coventry Hill Hotel
2010	AGM	24 th April One Day Event	Management Committee	Derby	Hallmark Hotel
	MW	22 nd – 24 th October	Bristol	Swindon	Marriot Hotel
2011	AGM	tba	North East	tba	
	MW		????		
2012	AGM	tba	West of England	tba	
	MW		????		
2013	AGM		????		
	MW		????		

Further details will be published in the RO, Newsletters and on the website nearer the event.
The MC is looking for branches or regional groups to volunteer to host future events. If any branch or group is able to host an event please contact Alan Cooke for the AGM weekend and myself 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

9th October 2009

APPENDIX A



2009 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

Sunday 25th October 2009 at 9.00 for a 9.15 start until 12.45 (Including Coffee)

The Coventry Hill Hotel, Rye Hill, Allesley Village, Coventry, CV5 9PH

Telephone No: 02476 402151

A G E N D A

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|-----|--|---|
| 1. | Opening of Conference by Society Chairman | John Redgate |
| 2. | Apologies for Absence | Gordon Davies |
| 3. | President's Address to Conference | Hugh Gould |
| 4. | Confirmation of Year 2008 Minutes
(Previously Circulated with Newsletter 32 – April 2009) | John Redgate |
| 5. | Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda | John Redgate |
| 6. | Discussion of Action Points from Regional Meetings
(a) Future of the Weekend Events | Gordon Davies
John Redgate |
| 7. | Publicity | David Kelso |
| 8. | Finance Update | Reg Wood |
| 9. | Website Development | David Jackman |
| 10. | Development sub-committee
(a) The Library | Eric Palmer
David Pick |
| 11. | Publications | Gordon Davies |
| 12. | The Railway Observer | John Redgate |
| 13. | Date & venue for 2010 Officers' Conference | Gordon Davies |
| 14. | Any other competent business (Previously Notified) | John Redgate |

APPENDIX B



OFFICERS' CONFERENCE COVENTRY 2009

Branch/Officer Attendance at Officers' Conference

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BRANCH.....

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APPENDIX C



2007 / 2008 EXHIBITION RETURN BASED ON BRANCH RETURNS

BRANCH	Number of Exhibitions Attended		Total cost of stand £	Days	Total Sales £		Society Publications Sold £	
	2008	2007			2008	2007	2008	2007
Bristol *	1	2	11	1	297	684	NIL	23
Cambridge *	NIL	NIL						
Cheltenham *	1	1	25	1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Chichester	NIL							
Croydon & S. London *	7	7	225	13	1744	1711	323	288
East Midlands *	2	2	42	4	372	429	272	345
Furness, L&L *	NIL	1			-	69	-	19
Hitchin ++ *	3	2	74	3	597	668	349	103
Humberside *	7	7	561	15	3364	4133	314	404
Ipswich *	8	8	139	8	808	914	67	140
Lancs & N. West *	Nil	Nil						
Merseyside, C & N.W. *	1	2	28	1	386	994	15	75
Milton Keynes *	1	2	30	1	345	350	35	40
Northampton *	1	1	Nil	1	41	49	11	13
North East *	15	6	487	27	4208	2440	662	304
Peterborough *	NIL	NIL						
Scottish *	1	1	259	3	1333	1720	94	145
Sheffield *	NIL	NIL						
South East *	4	5	170	7	1466	2111	40	82
South Essex *	NIL	NIL						
South Wales *	Nil	-						
Solent *	1	1	Nil	1	111	126	26	18
Surrey *	4	2	155	6	1467	732	116	226
Sussex *	Nil	Nil						
Thames Valley *	1	1	27	1	186	106	30	45
Watford ++	2	2	59	2	597	1271	256	385
West of England *	2	2	86	4	937	1218	15	158
West Midlands *	2	2	163	4	2089	2021	1345	1139
Windsor & Maidenhead*	1	-	36	1	269	-	NIL	-
West Riding *	NIL	NIL						
ALEXANDRA PALACE **	1	1	314	2	1902	1194	332	103
PETERBOROUGH ++	1	-	216	2	494	-	82	-
YORK +	1	-	325	9	1854	-	351	-
TOTALS	68	58	Average cost per day £29		24867	22940	4735	4055

Key :- No Returns Received

** attended by Watford/Hitchin + attended by EMNESH Group

++ attended by Hitchin/Peterborough

W. R. Ballard Exhibitions Officer
July 2009