

APRIL 2012

rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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

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Will all Branch Chairmen please ensure that their Branch Treasurer is informed of the information contained in paragraph 42.04 on page 2.

42.01 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society AGM is being held at the Britannia Hotel, Fairfax Street, Coventry at 13.30 on Saturday the 28th of April. The programme for the day was published on page 121 of the March edition of the RO. Anyone wanting to stay overnight can ring the hotel direct on 0871 2220095 or 02476 520172. A single room with breakfast will cost £35 and a double/twin with breakfast will cost £45. To take advantage of these discounted rates quote **RAC02804**.

There is a frequent bus service from Coventry railway station to Pool Meadow bus station which is right opposite the Britannia Hotel. Services 8, 8A, 9 & 9A depart from outside the station however please check with the driver that the bus is going to the bus station and not in the opposite direction.

Anyone travelling by car and wishing to use the NCP car park adjacent to the hotel should follow the directions on **APPENDIX A** of this Newsletter.

42.02 2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2013 AGM will be held on Saturday the 13th of April at a venue to be announced in a later Newsletter, the RO and on the website.

42.03 SOCIETY WEBSITE – MEMBERS SECTION

David Jackman our webmaster is pleased to announce that a 'Members Section' as well as 'Officers Pages' are now available on our website. This is currently on trial and is currently only available to Society Officers to trial.

To see them click on **<http://www.rcts.org.uk/about/members>** - you will be prompted to either login or register. When you have logged into the site you will see "Members' Pages" appear in the left hand navigation list and (if the system recognises you as a society officer) you will also get access to "Society Officers" pages as well.

Currently the "Society Officers" section contains the following

1. Branch Treasurers accounting forms for the Society Officers section.
2. Officers Conference Minutes. 2009 - 2011
3. Newsletters for 2011 & 2012 (Including this one)

The "Members" section contains:-

1. Copies of the 2012 Railway Observer PDFs
2. Society AGM Minutes 2008 - 2011

The sections will have additional information and material including the Branch Officers' Handbook added in due course.

42.04 BRANCH FINANCIAL MATTERS

It is that time of year again for the six-monthly branch returns to be completed. Financial and publications returns for the period from November 2011 to April 2012 should be sent to the Assistant Treasurers (Branch Finances), Bob Ellison by 15th May please. As always, Bob is appreciative of the help of branch treasurers and publications officers in compiling the Society half year figures.

For the April 2012 returns, new publications returns have been issued. Since last October, Noel Machell (Assistant Treasurer, Publications) has reviewed the analysis procedures for the sales and stock holding of Society publications in order to make the process more efficient and easier to handle. As a result, revised publications returns have been issued, so please use only the new forms for the April returns. Copies of the old returns should be deleted or recycled. The new forms have been sent to all branch treasurers, but it would be helpful if branch chairman ensure that this information has been received by their publications officers and treasurers.

Another recent development is that the Treasurers' Guidance Notes and the branch financial and publications forms are now available for downloading directly from the Society website. These documents can be accessed at **www.rcts.org.uk/about/officers**.

Any difficulty in accessing this website or with initial registration, please contact the webmaster, David Jackman, **webmaster@rcts.org.uk**

Bob can be contacted at **branchfinance@rcts.org.uk** or by telephone on 01483 715447 if you have any queries about the above or if there are any difficulties in meeting the 15th May deadline.

42.05 OFFICERS CONFERENCE & REGIONAL MEETINGS EXPENDITURE

In Newsletter 41 it was reported that the MC has decided that from the 1st November 2011 all branches that have a balance of over £1500 will no longer receive support for accommodation and travel cost from central funds to attend Regional Meetings and the Officers' Conference. Expenses for these events will be paid from branch funds. It should be further clarified that the £1500 refers to uncommitted funds.

42.06 CARDNET

The Society is in the process of withdrawing from using this facility to receive payment for purchases using credit cards whether it is at exhibitions or sales stands. If any branch still has a CARNET credit card processing machine then this is not to be used at any event in the future.

As there are no cheque guarantee cards any more it is essential that all who receive payments by cheque that the purchasers name and address is written on the back of the cheque in the event of any difficulties arising and where possible please check proof of address at the time of the transaction.

42.07 RO 1000th EDITION – PHOTOGRAPHS APPEAL

Does anyone have a good print, B+W or colour photograph, of the prototype **LNER B1 No. 1000** preferably in its original apple green livery? Also we are looking for a photograph of the **LNER J77 No. 1000**. If you do have a picture and you would like to have it published in the special 1000th edition of the RO, can you please send it urgently to David Kelso, RO Imaging Editor. Full address details are in the RO. Information on how to send David photographs electronically is on the website at: **http://www.rcts.org.uk/about/news/page.htm?id=rcts/ro_image_guide**.

42.08 SOCIETY INSURANCE (PUBLIC LIABILITY)

If any Branch is required to give details of the Society's public liability insurance cover, for example by the organisers of an exhibition where there will be a branch sales stand, a copy of the current insurance certificate can be obtained from Alan Cooke, Society Secretary. Alan's contact details are in the Branch Officers' Handbook page 4.01.

42.09 DIGITAL PROJECTORS

The Samsung digital projector that was recommended for branch purchase is no longer produced. The Benq MX660P appears to be very close to the Samsung. The main difference is that it uses DCP technology where as the Samsung uses the more advanced LCD technology but that is only reflected in picture colour quality on very large screens and should not cause any problems for our type of use but this difference is reflected in the price. As with the Samsung the MX660P offers PC-less operation.

Also it is slightly less powerful at 3000 lumens against the Samsung 3350 lumens but again you are not going to see this in our type of use. It only has a mono speaker against the Samsung two speakers which might be a problem with playing videos through it. All the other parts of the spec and features are equal to the Samsung. On the plus side there appears to be a carrying case within the price which was not the case with the Samsung. Benq is a good name as it is part of Siemens.

The Benq MX660P can be viewed at:-

<http://www.projectorshop24.co.uk/benq-projector/benq-mx660p> and is offered at £442.00. It is also on offer from other stockists at approximately the same price. As yet we have had no reports of a branch purchasing this machine so any branch contemplating purchase would be advised to seek a demonstration before purchase.

42.10 RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

In Newsletter 41 which was published in December last year, it was announced that in a drive to increase membership a special offer of **£18** would apply to anyone wishing to join the Society at branch events. The period of this special recruitment campaign would run from the 1st Jan 2012 and will continue until the 30th of June 2012. The normal six months offer from July to December at £12.00 will then apply. I am pleased to report that **22** new members have been recruited with this initiative up to the 31st of March. Branches have who have so far recruited new members plus their totals are:-

Ipswich	5
Peterborough	4
Surrey	4
Scottish	2
Croydon & South London	1
Furness, Lakes & Lune	1
Thames Valley	1
North East	1
Merseyside, C&N.W	1
Windsor & Maidenhead	1
Milton Keynes	1

Congratulations to all the branches concerned for getting 'new people' into the Society. Let's see if we can get some more as the offer is still open until 30th June 2012.

42.11 2011 PUBLICATIONS LIST

A new Publications List was published with the February RO. Spare copies of this list for use at sales and exhibition stands are available from Bob Ballard. New update application forms to join the Society are also available from Bob. His contact details appear in the Branch Officers Handbook.

42.12 WEST RIDING BRANCH CHAIRMAN

After 20 years service as branch Chairman, John Holroyd has stepped down from the role. His successor is:-

C. W. Jagger (Bill)
Linfit
Henley Mount
Rawdon
Leeds
LS19 6PX

e-mail: **westridingchair@rcts.org.uk**

Our thanks to John for all he has done for the West Riding Branch whilst holding this position.

42.13 WATFORD BRANCH SECRETARY

After 16 years service as branch Secretary, David Fairhurst has also stepped down from his role. His successor is:-

Bernie Holland
1 Lynn Close
Wealdstone
Harrow
HA3 5LP
Tel: 0208 863 3223

e-mail: bernieholland@ntlworld.com

Our thanks to David for all he has done for the Watford Branch whilst holding this position.

42.14 2012 MEMBERS WEEKENDS

The Members Weekend will be held in Scotland on Friday the 12th October to Sunday the 14th. The venue will be The King Malcolm in Dunfermline. Provisional room rates are £48.00 for a single room with breakfast and £65.00 for a Double / Twin with breakfast.

Page 177 of the April RO gave an outline of the weekend's events however all events are subject to confirmation and full details will appear in future editions of the RO, the Newsletter and on the website.

This is the first national event in Scotland for many years so hopefully you will support this event and enjoy the attractions that are being planned.

Numerous train operators offer extensive discounts on train tickets if booked well in advance and conference delegates should take advantage of these discounted fares by booking their tickets from 12th July many weeks before they travel to Scotland.

42.15 CHANGE OF BRANCH OFFICERS

Whenever there is a change of Branch chairman and / or Secretary can branches ensure that those changes are forwarded to Alan Cooke, Society Secretary and Gordon Davies, Branch Liaison Secretary giving home addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses. Changes to Branch Treasurers should be forwarded to Bob Ellison, Assistant Treasurers (Branch Finances). Contact details for Alan, Bob and I are in the centre insert of the March RO and in the Branch Officers' Handbook.

42.16 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2012	AGM	Saturday 28 th April	One Day Event Organised by the MC	Coventry	Britannia Hotel Coventry
	MW	Friday 12 th October to Sunday 14 th October	John Day & his Team liaising with the Scottish Branch.	Dunfermline	King Malcolm Hotel
2013	AGM	Saturday 13 th April	One Day Event Organised by the MC	tba	tba
	MW	tba	John Day & his Team	tba	

Further details will be published in the RO, Newsletters and on the website nearer the event.

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

15th April 2012

APPENDIX A Car Parking at the Britannia Hotel, Coventry

Britannia hotel in Coventry

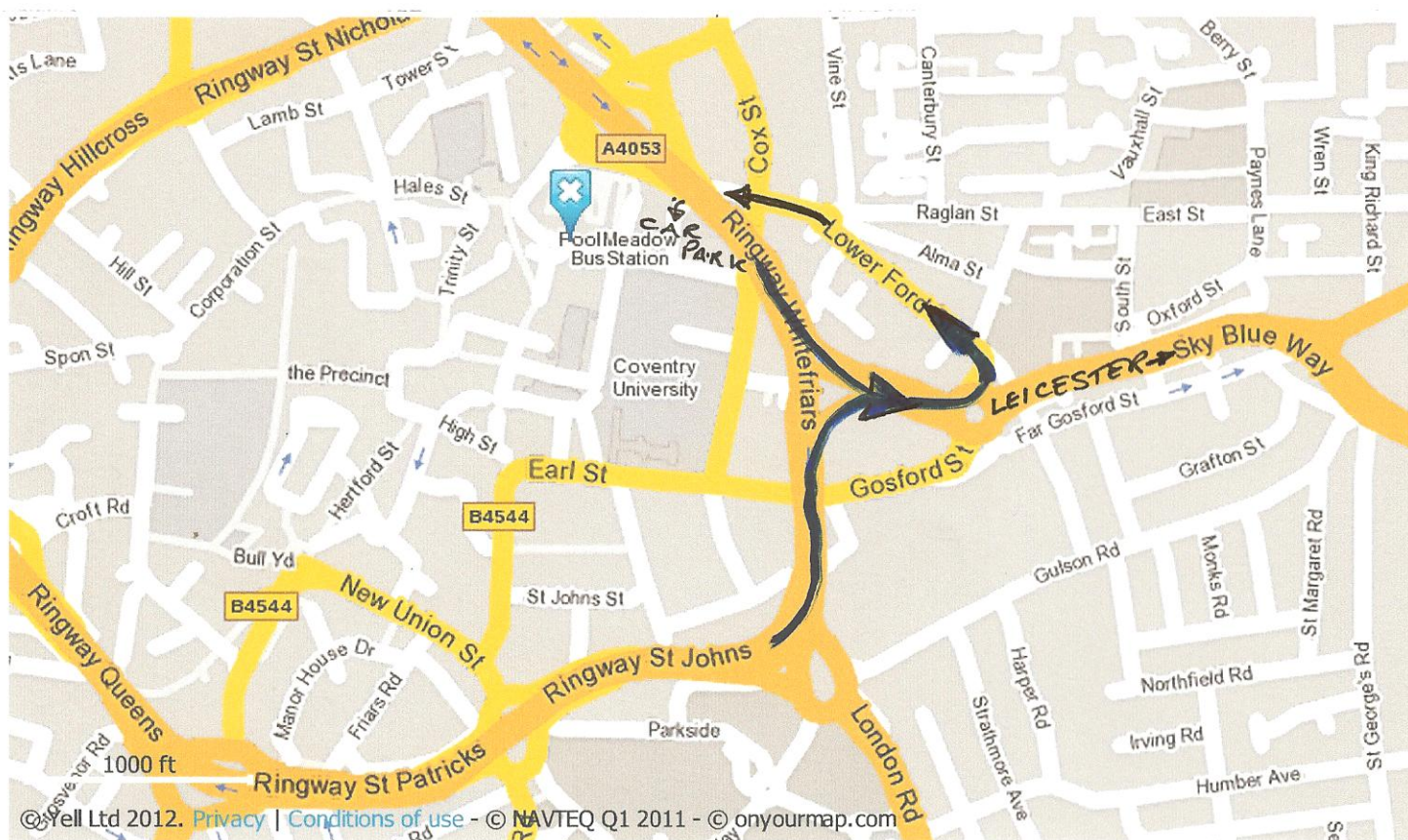


Britannia Hotel Coventry

Fairfax St, **Coventry**, West Midlands CV1 5RP

Tel: 0871 2220095

<http://www.britanniahotels.com>



Notes

From either direction on the Ring Road, take the LEICESTER Signs. Keep in the far LH lane, then turn sharp left into Lower Ford Street. Follow this to its end. The entrance to the car park is UNDER the Ring Road flyover and the hotel is across the road, about 150m from the car park.