

RCTS**Railway Correspondence and Travel Society****Web Site: www.rcts.org.uk*****Branch Liaison Secretary******John Day, 6 Sandpiper Road, Ipswich IP2 9HX*****Telephone - 01473 404683 Mobile 07703 484904 Email - johnday@ntlworld.com****NEWSLETTER No 7****March 2002**

1 - INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter, one that will relate a number of announcements and changes, including some of the proposed Branch changes. Sadly, due to the lack of support we say goodbye to London Branch, which has been forced to fold. Difficulties in holding meetings in Central London and getting sufficient support proved too much of a task to maintain. The efforts of Malcolm Alderman and Geoff Brockett failed to attract enough support at their recent AGM where the final decision was taken. All is not lost though, as we are able to cater for our members by reallocating them to surrounding branches. "South of the River" members can enjoy the benefits of a newly formed branch which will meet in Croydon and be titled "Croydon & South London Branch". This is currently under the leadership of Steve Hodge who, with four volunteers has formed a committee to administer the branch. Croydon & South London will hold their first meeting in September, watch for further details will be announced in the R.O.

2 - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEEKEND 2002 - MANSFIELD

As you are aware the AGM will be held at The Midland Hotel, Mansfield on Saturday 20th April. If you intend taking part in any of the activities during this weekend the booking form and itinerary were inserted in the March RO. In respect of the AGM all Officers Reports this year will be issued as an insert with the April RO and should be taken along with you to the AGM. Any further information you might require in advance of the weekend and which is not covered on the booking form can be obtained from John Hitchens, East Midlands Branch on 01623 758033.

3 - MEMBERS WEEKEND 2002 - BRISTOL

Being held at the Holiday Inn Bristol the Branch are actively engaged in putting together an interesting and varied programme. Whilst still in the early stages some advance information about the key activities are as follows. Friday 25th October, the evening presentation will be by Terry Nicholls entitled "Railshape - Bristol Fashion". After breakfast on Saturday 26th a coach will leave for the 2 foot gauge Gartell Light Railway at Henstridge on the former S & D J R trackbed. This will be followed by a visit to Yeovil Junction where both the South west Main Line steam Co. and the S & D Locomotive Co. Ltd will be visited. Confirmation is still awaited as to who our after dinner speaker will be on Saturday evening. This will be announced as soon as the information is available. On Sunday 27th the morning will, as usual, be taken up with the Officers Conference before lunch is taken and members disperse.

4 - BRANCH NEWS

As previously mentioned, London Branch has shut down which means reallocation of members to adjoining branches. Members "south" of the river will be allocated to Croydon & South London Branch, as will a number of those living in central and west London. Members living north of the Thames will be distributed amongst South Essex, Hitchin and Watford (*formerly Hertfordshire*) branches. The Sales activities previously carried out by London Branch will transfer to South Essex as those members mainly responsible for running the stand at exhibitions live in the areas that will transfer to South Essex.

5 - BRANCH MEETINGS PROTOCOL

Branches of the Society organise programmes of indoor events that members and (subject to any accommodation limitation) non-members can attend at no charge. The branches have discretion to make a voluntary collection at each indoor event, or to hold a raffle, to defray room hire cost and speaker expenses.

For the convenience of regular attendees at indoor events, branches also have the discretion to accept a seasonal donation and where deemed necessary to make a record of that seasonal donation. To encourage non-members to join the Society, their donations may be recorded in a suitable way by the branch and a local agreement can be made by branches for some or all of the donations made prior to payment of the membership subscription.

Any description or records made should use only the terms collection, donation, or seasonal donation, or raffle to avoid any misunderstanding over VAT.

Protocol

Branches are advised to publicise their arrangements for indoor meeting finance by the use of statements along the lines of:

The branch does not charge members or non-members for their attendance at indoor meetings but a voluntary collection by way of donations is normally made, or a raffle held. Where convenient to the individual a donation may be made periodically and we will record that an advance donation has been made.

We encourage non-members to join the Society and to that end will be pleased to arrange to record donations made and make a refund against the Society membership fee when you become a member of the Society.

If a branch is in any way in doubt about its arrangements or the way they are described they should contact Tony Skinner, the Society Treasurer.

6 - FIXTURE PROGRAMMES

Branches are reminded of the need to supply sufficient copies of the fixture programme to the Branch Liaison Secretary in order that these can be distributed to other Branches.

It is however necessary to look at how these are submitted and to revise the numbers sent when sent by post bearing in mind that we have some new Branches and expect to open more!

It is important that **BRANCHES** accept responsibility for sending these, as listed below, in first instance to;

BY POST

- 1 Copy should go to John Richards for the RO
- 1 *Copy to go to Ronnie McAdam for the Railway Press
 - Remember two months in advance is the minimum lead up time for the commercial press.
- 1 *Copy to go to David Kelso for the Web Site
- 30 *Copies to John Day Branch Liaison Secretary

* See below for alternative Email methods of despatching these to respective officers.

BY E MAIL

To John Day at - johnday@ntlworld.com [I can print and send/forward by Email copies to Branches that are Electronically connected]
To Ronnie McAdam - RMcAdam47@aol.com
To David Kelso at - webmaster@rcts.org.uk

AMENDMENTS

Watford Branch (Formerly Hertfordshire) reports an addition to the already circulated programme. 1st October 2002 is now arranged and the speaker will be Philip Hooper from The South Devon Railway Association.

7 - MEMBERS EMAIL ADDRESS DATABASE

As you should be aware Ken Wilson has taken on the responsibility for compilation and maintenance of the Members' Email Address Database. There are a number of benefits in doing this but addresses can only be added to the database with the express permission of each individual member.

Can you therefore please make this known to members at your Branch meetings and ask them to Email Ken with the relevant information. Details should include the membership number and information about any position held either within the branch, Editorial or Management Committee level.

Ken should also be notified at any time you or a member changes their address.

Ken's EMail address is: Kenwilson@beeb.net

8 - SALES STANDS

Whilst the MC continues to consider the subject of Sales Stands branches do need to decide whether they are in a position to make their own arrangements. Surrey Branch have just successfully negotiated a price and subsequently purchased a stand from a fellow trader at a model railway exhibition. If you see an opportunity that offers suitable "furniture" that will satisfy your sales stand needs please feel free to negotiate a settlement. If necessary discuss the option of a joint purchase within your regional group. As you would be expected to finance this arrangement locally you do not need to seek MC approval to action this.

9 - REGIONAL MEETINGS

Included separately with this Newsletter for Chairmen and Secretaries is the proposed Agenda that should be the basic format for meetings.

Below is a schedule for the next round of Regional Meetings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Venue</u>
London & South East	8 June 2002	Igham, Kent
Wessex	To be advised	
Northern Home Counties	15 June 2002	Digswell, Welwyn
North West & Midlands	To be advised	
EMNESH	15 May 2002	Darlington

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION POINTS

2003 MEMBERS' WEEKEND

One important item to discuss at this years round of Regionals relates to the 2003 Members' Weekend scheduled to be held during our 75th Anniversary year at Cheltenham. Cheltenham Branch have put together a package which will reflect the success of the Society during those 75 Years and planned events are expected to take up the whole of the weekend. Before the package is finalised the Management Committee are asking Branches to discuss a proposal to suspend, for 2003 only, the Sunday Morning Officers' Conference. The success of Regional Meetings now allows us to deal with many matters previously discussed at the OC during the interim period between Regionals and the OC. This was reflected last year at Altrincham when a "before time" finish was achieved. One that we hope will be matched or bettered at Bristol this year.

STICKERS

The Society has received quotes for stickers, circular stickers with just RCTS and the Web Site address on them are quoted at just under £200 + VAT per thousand. Car stickers can be produced in two colours, featuring 60001, similar to that on the bookmark, as well as with the Society Web Site address, these cost just over £400 + VAT per thousand. Unlike the pens/badges and bookmarks the MC are not in a position pass these to branches free of charge. Please discuss amongst your branch and group meetings what level of contribution you could make toward producing these and what your projected requirements would be and advise the MC accordingly. Once data is collated we can then decide whether to go ahead with the order, or call a halt to it, dependent on the support from branches and members.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Nick Garnham (Peterborough) and Ken Wilson (South of England) have volunteered to start work on this. The main proposal at present is that they pilot a project to circulate the questionnaire to branch members at their respective branch meetings. We should then get some idea of feedback and subsequently make the questionnaire available to other branches on request. Each branch would then be responsible for collating the information received and ultimately pass this to the Management Committee.

POSTCODES

With the changes that are taking place at Branch level it seems appropriate to include Postcodes as an agenda item, especially relating to the changes following the disbanding of London Branch. Branches affected by these changes should look at where "fringe" members should be allocated.

This could also be a good time to obtain from Peter Davies a copy of the "Miscellaneous Members" list to discuss and decide whether there is some scope to include unallocated members in any of your branches postcode area.

10 - TREASURER

Please note that Tony Skinner has changed his Email address.

It is now >>> tonyskinner@fsmail.net

to which address any future electronic messages should be sent.

NOTE FOR BRANCHES

Promotional items

For clarification please note the following:

- * book marks all versions are for sale at £1
- * lapel badges are for sale at £2
- * In both cases VAT on sales has to be accounted for through returns to the Society Treasurer. Otherwise the branch can retain the proceeds.

Also see item 5 in this newsletter regarding meetings.

11 - PUBLICATIONS

The following extracts are taken from the Publications Committee Report for 26th January and reflect the position at that time for Publications and proposed merchandise.

- **Locomotives of the LNWR Southern Division**

This is now available and any branch that has, as yet, not received any stock should contact Geoff Baylis as soon as possible for supplies. Our December 2001 Publications List included a £3-95 members voucher for the new book (cover price £27-95) valid until 31st July.

- **LNWR Names and Sequel to LMS Names, by Rev John Goodman.**

This is currently with our printers

- **LMS 2-6-0s**

The manuscript and photographs are with the Publications Committee and work is ongoing to prepare this for presentation to the printers.

- **BR Standard 4-6-0s, 2-6-0s by John Walford.**

At the time of writing the manuscripts have been presented to the Society with the photographs to follow in the not too distant future.

- **Railways of Plymouth. by Russell Leitch**

This publication is nearing completion and the final few illustrations are awaited.

- **The Great Northern Railway in the East Midlands Book Four by Alf Henshaw**

Steady progress is reported with two chapters outstanding plus a few photographs.

- **Diesel and Electrics.**

Peter Kerridge reported some would be authors are frightened by the standards to which the society aspires. His personal work has compiled shed allocation codes 1948 to current . Some work achieved on Warship and 9500 hydraulics.

It is anticipated that the next three books to be published will be the Standard 4-6-0/2-6-0, LMS 2-6-0s and Railways of Plymouth. No set criteria has been laid down regarding the order they will appear and dates/discounts will be announced once details are known.

- **Other interesting projects in progress are:**

Publications about Horwich Works /Lancing Works /WD Tender Engines

It is also proposed to produce a Society Tie.

Other titles under consideration are at a very early stage and details will be announced once titles and authors are confirmed.

12 - 60001 LOG

It should have been noted from the Railway Observer that Bob Wallen no longer collates this information.

In advance of a notices and information that will appear in the April and May Railway Observers we have been successful in recruiting a volunteer to take on this task. He is Dave Hinde and any future sightings of 60001 should be reported directly to him at 48 Parkfield, Swarthmoor, Ulverston LA12 0HP or, preferably by Email to Dave at: **r60001@talk21.com**

Please ensure that members attending your Branch meetings are made aware of this.

John Day
26 March 2002