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OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER 92

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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NEWS FROM THE 2015 OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

Society Constitution and Proposed Change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

The branch delegates who attended the officers' conference at Cheltenham on Sunday 25th October requested that a set of slides of Terence Jenner's presentation should be provided to all branches. This was so that local officers could give a similar presentation to their own members either at a branch meeting or AGM. A pdf and Word version of the slides are attached.

I as well as my colleagues on the MC would like to thank all those attending the conference for the unanimous show of hands supporting the proposed change of the society's status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Although the show of hands was not binding it gave the MC a clear indication that we are on the right track with our proposal, which of course will go to members at the AGM at Coventry on Saturday 16th April 2016. As stated more information will be published in the RO before it is held so that all members can study the proposals.

It would be beneficial if you could make the presentation available to all your members attending a branch meeting or branch AGM no later than mid February. An email to Alan Cooke, the Branch Liaison Officer at liaison@rcts.org.uk advising that the presentation has been made will indicate to the MC on how progress on getting the information to the members is progressing.

W. Gordon Davies

Recruitment Success

Society Chairman Gordon Davies presented Steve Hewitt of the South Essex Branch with a framed certificate as a thank you to the branch in recruiting the most new members during the 2014 - 2015 recruitment period. This runs from 1st October to 30th September.

The South Essex Branch managed to recruit 13 new members during this period, which is an amazing feat so well done to them.

A number of other branches did well to add to a bumper year for recruiting.

South Essex	13	Scottish	3
		Surrey	3
Bristol	8		
		West Midlands	2
South Wales	5	Watford	2
East Midlands	5	Milton Keynes	2
Hitchin	5		
Ipswich	5	North East	1
Windsor & Maidenhead	5	Peterborough	1
		Humberside	1

At present one branch has already achieved half of the number they managed to recruit in 2014 to 2015. And we are only 31 days into the 2015 – 2016 season; so encouraging times are ahead.

So far we have 167 new recruits this year – compared with 159 for the whole of 2014

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside of the society
1st November 2015



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

PROPOSED CHANGE TO SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

TRANSITION TO CHARITABLE STATUS

TERENCE JENNER

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING PROPOSED CHANGES

**MAKE SOCIETY FIT FOR PURPOSE SO AS TO MAINTAIN ITS
POSITION AS THE UK'S LEADING RAILWAY SOCIETY**

**BETTER SECURE THE POSITION OF THE SOCIETY, ITS MEMBERS
AND OFFICERS**

**OTHERWISE TO CHANGE AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE IN ITS CURRENT
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

BENEFITS OF CHANGE - 1

Society Management

LEGAL PROTECTION OF OFFICERS

LEASE OF LEATHERHEAD STATION PREMISES

SAFEGUARD SOCIETY ASSETS

**NAMEPLATES,
VALUABLE COLLECTIONS
BOOKS ETC
PHOTO ARCHIVE**

BEST PRACTICE – Other Societies doing same.



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

BENEFITS OF CHANGE - 2

Longer Term Development

POTENTIAL TAX SAVINGS

POSSIBLE HERITAGE FUNDING FOR RELEVANT PROJECTS

WHAT IS A CHARITABLE INTEREST ORGANISATION?

**SEPARATE LEGAL STRUCTURE –
A PROTECTIVE LEGAL SHELL**

GOVERNED BY THE CHARITIES COMMISSION



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

FORMING A CIO

DETERMINE :-

THE CHARITY'S PURPOSE
AN OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE
HOW IT WILL BE FUNDED

PRODUCE A GOVERNING DOCUMENT (Business Plan)

CHOOSE A NAME - *The Railway Correspondence & Travel Society*

RECRUIT TRUSTEES



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

RCTS DRAFT CIO OBJECTIVES CLAUSE

To qualify for charitable status the Society will demonstrate an educational and heritage purpose which benefits the public by claiming :-

- 1 - We advance the education of the public in the subject of historic and current railway operation by -
Publishing a regular monthly magazine - the Railway Observer;.Publishing authoritative books of detailed historical records of railways, including locomotives, traction equipment, infrastructure and development.
Forming and supporting geographically dispersed local branches with a programme of speakers and visits, and enabling the public to study and understand the practice of historic and current railway operation.
- 2 - We develop and conserve an extensive library & archive centre to advance the knowledge of the public in an understanding of historic and current railway practice.
- 3 - We disseminate to both public and heritage interests photographic images of historic and current railway operation.
- 4 - We promote for the benefit of the public and public bodies the maintenance of the railway heritage by -
Publishing a regular monthly magazine - the Railway Observer.
Publishing authoritative books of detailed historical records of railways, including locomotives, traction equipment, infrastructure and development.
Forming and supporting geographically dispersed local branches with a programme of speakers and visits enabling the public to study and understand the practice of historic and current railway operation.



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

WHO WILL BECOME CHARITY TRUSTEES

ALL PRESENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Why ? -

To ensure no conflict between Charity Trustees and Management Committee

All Charity Trustees are expected to show a level of skill and experience expected of any reasonably competent person.

Trustee Liability Covered, as MC Liability, by Society Insurance.



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

MATTERS TO BE PUT TO AGM

SEEK APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE OF CHANGE TO CIO - An explanatory memorandum explaining the nature of the changes proposed will be included with the R.O. AGM supplement

APPROVE DRAFT CONSTITUTION - The draft will be included with the R.O. AGM Supplement. The explanatory memorandum will draw attention to the draft objects clause, and to those provisions where the Charities Commission model template has been modified to suit the particular circumstances of the Society.

APPROVE REVISIONS TO SOCIETY RULES - The revised draft of the Rules will be incorporated in the R.O. AGM Supplement. The explanatory memorandum will draw specific attention to those provisions in the Rules that need to be modified as a result of becoming a CIO and other changes that have been suggested as a result of a review of the Rules instigated by the Management Committee.

APPROVE APPOINTMENT OF THEN CURRENT MANAGEMENT OFFICERS TO BE CHARITY TRUSTEES - The Management Committee Officers in post on the proposed implementation date, currently expected to be 1st November 2016.

APPROVE CONTINUATION OF CURRENT FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS OF SOCIETY AS A CIO - No change in the current funding arrangements of the Society is proposed.

WHY A REVISION TO THE RULES?

Minimal changes are needed to comply with Charity Commission requirements but will also be slightly updated to reflect recent operational changes.

Review team is already in place under leadership of former RO Editor Callum McLeod.



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

PROPOSED TIMESCALE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

OCTOBER 7TH 2015

Management Committee approve plan in principle - ***APPROVED***

OCTOBER 28TH 2015

Present Proposals To Officers' Conference - ***TODAY***

APRIL 1st 2016

In Advance of AGM Full Charity Prospectus is published to all Members as a supplement to April Railway Observer.

APRIL 2016 AGM

Approval sought from Membership at AGM

1ST NOVEMBER 2016

Subject to CIO Approval, Implement Change to CIO Status



OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2015

Thank You For Listening

**Please inform your local Branch of the development and
it's :-**

Over to You !