

NARROW GAUGE NEWS

ISSUE No. 3.

MAY/JUNE 1959

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News Editor & Publicity Agent:

P.G.Brennand, 37 Norwich Avenue, Hunslet Carr, Leeds 10.

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EDITORIAL

In the last issue of the Newsheet a statement was made with regard to subscriptions having 'Vanished into thin air'. This statement unfortunately was taken rather too literally by some of our members and here and now I will endeavour to put matters straight by saying that this in actual fact was really a slip of the tongue (Metaphorically speaking) as it was the RECEIPTS that were mislaid and not the former Treasurer doing a 'Midnight' with the subs. With all due apologies and respect to Peter Halton.

All the money is in our bank under lock and key (We hope)
Ed.

AREA NOTES

LEEDS AREA

This area is making progress and meetings are being held in the Headingley Hill Methodist Church Rooms on the following dates; Friday, April 3rd. Illustrated talk by Mike Swift on Manchester Corporation WaterWorks N.G. Lines (This was to have taken place at the last meeting but due to ill-health Mike just could not make it.

Friday, 29th May. To be decided.) This applies to subjects.
Friday, 26th June. To be decided.)
Starting at 7.30 p.m. in each case.

On the Wednesday evening of April 29th, at 6.45 PROMPT, there has been arranged a visit of this area to the works of the HUNSLET ENGINE COMPANY LTD. Anyone wishing to be present at this most interesting visit should contact the Leeds Agent immediately; He is: R. N. REDMAN, Esq, 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, LEEDS.

LONDON & SOUTH EAST AREA

The Area Annual General Meeting was held on the 14th March last, and was attended by no less than 20 persons. Needless to say, this meeting went down with as much, if not more, of the usual success that meetings held in the area usually do.

Meetings were arranged for six dates during the forthcoming year. The Agent (Clifford John) reported that they had had a most enjoyable and profitable year, and mentioned that the balance of the cash was to be put to an immediate use as Handbook No.2, 'Parish's Loam Quarries, Erith, Kent, had gone to press and would be published in April. Mr. Davies was thanked for the hard work he had put into the production of this work. (Handbook No.2 now available to Members only @.3/-d, Non-members 3/6d, post free from C. A. John.

The Report having been agreed upon, the meeting discussed the arrangements for their first stand at the M.R.C. Exhibition. These are well

in hand and wish to thank all those who have worked so hard in this aspect of Society work. (This stand was most successful).

AGENT: C. H. JOHN, 23 Crossway, West Ealing, London, W.13.

BIRMINGHAM AREA The next meeting of this area will take place at the usual rendezvous; Exchange Restaurant, Stephenson Place, Birmingham, on Tuesday, May 12th, starting at 7.00 p.m. There will be an illustrated talk on 'The Ironstone Tramways of the Midlands' given by Eric Tonks, himself now a member of the Society and of course the author of that brilliant piece of railway history recently published, and bearing the same title as his talk.

The last meeting held in Birmingham was on February 24th last when there were present some fifteen members and friends.

This meeting was devoted entirely to business, but as the result may be of general interest to members, they are listed, in part or full below:

- a) Meetings will continue to be held at the Exchange Restaurant, Stephenson Place, Birmingham, until further notice.
- b) Meetings to be held on Tuesday Evenings at 7.00 p.m. at approximately six-weekly intervals.
- c) Whenever possible a talk or other informal/semi-formal activity should be held.
- d) The programme of meetings should extend from September to May, and there should be a close season during June, July and August with a possibility of outside visits being arranged.

Finance was discussed and it was agreed that to provide for the cost of room hire, a levy of so much per head should continue to be made. This method was preferred to a fixed area subscription.

Mr. T. T. McKenzie agreed to act as deputy agent and to take the chair at meetings in the event of the indisposition or enforced absence of the regular agent.

AGENT: E. R. HEATON, 30 Wychall Lane, Kings Norton, Birmingham 30.

SUBSCRIPTIONS. The Hon. Treasurer wishes to thank all those members who sent in their subscription renewals so promptly.

He also wishes it to be known that we shall not be able to dispatch anything further in the way of Society publications etc., to those members who have not renewed their membership by JUNE 30th 1959.

So if you have not already paid up, please do so as soon as you possibly can and return with a completed form.

MAGAZINES

There are a few back numbers available and these can be obtained from the Hon. Sec. for a minimum donation of 2/- each copy. Most 1954, 1955 and 1957 issues are available, also 1956/1 and 1956/3. Write to C. H. John, 23 Crossway, West Ealing, and please include postage with your remittance.

BADGES

A supply of these are now available. They are hand-engraved and can also be obtained from Clifford John, at the address above. Price is 4/- post free.

AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS AND CONSTITUTION. At the Special General Meeting held at the Railway Tavern, London on March 14th last, it was unanimously decided that Rule 4 should be altered and in future will read as follows;

The Annual Subscription shall be 10/- (Junior Members under 18 years of age - 5/-) etc.,

The increase in the subscription rate of our overseas members will therefore take place as from April 1st 1959.

These members will no doubt understand the reasons for the increase when they receive the same publications as the home members, and there is, therefore, no point in us continuing the reduced rate, particularly considering the rising costs of printing, postage rates etc.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

The Society Librarian Peter Lee, is appealing for items for the reference department. Due to having taken over a much busier practice recently (He is a M.D. incidentally) time for the tracking down and squirring of suitable material has been severely restricted. Therefore if any member has ANYTHING that he considers will be suitable for inclusion in the Department, no matter what it is, or how small, and seemingly insignificant would be good enough to contact: R. P. Lee, 'The Sycamores', Golcar, Huddersfield, Yorks. NOW.

Photographs, cuttings etc., are always welcome, but we would particularly like notes etc., on the legion of unrecorded industrial lines which are scattered about all over the world, as well as these islands.

So remember, if you do have anything for the Reference Department please get in touch with Peter Lee, will you? Thank you.

FRENCH METRE GAUGE LINES.

From Mr. E. K. Stretch comes notes on the lines listed below which still carry a passenger service and are in the Northern Region of the S.N.C.F. where main line services are provided;

continued.....

FRENCH METRE GAUGE LINES cont'dCOMPAGNIE d'EXPLOITATIONS FERROVIAIRES et ROUTIERES (E.F.R.)
(formerly, Compagnie des Voies Ferrées d'Intérêt Local.)

From Persan-Beaumont (in the outer suburbs of Paris) to Ercuis, (11km.). Three journeys daily, by railcar, plus one short working, except Sundays. On Sundays services terminate at level-crossing 29, about 1/2 km short of Ercuis Station.

From St. Just ex Chaussee (on the Calais main line 81 km from Paris) to Froisey (21 km). Two trains in each direction on Saturdays and Sundays; one in each direction on Mondays and Tuesdays. On Thursdays the service is operated by bus, and on Wednesdays and Fridays there is no service at all. The timetable is different each day. All trains are timetabled as railcars, but are occasionally replaced by steam mixed-trains.

The line continues for goods only for 14 km beyond Froisey, to Crèvecœur. The line appears to be declining steadily, three years ago trains operated every day except Wednesday and Thursday.

COMPAGNIE des CHEMIN de FER ECONOMIQUES. (C.F.R.) Réseau de la Somme.

Two lines from Noyelles (110 km from Calais on the main Paris line) to the coast. One line runs west to Cayeux-Brighton (12 km) and is mixed gauge as far as St. Valery (6 km); the other runs north west 8 km to Le Crotoy. Both lines have two regular daily trains in each direction but there are extra trains on certain days (i.e. Abbeville Market Day) and particularly at week-ends, five trains on Saturdays. More frequent services are run in Summer as also at Easter. Normally all 'trains' are diesel railcars except for one daily train on the Cayeux line, but at summer week-ends steam is used for most trains. There is also a goods line north-east from Noyelles to Crécy-en-Ponthieu, site of the famous battle of 1346.

CHEMIN de FER du CAMBRESIS.

Runs south from Denain (Near Valenciennes) to Caudry (28km.) with four passenger trains in each direction daily, (three on Sundays). This line is steam operated throughout. The line south from Caudry to St. Quentin (50km.) and the west-east line Awoingt-Caudry-Le Cateau-Catillon (28km.) are used for occasional goods traffic only.

CORRECTION (Re 'Ind. Lines in Sth. Mid.' Mar/Apr. Iss.)

Member Mr. J. Newman, of Watford, Herts has written in stating that the above article by S. Leleux of Northampton contained one or two errors and omissions, viz:-

The Hudswell Clarke 0-4-OST at Brixworth is Works No. 591/1900. The two Pecketts are named 'LAMPART' and 'SCALDWELL' respectively; the Hudswell was noted on 8/6/58.

The word 'Willingborough' should of course have read 'Wellingborough'. (This of course could have been a typing error, which was most likely the case) Ed. conté.....

Corrections - contd...

The Works Nos. of the Peckett 0-6-OST's are as follows:
 P1870/34, P1871/34, P2029/42. The loco disused outside was not built by Manning Wardle, but by Hunslet. Details: 0-4-OST. 473/1888. Name is ('Wellingborough Ironworks')
 No.14

The above were all noted on September 7th, 1958.

(Editor's Note:) According to 'Ironstone Rlys. & Tramways of the Midlands' by Eric Tonks, no locomotive of the number 591/1900 is listed as being at Brixworth or even as being in this particular area.

Further to the above, Mike Swift during a conversation with him regarding this subject states the following:

RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT CO, Southam.

Steam loco 'Gen' coincides, but Diesels do not, viz:-
 Simplex No. in last N/S states it as being 258537, then 2 0-4-0 diesels of German origin, and a Ruston.

Mike Swift's list gives a Simp. 4WP No. 1908 of 1920, and 4 4WD Orenstein & Koppel 20178, 20227, Hunslet 2837/40, Ruston 168437/33.

STAVELEY IRON & CHEMICAL CO, Scaldwell.

The Pecketts are named 'Lamport' No. 1315, and 'Scaldwell' 1316. The Hudswell is No.573/1900 and was named 'Handyman' in the past.

WELLINGBOROUGH IRON CO. Finedon Quarries.

(Also serves Wellingborough Iron Works)

The Pecketts are 1870/34, 1871/34, and 2029/42. The 'Manning Wardle' is actually Hunslet No. 473/1888

RICHARD THOMAS & BALDWIN, Irthlingborough.

Mike's list gives the following: Two 4-wheel Ruston diesels; Nos.187074/37 and 187075/37. Eight OHW Electrics, two G.E.C., and Greenwood & Batley Nos. 1545/38, 1566/38, 1567/38, 1746/41, 1747/41, and 1748/37. Underground are 15 four-wheel Battery Electrics built by British Electric Vehicles Ltd., 1918. Also 18 Greenwood & Batley 4-wheel Battery Electrics; 1569, 1570/1/2/3/4, all of 1938, 2061/2/3, 2078/9, 2080, all of 1947, 2291/2/3/4/5/6, all of 1950.

LYNTON & BARNSTAPLE, and LEEK & MANIFOLD RAILWAYS.

As readers of Railway Modeller and visitors to the Leeds Exhibition at the Corn Exchange last November will have realised the model railway constructed and owned by Mr. Henry Holdsworth of Leeds has its prototype on these two lines. The crux of the matter is that an appeal

for photographs, preferably unpublished ones and also any odd scraps of useful information would be greatly appreciated from fellow members of our Society. Henry is making a detailed study of both systems both from the prototypical angle as well as incorporation in future extensions to his already well detailed large pike. His address is:

5, Halliday Grove, Leeds 12.

PROPOSED VISIT TO THE ISLE OF MAN

It is proposed to run a Society visit to the Isle of Man on Saturday, September 5th, 1959, starting and finishing from YEADON AIRPORT, LEEDS. This visit is being organised by the Leeds Area Agent, Ron Redman. A 36-seat aircraft will be used, and coach travel from Ronaldsway into Douglas and return in the evening is also envisaged.

The provisional Itinerary will be: Depart Yeadon Airport in morning, arrive Ronaldsway, coach into Douglas. Runs on both the I.O.M. Railway and Manx Electric, with visits to sheds and works if possible. Coach will then leave Douglas for Ronaldsway, aircraft will then depart for Yeadon and is expected to arrive around the late evening.

The inclusive cost of this visit will be £4-0-0 each which includes Air fare and Coach fare from Leeds to Douglas and return.

Further details will be available later and will be published in the next Newsheet if available in time for publication. Anyone interested in this visit can get in touch with Ron Redman at his home address:

R. N. Redman, 11 Outwood Walk, Horsforth, Nr. Leeds.

FESTINIOG RAILWAY

The current issue of the F.R.S. Magazine is at hand and below are a few interesting 'snippets' from it granted by kind permission of the Festiniog Railway Society Ltd.,

From Portmadoc comes the news that a substantial amount of work has been done on TALIESIN, which is now ready for traffic.

MERDDIN EMRYS is undergoing boiler repairs and should be out and about soon after Whitsun. Repairs have been carried out together with repainting on coaches No. 17 and 23, and a start should soon be made on either No. 15 or No. 26, the newly acquired Welsh Highland vehicle. Permanent way work has mainly consisted of improving the Cob, where several lengths of flat bottom track have been laid, re-sleeping above Cei Mawr, and shortening the loop at Tan-y-Blwch station.

Trains will run during 1959 as follows:

WEEKDAYS ONLY,	16th May - 26th September, also 28th and 30th March.
SUNDAYS,	29th March, 17th May, and Sundays during August.
WEDNESDAYS ONLY,	1st April - 13th May, and 30th September - 14th October.

----- cont'd overleaf -----

PORTMADOC HARBOUR	dep	10.40B	2.30	4.30	7.30C
PEN COB (HALT)	"	dd	dd	dd	---
BOSTON LODGE (HALT)	"	dd	dd	dd	dd
MINFFORD (for B.R.(W))	"	10.52	2.42	4.44	dd
PEN-Y-BRYN (HALT)	"	dd	dd	dd	---
PENRHYN	"	10.58	2.48	4.50	dd
TAN-Y-BWLCH	arr.	11.28	3.15	5.15	8.10
DDUALIT)				
TAN-Y-GRISIAU)	Service temporarily suspended.			
BLANAEU FFESTINIOG)				

BLAENAU FFESTINIOG)				
TAN-Y-GRISIAU)	Service temporarily suspended			
DDUALLT)	B			C
TAN-Y-BWLCH	dep.	11.45	3.30	5.30	8.40
PENRHYN	"	12.12	3.57	5.57	dd
PEN-Y-BRYN	"	dd	dd	dd	---
MINFFORDD	"	12.18	4.03	6.03	dd
BOSTON LODGE	"	dd	dd	dd	dd
PEN COB	"	dd	dd	dd	---
PORTMADOC	arr.	12.30	4.15	6.15	9.20

Trains marked B and C may also run on other days by prior arrangement.
 dd: Calls when required to set down on notice to the guard at previous
 stopping station: passengers wishing to join should give the necessary
 hand signal to the driver.

BLAZER BADGES It has recently come to the notice of the Leeds Area
 Agent that a blazer badge in silk can be produced and
 obtained in this area at a quite reasonable price, PROVIDED THAT THE
 DEMAND WARRANTS IT. Therefore, if members are interested in such a
 badge would they contact Ron Redman as soon as possible so that he can then
 get an estimate for quantity, etc.,

NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS. The Editor is on the 'scrounge' once
 more; this time he is rather anxious
 to obtain photographs, drawings of locomotives, rolling stock and or
 details of interest concerning this system. Anything is welcome and
 anyone having such 'gen' and willing to share it with the Editor, will
 of course be paid for copies of prints, drawings and the like.

The Editor, by the way is amassing some quite consid-
 erable files on the Narrow Gauge Railways of the world at present and,
 might be added is the result of a good number of years pursuing our
 intriguing hobby.

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Statement of Accounts.

1st April 1958 to 31st March, 1959

INCOME

Subscriptions	60. 2. 6.
A.G.M. Collection	3. 7. 0.
Preservation Fund Donations	7.14. 0.
Badges	2. 0. 0.
Handbooks	20. 5. 0.
Miscellaneous	3. 4.
Balance from previous year	36.15. 7½

EXPENDITURE

Newsheet Magazines &	
Handbook Production	
also envelopes and	
stamps	68.13. 1½
Preservation "Peter"	17.10. 0.
A.G.M.1958 Expenses	7. 8. 6.
L.&S.E.grant held	
over from 1957-8	5. 0. 0.
Committee & Secretarial	
Expenses	6. 5. 4.
Miscellaneous	5. 0.
Badges	8.19. 6.

£114. 1. 5½

Balance in hand 16. 6. 0.

£130. 7. 5½

£130. 7. 5½

C. H. JOHN,

1st April, 1959

Hon. Organising Secretary
& Treasurer.