

OLD RUN NEWS

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Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 39, March - April 1969.

STEAM SPECIAL '69.

On EASTER MONDAY we are taking advantage of the fact that Dartmouth Field is still not motorway - ised! Positively the last appearance! We hope to go one better than last year's Steam Gala, and we proudly announce STEAM SPECIAL '69. Under Messrs. Bushell and Jones, a special Sub-Committee has sweated for weeks to prepare a first class public show. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather, please.

With this newsletter are cards and car-stickers advertising the Show. Please all members within reach of Leeds, give it the widest possible display. Here is a golden opportunity for us to make money for the advance to Middleton. We have made a good start with fund raising, but we are WELL BELOW A QUARTER of our target as yet. Members are of course admitted free to the show on presentation of their membership card. If they come to help as well as admire, they will be popular. We are as usual very short of active help on the day, so this request is to YOU PERSONALLY. Can you sell, talk, guard, collect, supervise, carry things or messages about, count money? Yes! Then bring the family and friends and give us a hand. Offers for help on the Count Down on Easter Saturday or the blast off (steam, of course) on Easter Monday for all or part of the days should go to DAVID HEBDEN, 10 Lingwell Avenue, Middleton, Leeds 10, or you may telephone him.

On arrival go to the brake van in Dartmouth Yard for instructions. Even if you haven't told us beforehand, you will be welcomed and put to work at once. With THREE fairground organs, a fire fighting display, steam vehicles for road and rail and a refreshment service, our visitors should have plenty to enjoy.

We should particularly appreciate some entrants for the Tug Of War with a 1907 White Steam Car (Any ordinary Motor Car may be entered.)

COAL. A considerable quantity of coal has been purchased. Locomotive men are asked to be as economical in its use as possible, as it has to last until the September Steam Gala. It should NOT be burned in unauthorised places.

A.G.M. Post Mortem. Considering that A.G.M.'s are a necessary evil, the 1969 performance went off without undue raising of voices, tempers or dust! The Trust agreed to carry out limitation of personal liability of its members to guard against any unforeseen and unlikely financial catastrophe, but this is being done in such a way that we do not behave like a Commercial Company, and we are not going to put that horrible word "Limited" in our name. The status of members of under 21 years of age will be safeguarded and except on a few technical matters we shall continue unchanged. We are pressing ahead with recognition of our organisation as a Charitable Trust. We found that by some oversight our Trustees had not been kept fully informed of developments.

A general tightening up of discipline and good behaviour was agreed to. We have

to remember that our reputation depends on what the visiting public think of the tidyness of our equipment and our members.

In addition to the minutes of the A G M we shall be sending out Trustees, Chairmans and other reports so that all members are up to date.

Investigation has revealed that owing to an outlet pipe in Henry de Lacy II being above the bottom of the fuel tank, the locomotive would cease to steam even though some oil remained in it. This explains the loss of steam on the journey from Kirkstall and that there is no major fault to repair.

We welcome an active group from Beckett's Park College who visited us, heard a talk on our history and promptly joined in actively. Prospective teachers from this College have brought round large numbers of visiting school parties, one as close to us as Belle Isle Vicarage. The furthest visiting party recently was from Norwich, some unnamed member made loud Great Eastern noises at them!

After the Lord Mayor's show comes the Dust Cart - thus goes the old saying. After major track relaying comes the tidy-up. A busy fortnight salvaged whole wagon loads of scrap chairs rails and sleepers, too worn out to be of any use, but far from handsome just lying about. The improvement in appearance is very great.

An argument between a moving Fowler and a stationary guard's van has resulted in some more Fowler overhauling, and Courage has again taken over all traffic. She is now fitted with a gadget by Tim Leech that prevents excessive injection of fuel so that even when pulling very hard she has a clean exhaust and doesn't labour. Apart from the fact that (as with all our locos) sanding is difficult due to the muddy rails, this veteran has done far better work than we ever expected or hoped.

After years of hard work and much overloading Mrs Youell has given up all her Middleton jobs, Mrs. Lonsdale of Ashwood Villas has now taken over the job of sending out the journals and newsletters. Transporting over 1 cwt. of Addressing Machine from one attic to another attic half a mile away is requiring consultation with the Chief Civil Engineer! The problem in a small but active Trust is to avoid overloading the few senior members, and we appreciate this spreading of the load among the ladies.

Mr. Dunstan Harrington has inaugurated a Round Robin Scheme. He states that a regular gift of anything from a shilling a week upwards by members to the Middleton Appeal Fund would be highly productive and reasonably painless. He points out with equal truth that human nature being what it is, no-one will carry out this obvious scheme unless prodded. He sends out with this newsletter a Round Robin Form for YOU to fill up promising to give a fixed amount weekly. To avoid the unprecedented step of sticking a 4d stamp on and posting it, you may give the form to a Committee member. We will even collect the savings if you live in Leeds!

Can we remind all members who haven't renewed their subscriptions (or even those who have) that to write out a Deed of Co venant with your subscription costs you nothing but turns every 12/- subscribed into a guinea, if you pay standard rate income tax. Please remember this when paying your Sub. to the membership Secretary. Traditionally all honest Englishmen should support an effective (and to our surprise completely legal) method for extracting money from the Commissioners of Inland Revenue! How about it?