

THE OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 59

January 1971.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, 1971

As in previous years, this will be held at the Houldsworth School, Leeds University (at the corner of Woodhouse Lane and Clarendon Road - BUSES 1, 28, 30, 33, 36, 56, from the CITY) at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 20th. February, 1971.

Nominations for next year's Committee are invited and should be sent to the Secretary (John D. Edwards, 11 Drummond Court, Leeds LS16 5QE) after obtaining the consent of the person nominated.

The posts to be filled are:

President

Up to 4 Vice-Presidents

Chairman

Deputy Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Secretary

Membership Secretary

Publicity Officer

Traffic Manager

Mechanical Engineer

Civil Engineer

Up to 4 other Committee members.

Could as many members as possible please attend this meeting.

BOOK THE DATE!!!!!!

SATURDAY 6th. March 1971

"DARTMOUTH DAWDLER"

On March 5th. 1921, the branch from the Middleton Railway into Denison's foundry was opened. This marked the end of an "expansion era" in the history of our line, which resulted in a greater diversity of traffic than ever before, and included the construction of the line to the preservation era's principal customers - Claytons, and Robinson and Birdssills. Known as the Dartmouth Branch, it is now to be lifted in connection with the new motorway, to be replaced by a completely new alignment.

In a nostalgic celebration, we have organised a special tour to allow you and your friends to travel over lines not usually used for visitors trains, the last before the motorway reconstruction. Members may travel at concessional rates. Be sure of a place - BOOK EARLY!!!!!!

GUIDED COACH TOUR leaves City Station at 13.30 hrs. and connects with:

1) Rail Tour, leaving Burton Road at 14.00 hrs. and returning to Claytons at 15.30 hrs.

2) Coach tour then continues to visit local places of railway interest, arriving at the Y.M.C.A. in Leeds Centre at 16.40. Tea break - then

3) Well-known visiting speaker and TERRY ROBINSON Film Show!

18.00 - 21.30. IN Y.M.C.A. Albion Place (off Briggate).

TICKETS 50p (10/-) - Adults.
 25p (5/-) - Children.
 5p (1/-) - DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS!!!!!!

NUMBER OF PERSONS PARTICIPATING:

Coach Tour

Rail Tour

Evening Meeting

Membership No.....

Address.....

Please Return This Slip With Remittance To:

54, Headingley Mount,

Leeds 6.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New Members. A warm welcome is extended to the following:

Stephen Dufton, Leeds 10.

Peter Burke, Anlaby, Hull.

Professor D. Dilks, Leeds 16.

T.N.P. Howes, Leeds 6.

Chris Clarke, Penwortham.

Thomas Fryer, Leeds 9.

Boyle & Kirk Ltd. Leeds 6.

Chris Pease, Leeds 8.

New Members, Cont...

A. Gibson, Leeds 17.
 G.R. Brogden, Leeds 16.
 James Butler, Horbury.
 Malcolm Bland, Leeds 12.
 Ronald Evans, Leeds 8.
 P. Hepworth, York.
 Richard Holland, Darlington.

D. Grimley, Sutton in Ashfield.
 Graham Hudson, Hythe, Kent.
 Andrew Beaumont, Leeds 17.
 R.M. Tucker, Haddington, E. Lothian.
 S.A. Wrigglesworth, Pudsey.
 E.G. White, Leeds 16.
 C. Jepson, Leeds 10.

We look forward to seeing many of them on the line!

Lost

If you have not been receiving MRT literature (which means of course if you know anyone else who hasn't) please send your current address and postcode to the membership Secretary (Brian Ashurst, 18 Inglewood Drive, Otley LS21 3LD.) We have "lost" several members during the year because of failure to notify us of new addresses.

Found

Will "W.E.B." who paid 10s (50p) into the Westminster Bank, Headingley, on 9th. Dec. 1970, please send the membership Secretary his full name and address.

Renewals

Only about 50 members chose to renew their membership at the old rates which expired on 1st. January. For the rest, you are reminded that the new rates are: Full-£1-5-0 (£1.50), Junior (under 18) and C.A.P. 13s (£0.65p). Family Corporate remain at the old rate (for a while!). Several renewals have been received from people whose membership was valid until June 31st, 1971; these have now been credited to the same date in 1972.

It is important that members (Juniors) let us know their age when renewing; this will be important when the railway is incorporated as a Limited Company. Let us know your christian names too please, as we have a few members with the same surnames and initials.

At the end of 1970 there were over 300 paid-up members - a very considerable improvement. Full details will be available at the A.G.M.

Cleanup Success

The last cleanup (held on 12th-13th Dec) was a great success. From Whittikers Junction to Acme's Crossing has been completely scoured of all weeds and debris. Following this, ANOTHER CLEANUP will be held on 16th-17th January, from 10a.m. until dusk. All who can - please come.

Historic Post Removed

In the process of laying a new gas main, the N.E.G.B. had to dig out one of the level crossing gate posts. This unfortunately has not been replaced, and is lying near the site.

Down At The Line

The spring buffers off Chairman have been removed and have been fitted to Henry. Chairman is now due to be scrapped, providing the Midland Tar Distillers agree.

One good yard crane is to be made of the present two bad ones. The Middleton G.W. crane has a good frame but the boiler is worn-out. Clayton's steam crane has a serviceable boiler but a cracked frame. The two are to be combined and - Hey Presto! One useful crane!

The brake van is being repainted at present, and the interior has already lost that horrible yellow paint in favour of more sober colours. Thanks must go to Bill Holiday, Malcolm Phillips, Robin Brogden, and others for this work.

After a very poor response, could we please beg of members once again to sift through their attics and dig out anything at all which might be useful. Items URGENTLY required are: paint & brushes (ANY COLOUR) nails, screws, old tools (we can fit new shafts to hammer heads), crowbars, jacks, turps, oil, grease, tar, large nuts and bolts, etc. Any members possessing such items surplus to their requirements may give them to any Committee member, or take them direct to the line. PLEASE!!!!!!

Traffic Excitement

The MRT Traffic Dept. had an enquiry from Thomas Ward (Contractors) of Sheffield, who said that they would like us to transport an amount of ballast from Hunslet B.R. yard. Much was made of this, and much speculation was in the air as to how many thousands of tons needed moving. Then the bombshell dropped. There were only 50 tons. The Traffic Dept. were last seen banging their heads against a brick wall!

Excavation

From the tramway crossing down to Whittiker's Staithes has been excavated to a depth of three feet. All the good ash ballast there under the old trackbed was presumably being removed.

Last Example

It is thought by certain MRT officials that our tramway crossing is the last surviving example of its type. It may be that the MRT has another "first" to add to its records!

Sale

There is to be a sale of surplus model railway rolling stock to enable the layout operators to purchase new equipment. Items for sale are:

1 Triang "Jinty"

Assorted 4-wheel wagons

2 bogie bolsters.

Anyone wishing to purchase these items should get in contact with Ian Smith, 8 Manor Farm Drive, soon!!!

Printers Mistake

In certain Diaries, Easter has been fixed wrongly. We apologise most sincerely for this, but they were sold in good faith. Would all members who have purchased diaries please check against a calendar to ensure that theirs is not one of those affected.

Items for Publication

Would anybody with items to be considered for publication in either the Old Run or the infrequent Newsletter please send them to Charles Oldroyd, 19 St. Michael's Terrace, Leeds LS6 3BQ. Offers of $\frac{1}{2}$ plate photographs for the cover of the Old Run should be sent to the above address, though we regret we cannot return any that are used. Those unused will be returned.

Help

Help down at the line seems to have dwindled during the cold spell into just a few staunch regulars. Work will progress far more rapidly if it is not left to just those few. Members genuinely wanting to help should report to Jim Lodge in Clayton's yard any Saturday. All help will be very gratefully received.

Newspapers

Newspaper collection is going very well indeed. Though old newspapers don't bring in very much cash, a cellar full of them does make it well worth the labour of collecting them. If anyone has any newspapers, but is unable to take them to 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6, or to give them to a Committee member, just telephone Leeds 54441 and arrangements will be made for someone to pick them up! Please remember that every pound cash in the MRT with no initial outlay is one pound profit towards the MRT's requirements. So get collecting!!!!

THE MRT WISHES ALL ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS THE
VERY BEST OF HEALTH AND HAPPINESS FOR 1971.