

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust.

Number 15, May 1966

As from May 1st. we are having to pay full rate for stencils, paper and duplicating which will put our costs considerably more than ever before. This will mean at times that we send out only a one sheet newsletter if we have not enough news to cover four sides.

On the line

1697, 'John Alcock'. The radiator header tank has sprung a leak which has been repaired temporarily with plastic pending an inspection by the Hunslet Engine Company. It is to be hoped that it will be unnecessary to buy a new tank. After work on the gear selector unit it is now possible to drive the loco. in second gear after several years of working in first gear only.

2702, Bagnall. The firebars have arrived and have been fitted. The piston and valve spindle glands have been packed and the boiler washed out.

The Wickham Trolley. The overhaul is progressing, the cylinder heads have been taken off and a test bench for the engine is to be built.

The Velocipede. A new frame member has been put in to replace the rotten one and it has been in service for the last few weeks. However, there is now a cracked cross member so it is temporarily out of service again.

Permanent Way. WE NEED MORE HELP. Work is progressing in re-sleepering the headshunt but the progress is slow. Now that we seem to be having better weather at last, please spare us an hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday. If the Chairman's two small daughters, aged 5 and 3, can assist with ballast work, then surely YOU can help us a little!

Steam Crane. After a thorough inspection last weekend, a large hole was found in an inaccessible part of the boiler. Messrs. Clyde, Crane and Booth have been contacted for their advice.

Traffic. Over the last month traffic has been somewhat lighter, less erratic and therefore more manageable. The new University Operating Assistant is Don Agus and not Ayres as reported in last month's newsletter.

Open Day

This has been fixed for Saturday afternoon, July 2nd. It is hoped that traction engines and other steam vehicles will attend the event. If any MRT member can help in this respect or has any suggestions for making the afternoon a success please contact Andrew Naylor (address elsewhere). Further details of the Open Day will be circulated when available.

Harrogate Exhibition

The Midland Bank Exhibition was dismantled on Easter Saturday morning and transported to Harrogate where it formed the stand for the MRT at the Railway Exhibition organised by the Ravensglass and Eskdale Rly. and Harrogate Corporation at the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens. The very cold weather made the attendance high and lively interest was shown in the stand, sales being quite good. Our thanks go to those members who gave up their time on the Saturday and Monday to man the stand.

The next exhibition at which we shall have a stand is also at Harrogate at August Bank Holiday. As the work of transporting and manning the stand falls on the same few shoulders could YOU help in either of these ways. More precise details will be given later but members willing to help please contact A. Naylor, 3 Hinchliffe Street, Bradford 3. Tel. Bradford 39483.

Insurance and Rules

Following a thorough 'overhaul' of our Insurance giving cover to members and the public, a rule sub-committee was formed and has revised the rules of the railway. These, when finalised, will be sent out to every member soon. It is most important that members working on the line must realise that unless the rules are observed at all times then the insurance we provide to cover all contingencies WILL NOT APPLY TO THEM—and no claim can be made for them, indeed claims can be made against them. The rules are M.O.T and British Railways rules where they apply to our railway plus additions to give maximum safety to our members and the public.

Association of Railway Preservation Societies

The MRT was represented at the meeting of the ARPS at Robertsbridge, Kent and East Sussex Railway, on Saturday April 23rd. Although the line has not yet been bought from British Railways, the members were allowed to run a special train for the delegates up to Rolvenden and Tenterden. The train consisted of two coaches and the GWR Railcar number 20 pulled by the Terrier 32650 'Bodiam'. The 13 mile journey took about 14 hours—this being due to speed restrictions and halts at all the level crossings.

After an excellent lunch prepared and served from the Pullman kitchen car by the 'ladies' of the K and E.S., the meeting was held in the G.W Railcar. The topics discussed produced lively interest and several useful contacts were made. 'Forum', the magazine of the ARPS is to be published shortly and members subscribing should receive their copies soon.

The delegates were carried back to Robertsbridge on the train and dispersed to their various railways and preservation schemes.

Our thanks go to the members of the K and E.S. for a happy day on their very interesting line.

The next meeting is to be held on the Festiniog Railway on October 8th

Great Marquess

The MRT are hoping to organise a special train to the Ravensglass & Eskdale Railway on Saturday September 10th. Tickets will be about £2. Further details will be given when available together with the address for application.

There will be a Marquess hauled train on Saturday October 1st. run by Ian Allen. Details also later.