

Middleton Railway Trust - R. & D. S. C.

Syllabus for those wishing to become Footplate Trainees
(Passed Cleaners).

- A. There should be a clear understanding and appreciation of:
1. The basic duties and responsibilities of firemen.
 2. The boiler as a pressure vessel, the dangers of failures, leaks and other faults; and the need to report such defects.
 3. The significance of the water level in relation to the crown plate, and the functions of the gauge glasses and the lead plugs.
 4. The pre-light-up checks.
 5. The principles of combustion as applied to locomotive boilers.
 6. The causes of smoke production, and the methods of avoiding it.
 7. The use and misuse of the blower.
 8. The principles and practical operation of the injectors.
 9. Good firing practices, and the application of them to our operating conditions.
 10. The action to be taken in the event of emergencies, in particular:
 - a) The bursting of a gauge glass, and leaks from the glass or fittings.
 - b) The failure of a boiler tube.
 - c) The failure of a lead plug.
 - d) A sudden incapacity of the driver.
 11. The importance of a correct attitude to the job of fireman or driver, and in particular to the public and to equipment.
- B. Footplate trainees must already be qualified as passenger guards.
- C. No person will be accepted as a footplate trainee who is colour blind, or liable to any sudden incapacity, or in any other way physically unsuitable.
- D. Practical experience of:
1. The cleaning out of fireboxes, smokeboxes and ashpans.
 2. The washing out of boilers and the cleaning of tubes.
 3. The general cleaning of locomotives, particularly beneath the footplate and between the frames.

From the above a general knowledge should be acquired of the design, function and practical operation of locomotive components; assistance with locomotive maintenance can also be useful in this field.

E. Particular attention should be given to the following rules:
(those which have been amended since the February 1973 edition of the
rule book are marked with an asterisk).

14,15*,16,20,23,26,28,35,41,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,134,
135,136,147,148.

F. If there is anything which is not known or understood - ASK.