

MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1972-3

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to report with a high note of optimism the progress of the Trust at all levels is favourable.

Many happenings this year have, I am sure, encouraged members to participate more in practical railway operation. Things are seen to change, usually for the better. The immediate environment surrounding the railway is changing in appearance to a scene pleasing to the eye of member and visitor.

The loss of the 1978 Commonwealth Games slowed down development, but plans have been retained for the future of Middleton Park, of which the railway will become an integral part as an amenity. The Visitors' Service, I am convinced, will attract more passengers than ever this year. It is pleasing to see new locomotives appearing which I hope in the not too far distant future will be housed in a shed., planned to be erected near Moor Road Halt, giving visitors a better opportunity to view them. The Balance Sheet is very encouraging indeed - financial matters are important especially when we consider development in addition to the immediate task of maintaining and improving working stock and track.

I would be pleased to see more participation by members however small - this is a must - it has the advantage of stimulating interest when one sees what goes on occasionally.

This report cannot be concluded without mention of the devoted members who regularly use hammers and spanners, fill hungry fire-boxes, refresh worn locomotives with a new coat of paint, heave sleepers, sell tickets and sweets, publicly announce that Leeds is the proud home of the world's oldest railway; all contributing to what we hope will enable Middleton to provide pleasure for visitors, a service for customers, and satisfaction to the efforts of members.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, may I ask that if any of you have new ideas which you think may inject a new look into our operation, please do not hesitate to forward them to the Secretary for consideration at our regular meetings.

Thank you all for your wonderful support during 1972, and even better in 1973.

Joseph K. Lee, Chairman.

### TRAFFIC MANAGER'S REPORT

Freight traffic figures from Robinson & Birdsell's were again down this year, the total tonnage being 4,645 compared with 5,360 last year and 5,832 the year before. Clayton's scrap traffic from Moor End to Robinson & Birdsell's has been only 6 tons, with nothing for over 6 months now. Traffic is still moving four or five days each week, and although we never run Friday trains there have been no troubles about demurrage charges. We still need more drivers and shunters from members living in Leeds, as we experience considerable difficulties in finding crews to move traffic in the University vacations.

Special visitors trains for organised parties have been a feature of the year, bringing in more than £50. Although usually diesel hauled, we did have a special steam day in June, when 500 children from five Leeds schools were carried. This alone brought in £22, and was much enjoyed by crews, teachers and children.

The figures for the regular visitors' service are given elsewhere.

Dr. G.D. Crapper, Traffic Manager.

Joseph K. Lee, Chairman.