



## Association

### Chairman

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### 8E Association Newsheet -No.1

Dear Member -

Here is the first 8E Association Newsheet. It is intended that a newsheet will be issued each month with a view to notifying members of details of visiting locomotives, works visits, committee decisions and all matters relating to railway interest that occur in our area. The newsheet is completely available for members' letters, information or articles and any contributions will be welcomed.

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The following officers were elected at the meeting on 19th November

- i. Chairman - Graham Roughsedge
- ii. Treasurer - Alan Cotterill
- iii. Secretary - Andrew Johnson
- iv. Tours Organiser - Pat Mullee
- v. Sales Officer - Peter Coulter
- vi. Materials Officers - Clive Barrow & Colin Worrall
- vii. Public Relations - Peter Turner & Alan Ashurst

Those elected thank members for their vote and look forward to continued support in the future. Efforts are being made to increase the membership with a view to expanding our range of activities thus producing more benefits for members and with the decidedly beneficial aspect of promoting local railway matters. Your committee meets every fortnight to discuss current issues and it is hoped that members will be satisfied with the outcome of the work to date, as detailed in this newsheet.

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An item of major importance is that British Rail have made the magnificent gesture of offering the L.M.S. Period 1 (c. 1924) Breakdown Coach currently sheltered in Northwich Shed, free of charge to the Association. There are no prohibitive stipulations entailed with this offer, which will be debated and the decision as to whether to accept or not, made at the next meeting. Members are asked to consider their viewpoint in this regard before the meeting, with the major factors for acceptance being :- storage facilities, accommodation

for crews and/or cleaners, also the coach will always be a saleable asset. Against acceptance:- Cost of restoration materials.

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We have to thank the Festiniog Railway local branch members for showing us their "Go With Noakes" film highlighting the F.R, at the last meeting, and for the information provided by their Assistant Works-Manager. They kindly offered to welcome any 8E Association members to their local meetings.

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Pat Mullee is working hard at his duties as Tours Organiser and it is gratifying to report that the Crewe Works visit on Jan. 10th is fully booked. It is of major importance to the Association that we make sure that Pat's efforts are rewarded, by filling every trip that he arranges. There are two factors that feature here - many members, particularly the younger ones, or those with children, are extremely keen to visit British Rail and independent railway establishments and we cannot in any way discourage the diesel and electric enthusiasts. However, the Association cannot afford to make a loss on tours. There is a lot of outlay involved and it is essential that every seat is occupied. Seats are available on the rail tour to B.R.E.L Doncaster Works on Sunday, Feb 7th the cost of this tour is:- Members & Railway men :-£9.50 (child£5.00), Non Members :- £10.00 (child-£6.00) It has been decided that a deposit will be accepted from Members, but Non-Members should pay fully in advance.

This visit should prove to be most interesting with possibilities of seeing Classes 31, 37, 50, & 56 being overhauled, class 56 being constructed (and with any luck, class 58) and certain members are certain to be scanning the area for class 55 "Deltics" awaiting the torch. Please contact Pat (Warrington 601914) for details.

Are you interested in a weekend's cleaning on the Severn Valley Railway? if so, contact Pat, because there are a limited number of seats available on a mini-bus leaving on the 29th December.

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As previously stated, it is felt that there is great interest in railways in the area but relatively few people are aware that the Association exists.

With the aim of correcting this situation, the relevant Press are being notified of our activities, and Members should look out for an article in the local "Guardian" series, and a small feature in the next issue of "Steam World" further information will be continued to be released to various publications as time goes by, in order to maintain Public awareness.

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We are most satisfied with the revenue obtained to date from the sale of the rail magazines, wagon plates, etc. that were donated by Members at the time of the previous appeal. If you have any further items that can be spared - can we have them? Peter Coulter's hall, stairs & landing are only half full of stock at the moment - let's fill the lot!

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The next meeting will be held on Jan. 26th at 8.00p.m., when Mr. Bolger will provide a slide show, and this will be followed by a further meeting on Feb. 23rd when Mr. G. Brogan will show a film covering the "Flying Scotsman" and describe activities at Carnforth. March's meeting is on the 23rd when Mr. G. Owen will provide a film show.

These meetings will be held at the British Rail Staff Association, Manchester Road, Northwich, which as Members who attended the last meeting will know, is more suited to our purposes than previous arrangements. This will however entail us joining the B.R.S.A. at £1.50, but it is hoped that members will accept this, particularly as membership entitles them to use the facilities at all times.

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In conclusion, if Members would like to contribute to the next newsheet, please let Peter Turner know (Northwich 76383) by 11th Jan. and do have a Merry Xmas and 'raily' good New Year.