



Association

Chairman

G. ROUGHSEGE
15 Cherry Tree Avenue
BARNTON
NORTHWICH

Tel: Northwich 782344

Secretary

A.A. JOHNSON
3 Farndon Close
CUDDINGTON
NORTHWICH

Tel: Northwich 882592

8-E Association Newsletter No. 5 April / May

This newsheet is concentrated mainly on the questionnaire at the end of this issue. Members are earnestly requested to consider the proposals and answer accordingly.

Recent activities

A number of members formed a working party on the Severn Valley Rly. at their Enthusiasts Weekend. An absolutely splendid time was had, and the reception from the S.V.R. staff was most friendly and appreciative of the help that was rendered by the 8-E Association. The coach trip that was arranged on the Sunday was successful so far as those travelling were concerned, but the coach was not filled and the financial aspect was a little unsatisfactory.

Meeting - April

We have to record our appreciation for Roger Nicolas's magnificent film record of the earlier years of B.R. steam which was shown during our meeting in April. Roger has, apparently, a further stock of similar film, and we are sure that his proven dexterity with ciné will be repeatedly requested for future meetings.

Forthcoming meeting

The next meeting will be on May 25 th. ,when the speaker will be Michael Draper, the knowledgeable, and sometimes controversial General Manager of the Severn Valley Rly., one of the premier independent railways in the country. Mr. Drapers agreeing to speak at our meeting is an indication of the high regard that is held of the 8-E Association at the S.V.R.

An interesting evening is assured, so could members please do their utmost to attend.

Future meetings - June 22 , July 13 , Aug 10 , Sept 7

Steam at Northwich -

Contrary to current railway press reports, members should be reassured. It is now common knowledge that the Welsh Marches Pullmans (northbound) will be run in the Autumn, and the locos will be based at Northwich.

+++++

Members viewpoint

The committee is disturbed by the poor response to some of their recent efforts, and are seeking guidance from the membership as a whole in order that their's and member's time is not wasted by unwanted projects.

For example, the tours organised to date have in general been poorly attended by members, and the attendance has largely come from the general public. A reasonable profit has accrued from the efforts to date, but as the tours are meant to be for the benefit of the membership, should we continue? Last minute attempts to fill the seats from outside are arduous to say the least, and Pat should not be asked to carry such a burden.

Newsheet -

The newsheet is a time consuming project for a number of persons, and as the contributions being received are limited to those from a few valuable members, the feeling is that the newsheet should either be discontinued or brought out as a quarterly issue.

Complaints have been received that the newsheet is too diesel orientated but that's the way the contributions have been coming in. Therefore if, as we are sure, members would like to see a greater steam content, they should take the opportunity to contribute.

Finance -

A major item, as always. The committee requires to know whether members feel that money accruing should be deposited to aid the finance of a future (unspecified) major project, or used to restore our coach, or should the Association be run as a non-profit-making organisation, and less emphasis be put on the sale of books, refreshments etc. Peter Coulter has gladly worked hard at the sales effort but his time, like everybody's is valuable, and if members do not feel that achieving a comfortable financial base is worthwhile, then Peter would not wish to waste further time.

The committee are keen to direct the group's future in the direction required by the membership, and now need some feedback of the members wishes. Membership is now approaching 100, but the fairly rapid advance in numbers has not been matched by an equal proportion of active contributors to projects.

Would you please answer the following questions, and either hand in your reply at the May meeting, or send it to - P. Turner,
95, Townfield Lane,
Barnton,
Northwich.

1. Do you think the 8-E Association should endeavour to continue it's Sales efforts in order to build up a solid financial base ?

YES NO

2. Do you wish that some proportion of the money accrued should be spent on the restoration of our coach ?

YES NO

3. The response from the group to tours has been disappointing; do you wish us to continue tours ?

YES NO

Any comments re. tours

4. Do you feel that the newsheet is worthwhile ? If it is not necessary there is little point in the work and expenditure involved

YES NO

Any comments re. newsheet

5. a) Do you see the 8-E Association as an informal gathering of railway enthusiasts, or -
b) Would you like all efforts to be made to develop a Railway Centre in Northwich ?

A. B.

6. Do you have any comments or suggestions on how you would like to see our group progress ?