



The Friends of the National Railway Museum

Briefing 20

South of England Group
Vice President - Captain Bill Smith VRD, RNR; Alan Pegler

December 2000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND NEW YEAR SOCIAL

The AGM and social evening will be held on January 2001, at the station meeting room, Marylebone Station. As always, the event is open to any member of the FNRM (whether living in the south of England or not). Guests are welcome at the social evening. Attendance at the AGM is free but for the social, a charge of £5 per head is made to cover the seasonal refreshments. If you would like to attend either the AGM only, or AGM and social, please return the enclosed slip to George Rutter (see address overleaf), with cheque for £5 made out the "FNRM South of England Group" if you are attending the social.

The AGM will start at 19.00 and, as usual, will be kept short. Two South of England Group committee members are due to come to the end of their term, George Rutter and Roy Bell; both are willing to stand for re-election. If you wish to nominate another person, please feel free to do so but do check that he/she is willing and notify George Rutter.

Doors will be open from 18.30. The door will be locked and may be unmanned after 19.00. If you arrive after that time please telephone 07715 549907, 07740 676021, or 07767 641757 and someone will be down to let you in.

SoE Group Donation to NRM

In Briefing No 18, it was noted that the South of England Group has set aside £5000 towards the "Works" project at the Museum. It has now been agreed that £3313 of this will be used towards the cost of a storage and display cabinet for small items. The cabinet will be similar to the one currently in the "Works" which houses the collection of carriage keys, amongst other things. The photograph, below, shows the current cabinet. The donation will be recognised by a plaque on the side of the cabinet and we hope it will be seen and enjoyed by people for many years to come.

OUTREACH EVENTS

The Museum provided several of the exhibits at the Old Oak Common open days, held on 6 & 7 August. These included, Green Arrow, City of Truro, the O4, and Pannier. The outreach stand was present, located in the locomens changing rooms, which also housed the model railway display as well as several other railway charity and company stands. Unlike the sales stands in the "Factory", we had a reasonable amount of space and the temperatures didn't rise quite as high in the strong sunshine (yes there was a weekend when it didn't rain this summer!) We had a steady throughput of people partly explained by the fact that we were close by the area where the official ceremonies were being held. One of these was highly relevant, the handing over by EWS of the first English Electric Type 3, D6700, to the Museum. The loco had been freshly cleaned and looked very smart in its BR green livery. The "National Railway Museum" nameplates were fixed to its side, as they have been for its last period of service on the national network. In accepting the engine on behalf of the Museum, Andrew Scott drew on his memories of first setting eyes on the engine when trainspotting in the '60s. He never thought he would be in the position of being given it! Referring to the other national collection exhibits at the event, he said it was unusual to send 5 locos and come back with 6! By the time you read this the loco will be at York and hopefully it should not be too long before it is on display. Our thanks to Andrew Scott and Richard Gibbons who spent time at the stand, and to the people who manned the stand over the very busy days - there must be quite a number of visitors who are now planning a visit to York as a result.

The stand has paid two visits to the Shuttleworth Collection at Old Warden. The first was the annual Vintage Transport meeting on 20 August, which is marked by an extensive collection of visiting vintage and classic cars. Sir William McAlpine was only one of the prestigious visitors to our stand during the day. Our second event at Old Warden was the final flying display of the year on 1 October. We are becoming well known at this event, so much so that we had our first visitor even before we had set up who wished to reserve his regular copy of the NRM calendar. Christmas cards were also in big demand and we distributed a considerable amount of NRM literature, virtually running out by the end of the day.

We were invited by Chiltern Railways to attend an event to celebrate the refurbishment of Banbury Station on 9 September and our model railway season commenced at Aldershot on 14 and 15 October for the Farnham club event. Once again, we attended the Colchester Model Railway Exhibition on 28 & 29 October. This year we were given the prime spot, right next to the entry/exit. Although this meant we had to turn away a number of people who wanted to pay us for entry, it did mean that everyone attending had the opportunity to notice us - that even applied to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress!

We went with some trepidation on 4 and 5 November to the National Exhibition Centre for the Warley Model Railway exhibition. This was because stand space is quite expensive and it is at the limits of our travel area (especially in view of the floods, and rail disruption due to Railtrack's imposed speed restrictions). Despite this we managed to provide personnel to cover both days of the show (albeit that one of our number had to set out at 5.30am!). It actually turned out to be a great success. Attendance for the two days at the exhibition was around 13,000, justifying the claim that this is THE national model railway exhibition. With over 200 stands and exhibits, there was plenty of competition for attention. The stand attracted a good deal of interest and we distributed quite a lot of advice about the museum - including dispelling some concern about the effect of the York flooding on the NRM. Turnover for these model railway events was around £2000.

Our next outreach event is to the East Bedfordshire Model Railway Exhibition at Biggleswade on 17 February 2001. Perhaps we will see you there.