



ENGINEERING REPORT

Now free from isolation deep in the tunnel, Geoff Symes our CME reports.

I am writing this on Saturday the 24 of July the day before we recommence Public Running, Hooray, it's been a long time coming. The forecast is for rain and thunder, but I don't mind if it does because it's just great to be back doing what we love after such a long-enforced break. We in the Engineering Dept. are ready in all respects, track, coaches, signalling and locomotives poised for the off. The drivers and track controllers have been refreshed on running procedures so that we can get back to what we do best without further delay.

Locomotive Maintenance is a topic coming back into focus as we return to normal. Actually, a great deal of effort has been applied by Brian Hunt and his team of boiler inspectors already and the task of recertification of-out-of-test locomotives has been under way for some time in readiness for Club and Public running resumption.

Recommissioning of our 2-8-0 loco 'Worsfold' revealed a defect in its running gear. The left hand or near side main crankpin had loosened in its wheel seating causing it to shift rotationally upsetting the position of the return crank attached to its outer end, and the consequent loss of valve events. Repairs are under way which will include relocking the crankpin as well as rebushing the coupling rods and the connecting rod. On completion of this work the loco will be bench tested on air in order to reset the valve timing.

In a way the previous has been quite fortunate because since the loco repair team had a vacancy, due to the sad passing of our dear friend and expert loco engineer Alan Norman, a suggestion was made from our Chairman that we ask Mostyn Thompson to join Jim Ledger and reform the Locomotive Repair Department. While Mostyn admits to not having any previous experience with steam engines. His Engineering Background is beyond question, a quiet modest man who will not thank me for saying so.

Previously I have discussed in my reports the possibility of assistance for members with boiler soldering at the club site. The advantages of bringing together the expertise and equipment together on site are beyond doubt judging by the number of members declaring interest in such a scheme. This proposal has been discussed at length by committee and generally accepted in principle subject to capital expenditure estimates for equipment and consumables, to be sought by Glen Payne. Health And Safety, Risk Assessment etc. by Leigh Gibbins and Insurance liability particularly in relation to the use and storage of gas bottles by the Hon Treasurer. I can report that these aspects are still being looked into and I will give another update as soon as we have the full facts.

Geoff.



SECRETARIAL SCRIBINGS

Leigh Gibbins reports.

From gentle beginnings we look forward to a slow but purposeful return to normal club activities The start of our public running was a good taster to our return to normality. Apart from the weather it was a good day but without the usual crowd of visitors that could have swamped us on our initial run

August greets us with a full diary;- public running, a private party, the AGM in the evening of the 26th and a Saturday Steam-Up on the 28th.

Accompanying the AGM will be a memorial tribute to those members who have sadly passed away during the last 18 months or so.

We hope to see the return of our Thursday club evenings. The first is scheduled for the evening of the 12th August, and from then onwards we hope to bring the club members together and continue with our usual bi-monthly meetings.

If current guidelines go to plan we should be holding our annual Charity Day on September 12th in aid of Ferring Country Centre. This is followed the next week with Green Dreams Day on the 19th organised by Field Place. This event attracts organisations and charities based in the area and we will have the railway operating too

I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces as we open up to more members

Wishing you all a good summer.

Leigh.

MEDICAL DEFINITIONS

ARTERY	The study of paintings
BACTERIA	Back door of cafeteria
BENIGN	What you be after you be eight
CAT SCAN	A searchfor lost kitty
CAUTERISE	Made eye contact with her
COLIC	A sheep dog
COMA	A punctuation mark
ENEMA	Not a friend
FESTER	Faster than someone else
FIBULAR	A small lie
IMPOTENT	Distinguished, well known
LABOUR PAIN	Getting hurt at work
MEDICAL STAFF	A doctor's cane
NITRATES	Rates of pay for working at night
NODE	I always knew it
OUTPATIENT	A person who has fainted