



British Section

Vol.11 No.4

Newsletter

Summer 2007

European Association of Railway Personnel

International Association (A.R. 28.12.2005)

**International Non-governmental Organisation with permanent advisory
status to the Council of Europe**

**European World Association with a consultative relationship with the UN
(decision E/ 2002/222/) and member of ECOSOC**

**A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION NEWSLETTER, Vol. 11 No. 4
SUMMER 2007**

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**A separate membership application form
is enclosed.**

The European web page is at: <http://www.A-E-C.net>

AEC France is at www.aecfrance.eu/ (NEW)

AEC Italy is at www.aecitalia.org

AEC Latvia is at www.ldz.lv/biedriba/

AEC Spain is at www.aec-es.org

AEC Poland is at www.aecpl.republika.pl (*Private site, not officially recognised.*)

AEC Austria is at www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf

AEC in Romania is at www.aecaferom.xhost.ro (NEW)

The **British Section Website** is at <http://www.aec-europe.org.uk>. You can also find the British Section Newsletter on line at the French and European websites by clicking on to the labelled link, and also at the ASLEF District 5 website at <http://www.aslef-dc5.org.uk/Members/europa.htm>

Editorial: A note from the President.

I have delayed the publication of this edition out of necessity, since I have been away at European Days in Romania. But it gives me an opportunity to report briefly on what went on. The programme followed pretty well that previously published in these pages, and generally went well. There were a few problems, but hardly within the control of the organisers. Most of the visits involved crossing Bucharest; where the traffic makes London seem like a country lane. Also, at one of the visits, the entry procedure and allocation of guides was so slow as to preclude the completion of the day's programme. But we met friends and enjoyed ourselves. Even in committee we were able to resolve the major differences with the Italian section. There are still differences of opinion, which we all hope will be finally resolved at the next Congress in Lyon in Autumn 2008. We are concerned though that we have not had details yet from the French section about the programme and the dates. We thank the Romanian section for an enjoyable event. Also, at the committee meeting, the proposal for European days in York in Autumn 2009, was accepted, despite the high price (in European terms) so we can proceed with the detailed planning. We shall need all the support we can get from the members of the British section, if the event is to succeed. What we have in mind is detailed elsewhere in this issue. About a dozen people at the Bucharest event have already expressed the desire to attend.

One point that we must consider is how we might deal with the multilingual aspect of European Days. While the usual arrangements were made in Romania, and worked well in the committee meeting, they were less successful when a large number of people were addressed by one person in a language not understood by the majority, relying on whispered translations as the speech progressed, which resulted in a lot of background chatter and loss of interest. Perhaps a better solution would involve forward planning to find out beforehand the main points of the address, so that each person present can have in their hand a printed résumé in a language they understand. In some instances these may be available already, in which case we'd need to get copies supplied. This might well prove to be a better (and cheaper) solution, if perhaps rather less personal. Your comments and offers to translate would be appreciated, since computer generated translations are usually incomprehensible. We'd be looking at having leaflets in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The British section of AEC is in contact with the management of the new International terminal for London, at St Pancras station, to organise a visit to the facilities and enjoy a reception in the first class lounge of the terminal.

The date has not been finalised and will be dependent on the Eurostar programme, probably at the **end of October or early November**. To access the terminal we will be asked to proceed through the ticket and immigration controls, to ensure that everything is working properly before the service opens to the public on Wednesday 14th November. We hope to attract a good crowd of people of many different nationalities. For the event to be finalised, we need to give numbers and details of the people coming (for tickets), **before the end of June 2007**.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have friends who might be interested, please pass on this message. We have had a good response from those who have been told already of the event.

Our monthly London Reunions continue to take place at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' in Whitehall, on the second Thursday of each month. We are there from approx 16h15 until about 18h45. The regulars would be delighted to see some new (and old) faces.

Philip Worsfold and the production team.

Recruitment

Bright ideas should be discussed with Bob Clark. Enquiries about membership should be addressed to **Bill Andrews**. Their addresses and phone numbers are given below.

There is a separate membership application form with this edition of the newsletter. Please use it if you are able to recruit a new member. Recruit seven members and get your next year's subscription free!

COMMITTEE

Following the Annual General meeting in April, the committee is now as follows:

Honorary President:

Theo Steel (Project Director ONE Railway)

Past Honorary President:

Malcolm Southgate OBE (formerly Deputy Director, Eurostar)

Honorary Vice-president:

Colin Charman, MCIT, Eurostar (UK) Ltd,

President:

Philip Worsfold, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.

Vice-president:

Patrick Rigby,

Secretary:

Gerry Atkin M.I.L.T.

Assistant Secretary:

Peter Davies,

Visits Secretary (Co-opted):

At the Annual general meeting, this post was left vacant on a temporary basis.

Treasurer and Membership Secretary:

Bill Andrews,

Recruitment Secretary:

Bob Clark,

Auditor:

Mike Hill

PEOPLE**Linda Travis**

The British section has been instrumental in arranging representation at the United Nations in New York. As a member of the UN Economic and Social Council, and being recognised by the UN Transport Commission, we have the right of representation at various meetings in Vienna, Geneva and in New York. Whilst AEC has members in Vienna and within striking distance of Geneva, attending meetings in New York presented problems to an organisation whose coffers are not exactly overflowing.

Your European President, Jean-Pierre Estival, asked if the British Section could offer any suggestions and your national president sought the advice of those he thought might be able to help. The idea was to recruit someone in the States, who could act as AEC's representative, receive notices of meetings and attend such as suited them; and to send on to the European President any reports received. Theo Steel, our Honorary President proved his worth by suggesting an acquaintance in the United States who was not too far removed from the Big Apple (in their terms anyway!) Oddly enough another member suggested the same person. In the event he was unable to help and felt he was based too far from New York. But he suggested someone else – someone who Theo had, in fact also met previously. That was Linda Travis. She was contacted and sent details of our organisation and was kind enough to accept our request. I thought you should be told about this arrangement and know who Ms Travis is. I can do no better than quote what her proposer had to say.

“Ms. Linda F. Travis ... has been a career railway woman. She started with Metro-North Railway, which operates all commuter trains out of New York's Grand Central Terminal, and later moved to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's New York City Transit Authority, which operates all rapid transit within New York City and most buses as well.

“In addition to being an officer of MTA/NYCTA, Ms. Travis is President of the Metropolitan Association of Railroad Officers, a member of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents, and an officer of the Women's Transportation Seminar. Theo Steel met her in 1997 when the Metropolitan Association of Railroad Officers helped to host an inspection trip for the Railway Study Association US Study Tour on which he and his wife participated.

“Ms. Travis lives ... about 50 miles (from) New York City, and she is in New York City every day for her work. She would make an excellent representative, who would carry out the role for AEC before this august body with dignity and aplomb.”

With a testimonial like that, who could refuse – particularly when she agreed to take the job on? Ms Travis has been put in touch with Jean-Pierre Estival, so that details of the necessary contacts and dates of meetings can be provided, and other arrangements agreed.

I should like to take the opportunity of welcoming Ms Travis to the world of AEC. I hope she finds it as fascinating as I do.

Philip Worsfold.

TRAVEL NEWS

REPTA

There is a festive party week-end break, organised by Warners for REPTA at Thoresby Hall Historic Hotel and Spa from Friday 30th November to Monday 3rd December 2007. Details and booking forms are available from Peter Davies – see committee list for E-mail address.

EUROPEAN DAYS and OTHER EUROPEAN EVENTS

The current position is as follows:

17th – 22nd Sept 2007 European Days in **Burgenland, Austria.** (Booking closed.) 25th – 31st May 2008 European Days in **Antwerp, Belgium.**
Autumn 2008 European Days and Congress in **Lyon, France.**
24th – 30th May 2009 European Days in Lüneburg, Germany
Autumn 2009 European Days in **York, England.**

Forthcoming events in the German Programmes are;

Juni 2007.	RV Wittenberge Besuch Eisenbahn Museum Salzwedel
13.06.2007	RV Rostock Vortrag „Weißer Ring“
16.06.2007	RV Hamburg Matjesessen in Glückstadt u. Stadtführung
30.06.2007	RV Buchholz Sommerfest
Juni/Juli 2007	RV Frankfurt Sommerfest
Juli 2007	RV Wittenberge Radtour
27.07.2007.	OV Berlin Gartenparty
Juli/Aug 2007.	RV Hamburg Grillfeier
Aug 2007.	RV Wittenberge Biergartenabend bei Reiner
Aug 2007.	RV Frankfurt Weinwanderung
Sept 2007.	RV Wittenberge Besichtigung Ausbildungsstätte DGZfP
03-10 09.07	RV Hagen Reise in Tschechische Republik
08.09.2007.	RV Hamburg Vorstandssitzung beim OV Berlin
08.09.2007.	GV Sitzung in Hannover
12.09.2007.	RV Rostock Vortrag „Erste Hilfe“
06.10.2007.	HV Sitzung in Frankfurt (Main)

Europäische Treffen

17.09. – 22.09.2007 Europäische Tage im Burgenland, Österreich

25.05. – 31.05.2008 Europäische Tage in Antwerpen, Belgien

Herbst 2008 Europäische Tage und Hauptversammlung
in Lyon, Frankreich

24.05. – 30.05.2009 Europäische Tage in Lüneburg, Deutschland

PROPOSED AEC EUROPEAN DAYS, YORK 2009

First Draft Programme:

SUNDAY TO FOLLOWING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER /OCTOBER 2009

All prices are quoted in Pounds Sterling (GBP)

SUNDAY: Arrival of some delegates at Ramada Encore Hotel Central York, in Double/Twin or (with supplement) single room:

Executive Committee meeting.

MONDAY: Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel, Central York.

Executive Committee meeting (continued, all day if necessary).

Most delegates arrive today by air/rail.

Afternoon Walking Tour & visit to York Minster.

Evening Meal in Hotel (including one drink)

TUESDAY: Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Visit to Whitby & Countryside inc Fish & Chip lunch.

OR Herriot Country, inc lunch & visit to James Herriott Centre.

Evening meal in Russells Carvery (Exclusive use)(incl. 1 drink)

WEDNESDAY: Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Guided visit to Castle Howard (including language translations, verbal or printed.) including lunch with one non alcoholic drink.

Evening Medieval Banquet in York.

THURSDAY Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Visit to North Yorkshire Moors Railway, including train ride, with 'Bread and cheese and a pint' for lunch.

Evening meal at hotel.

FRIDAY: Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Morning: Civic Reception York

Lunch at Betty's Restaurant, York.

Afternoon: Visit to Jorvik Centre

Gala Dinner at National Railway Museum York (Railway Platform), with entertainment.

SATURDAY Breakfast in Ramada Encore Hotel Central York.

Time for shopping; departure of delegates.

The total price for one person sharing a double room is estimated at **£433** per person. This is an 'order of cost' budget price and the final price is yet to be decided, since hotels and venues have not yet set their 2009 prices. Hopefully it will not exceed this figure.

Single room supplement **£30** per day.

Extra for Sunday arrival (committee) **£40** (twin) **£70** (single) excluding evening meal.

EUROPEAN DAYS IN BELGIUM - 25th to 31st MAY 2008
ANTWERP, BRUSSELS, LEUVEN, MECHELEN (BRUGES optional)

Sunday 25th May 2008:

Arrival of the Members of the Executive Council in Antwerp.

15.00 Meeting of the Executive Council

19.00 Dinner

Monday 26th May 2008:

Arrival of other participants in Antwerp

For the Executive Council:

07.30 Breakfast

09.00 Continuation of the Executive Council meeting

12.00 Departure by 'bus of the Executive Council to Brussels

13.00 Lunch in the European Parliament restaurant

14.30 Visit of the Executive Council to the European Parliament

16.30 Return to hotel

19.00 Official opening of the Belgium European Days May 2008

Dinner followed by Folk dancing

Tuesday 27th May 2008:

IN THE CITY OF ANTWERP - the HARBOUR

08.00 Breakfast

09.00 Tour of Antwerp harbour by 'bus

13.00 Boat excursion on the Scheldt with lunch on board

18.00 Return to hotel

19.00 Dinner followed by a Musical evening

Wednesday 28th May 2008:

VISIT TO LEUVEN (University) and the Arch-diocese of MECHELEN

07.30 Breakfast

08.45 Departure to LEUVEN

10.00 Walk in the centre city

11.00 Tour of Leuven by 'bus

12.00 Lunch in Leuven at the 'Waaiberg' restaurant

14.00 Reception in Leuven Town hall

15.30 Departure to MECHELEN

16.30 Visit to the brewery "Het Anker" (The Anchor)

Beer tasting – Walk in the centre city

19.00 Dinner in Mechelen at 'The Atrium' restaurant'

21.00 Return to Antwerp

Thursday 29th May 2008: Visit to BRUSSELS Capital of Belgium and Europe

07.45 Breakfast

08.45 Departure to BRUSSELS

10.00 Visit of the Heysel site + Atomium

12.00 Walk in the centre city

13.15 Lunch at the 'Manneken' restaurant

16.00 Reception in Brussels Town Hall

18.00 Departure by 'bus to GRIMBERGEN

19.00 Dinner at the 'Fenikshof' restaurant Grimbergen

21.00 Return to Antwerp

Friday 30th May 2008 : ANTWERP City

- 08.00 Breakfast
- 09.00 Free morning
- 10.00 Optional visit to 'Diamond' Land
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.30 Visit to St. Paul's Church (more than 50 paintings by famous Antwerp masters such as Rubens, Van Dyck and Jordaens
– over 200 sculptures, and splendid baroque altars)
- 16.00 Reception in Antwerp Town Hall
- 19.30 Official closing of the Belgium European Days May 2008
Dinner

Saturday 31th May 2008 : END

- 07.00 Breakfast
Departure of all the participants

OPTIONAL

Saturday 31th May 2008 : BRUGES 'The Venice of The North'

- 07.00 Breakfast
- 08.00 Departure to BRUGES by 'bus
- 10.00 Arrival in Bruges
Walk along the Rijen - Minnewater canals, Beguinage
(Community houses for a sisterhood of women not bound by vows, first established in Holland by Lambert le Bègue in the late 12th Century) and Lace making centre
- 13.00 Departure to MALDEGEM by 'bus
- 13.30 Lunch
- 15.00 Visit to the Maldegem Steam train museum and ride on the Steam train'
- 17.00 Return to Antwerp
- 19.00 Dinner

Sunday 1th June 2008

- 07.00 Breakfast
- 08.00 Departure of all the participants

THIS PROGRAMME CAN CHANGE

TO TAKE PART IN EUROPEAN DAYS IN BELGIUM

- The price for the days from dinner 26th May to after breakfast 31st May 2008:

€530(per person sharing double room)

- Supplement for additional day: **€75**

- Supplement for single room per night: **€20**

- Members of the Executive Committee:

- The price for the days from dinner 25th May to after breakfast on 31st May 2008, plus 'bus to the European Parliament:

€630(per person sharing double room)

- The price for the days from dinner 25th May to after breakfast on 27th May 2008:

€150(per person sharing double room)

- Optional outing to Bruges and Maldegem on 31st May 2008:

€125

The price includes:

- All meals with one drink
- All outings with guide
- Hotel accommodation (all rooms have bath/shower and toilet)
- The official opening and closing evenings with music

Registration for the days and deposit to be paid on or before 15th January 2008
The deposit is €250 per person

The balance of €280 to be paid at the latest on or before **15th MARCH 2008**.

We would like each section to send a list of their participants with the following information:

- Surname, first name and address
- Single or double room
- Date and time of arrival
- Date and time of departure

Booking through the British section:

Bookings can be arranged through the British section, as for previous European Days. To be included, you should send a **deposit of £200** per person to Philip Worsfold by **Friday 28th December 2007 at the very latest. Cheques should be made payable to Philip Worsfold.** The deposit includes an allowance for bank transfer costs. Any excess will be credited towards the final payment.

The event is arranged by the Belgian section of AEC, which is the responsible organiser. Payment through the British section is offered purely to minimise the cost of money transfer. It is not acting as a travel agency and does not make travel arrangements. Neither the British section of AEC, nor any individual officer thereof can accept responsibility for any problems arising. You will be responsible personally for your payments and for any losses that may be incurred. You are advised to take out appropriate insurance cover.

If you wish to book individually, registration and deposit should be sent on or before 15th JANUARY 1008 to:

ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES CHEMINOTS - Afdeling België
Josée WILLEMS

Email: josee1.willems@skynet.be + FAX + 32 16 22 94 98

Payments to be made to:

FORTIS BANK, 1950 – KRAAINEM – Belgique
ASS EUROPEENNE DES CHEMINOTS, SECTION BELGE

NB: All necessary costs will be added for any cancellations after 10th April 2008

ON THE LINE WITH LENNIE GIRLING.....THE DULLINGHAM LOOP.

For the structures department and for me in particular Sunday can be just another working day; and it's objective is to examine line side structures such as bridges, culverts, signals and huts and such like.

Dullingham is situated on the Cambridge to Haughley Junction line, its line or route code is what we in the railway industry call CCH, this line is a little over 40 miles long and I have walked every part of it this year but the loop is red zone prohibited' which means no work can take place until the line is blocked to trains. It is my job as COSS, controller of site safety, to block the line with T2H protection (*this is a reference to the particular section and paragraph in the railway rule book, which deals with taking possession of the line*) and to patrol and examine these structures.

The loop is protected by two controlling signals DH3 and DH4 leading in from a single line each end but before the work starts it is usual to walk the length of the block and take note where these signals are situated with the aid of the signaller (or signaller as they are called today in the world of the politically correct), which I did on Friday with the signaller on duty that day. On Sunday I am due to put the block out at 08h00 as planned and agreed by both of us.

As I turn into the station car park the signaller is sitting in the box, opposite the signal panel; the door is open and he turns to look at me as I drive in and gives me a little smile. I acknowledge his gesture and park up. I gather my documents and walk up into the box where he greets me. We discuss the job and the protection arrangements; we test the phones for communications and as 08h00 approaches I ask him for permission to put out my protection. He gives the permission for the protection to be placed at the signals. I walk down the line from the box towards the length I am protecting, place my protection at the designated signal DH4 and then drive up to the other end of the line via a farm track and block signal DH3. I inform the signaller that the protection is in place by using the crossing phone; he gives me the authority number and a time to call back to give up the possession. I fill in my form RT3181 and repeat the information back. Now I can work safely.

After patrolling the line and making my notes, I have finished. I walk back to the crossing and advise the signaller that I am going to give up my protection and take up the block and when this is done I tell him so. I declare that "The line is safe for trains to run upon." I repeat the authority number back to him, he gives me a time and makes an entry in the train register and signs it; the job is finished now and it is time to return home.

An illustrated version of this article will be available on the British section's website, or printed, on request to the President, enclosing a stamped (small size) addressed C5 envelope. Ed.

RECENT EVENTS...

We have continued to meet at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' once a month but the last quarter was dominated by our Annual General meeting in April, and European days in May. Both are commented upon elsewhere in this edition.

... AND THINGS TO COME

- Reunions in London continue to take place at the ‘**Lord Moon of the Mall**’ on the **second Thursday of each month**, so the dates from now on are, **14th June, 12th July, 9th August and 13th September 2007**.

Please remember that, generally, the last Wednesday of the month is earmarked for possible lunchtime talks and visits. Forthcoming ‘**last Wednesday**’ dates are **27th June**, when we shall visit Norwich for lunch at the ‘Compleat Angler’ – just across the river from the station, and meet Julian Woods who will tell us about the web-site (Trains from London, Liverpool Street at 10h00, 10h30 and 11h00, journey time just under two hours); then, **25th July** for a visit to Nottingham (brewery) (Trains from London St Pancras at 09h30 and 10h30, journey time just under two hours). Subsequent ‘last Wednesdays’ are **29th August** (Waterloo – Wimbledon and Beckenham Junction for lunch at the ‘George’ and **26th September**. Further details are available from John Woods by e-mail to

jauwoods@googlemail.com

The British section of AEC is in contact with the management of the new international terminal for London, at St Pancras station, to organise a visit to the facilities and enjoy a reception in the first class lounge of the terminal.

The date has not been finalised and will be dependent on the Eurostar programme, probably at the end of October or early November. To access the terminal we will be asked to proceed through the ticket and immigration controls, to ensure that everything is working properly before the service opens to the public on Wednesday 14th November. We hope to attract a good crowd of people of many different nationalities. For the event to be finalised, we need to give numbers and details of the people coming (for tickets), before the end of June 2007.

If you are interested, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have friends who might be interested, please pass this message on.

You can contact Philip Worsfold by e-mail, or by post – see Committee list for addresses.

ASSOCIATION TIES AND BADGES.

In common with other sections, the British section of the Association has a necktie and a badge. Our particular items are common to both the British and Belgian sections. We have produced the ties and the Belgian section, the badges. I am sorry that we do not have a specific item for ladies.

Ties are now available, at £4.50 plus postage, and badges are again in stock in small numbers, at £1.50 each, including postage. These items are available from **the President, Philip Worsfold**. Please contact him first by phone to check availability.

GREAT BRITAIN ALL LINE TIMETABLE THOMAS COOK EUROPEAN TIMETABLE

John Woods, holds a copy of the last Great Britain All Line Timetable, and can be consulted for train times. Publication of this useful document has now ceased but details are available on line, and on CD-Rom (Platform 5 Publications, Sheffield).

Philip Worsfold has a recent Cooks European Rail and Shipping Services timetable, publication of which is set to continue. This timetable also contains the majority of British services in a succinct, abbreviated form.

You should note that throughout the European Union, railways have now adopted common dates for timetable changes. The next co-ordinated change will be on 9th December 2007, although there have been sufficient supplementary changes on some of the UK network from 20th May to warrant the publication of the new (and last) national timetable. There will also be supplementary European timetable changes on 10th June 2007.

AND FOR THE FUTURE?

We shall endeavour to continue the production of these three-monthly newsletters to get information to you. They will still be mostly information with just the occasional article. So please, put pen to paper. We need to build up a library of articles. Please keep in touch and let us have your information, your views and your ideas. Next copy deadline is **17th August 2007**.

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the British section, held at the Royal Oak, 44 Tabard St London SE1 on 26th April 2007 at 16.30hrs.

Attending: P Worsfold (President) P Davies (Asst Sec) W Andrews (Treasurer & Membership Sec) P Rigby (vice President) J Batts, D Robinson, M Southgate (Hon Past President).

1. **Apologies for absence.**

Mike Hill, John Woods, Bob Clark, Gerry Atkin, Mike Atkin & Jenny Worsfold.

2. **Minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting held 26th April 2006.**

The Minutes of the meeting were read & accepted by all present as a true record. (Proposed M Southgate seconded D Robinson).

3. **Matters Arising.**

(a) J Batts had completed the task of transferring our video collection to DVD.

(b) The Annual Dinner (15 attended) took place successfully in March.

4. **Correspondence.**

P Worsfold advised that the Secretary had not indicated any correspondence issues to discuss. Theo Steel should be thanked for his assistance in finding a person to represent AEC in New York. (More details later in the meeting).

Philip also advised that the European Secretary had refused to accept amendment proposals submitted by the Italians to the Statutes after the closing date of 31 December 2006.

5. **Presidents Report.**

As printed in the appendix.

PW advised of a possible visit/invitation to Eurostar at St Pancras just before official opening. It is required to know numbers by end of June. The President will repeat the details to AEC members, as no responses had been received to date. The original may not have reached everyone due to computer relay problem.

6. **Reports from Officers**

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Visits Secretary: Covered in President's report – see Appendix.

Membership Secretary: 87 members (+ 3 final reminders), one new member in the year, one enquiry. We also lost a few members in the year. Capitation was agreed on 87 at 1.75 Euro per person. (If not below 50 no effect on voting rights).

Recruitment Secretary: Nothing to report. (Details of advert for REPTA Yearbook 2008 required to be submitted by early September).

[This has now been done, May 2007]

7. Treasurer Report:

Balance sheet as audited distributed. Current balance very slightly down on the year at £2,723.49. An explanation was given. After discussion it was agreed that the present level of subscription at £5 remains for 2007.

The President was asked that in future the AGM Agenda indicate that a free buffet is provided. It was hoped this would encourage additional attendance. (Proposed M Southgate seconded P Rigby). **Agreed.**

8. Election of Officers:

President (P Worsfold) & Vice President (P Rigby) continue until 2010.

Secretary: G Atkin.

Asst. Secretary: P Davies

Treasurer: W Andrews.

Visits Secretary: In abeyance. The Committee to agree a way forward by the end of August 2007.

Recruitment Secretary: B Clark.

All above positions elected. Proposed P Davies, Seconded J Batts.

9. Appointment of Auditor:

All present thanked Mike Hill for his work and agreed that he be appointed to continue in this position.

10. Nomination of delegates for Congress (New Belgian Law)-2008 Lyon:

The AGM decided that the British section President and Vice President should be approved & that they decide other nominations as necessary within the Rules, once dates were known. This concerned Romania in May 2007 & Austria September 2007.

11. Amendments to the European Statutes:

The President advised that the matter had been moved forward by a vote that a College of Presidents would action amendments. PW had translated the document and submitted the proposed British section amendments to the European President, European General Secretary and other interested parties.

This document had then been submitted to the Belgian Authorities for approval. The amendments would be discussed, agreed and implemented at the forthcoming Lyon Congress, which would lead to another approval submission under Belgian Law.

The Italian delegation had submitted further amendments but they were not received until after close off date of 31/12/06 and had, therefore, been rejected by the European General Secretary.

12. Dates & venues for Forthcoming European Days.

These were as printed in the AEC British section Newsletter, Spring 2007.

13. Appointment of AEC representative to UN in New York.

Linda Travis had been appointed - a real feather in the cap of AEC British section. The great assistance of Theo Steel was acknowledged. It was accepted by Linda that the post was voluntary. AEC was only looking for reports as meetings came up. On a motion proposed by John Batts and seconded Malcolm Southgate, it was agreed that Linda be elected as an Honorary Member of AEC, British section.

14 Events Programme:

Not many events were yet organised for 2007. Norwich on 27th June and Nottingham on 25th July, on the last Wednesday of each month, were the only visits planned so far.

15. The Future of the Video/TV:

After discussion it was agreed to ask Theo Steel to keep the equipment in his office for as long as practical and, thereafter, to dispose of at his discretion.

16. Any Other Business:

P Rigby lead a discussion on the day of the week (currently Thursday) used for the regular social gatherings in London -to remain Thursday for the present. J Batts to compile a tick box questionnaire for the President to distribute & send out to members to see if a change was favoured.

The President mentioned the possible visit from our French colleagues planned to the UK. He had suggested to them that the weekend of the Eurostar event in the autumn might be a sensible & good focus for their trip. A response was awaited. *[A positive response now received – May 2007.]*

Bill Andrews indicated a wish & agreement to organise a family AEC day on the South coast in the summer. He will supply details to the President in time for the next newsletter.

17. Proposed Date & venue for AGM 2008.

Agreed at the same venue, The Royal Oak, Tabard Street, London on **Thursday 24 April 2008 at 16.30 hrs.**

The meeting Closed 18.20 hrs.

Appendix

Report of the President to the 19th Annual General Meeting, 26th April 2007

The British section has continued during the past 12 months much in the way it did the previous year. There has been a modest regular turnout at our Thursday early evening 'get togethers' at the Lord Moon of the Mall and this has proved a good forum for discussion. The use of e-mail has proved a boon when wanting comment on ideas, particularly from Europe, when the need for a rapid response precludes a meeting face to face. On the subject of Europe, there has been little to report since the withdrawal of Italian members from posts within the European Bureau and commissions; until recently that is, when the postponed Italian inspired 'conference' on the future of AEC in Europe finally took place. It was noteworthy that the former Italian member of the European Bureau was considered not to have resigned. Nonetheless, I feel some good has come of the event, if recent reports are correct. There now seems at last to be some consensus regarding the 'fine tuning' of the European statutes, with a raft of proposals to be considered at the next 'Congress'

in Lyon in the autumn of 2008. Your President has been busy translating these proposals into English and inserting them into the current English version of the document, which is vital not just to the British section, but also to all those sections, which do not have French or German as their second language. One or two small omissions were noted in the former document, the most important of which is the future requirement for the forwarding to the European Bureau of a copy of our annual balance sheet and accounts. Also importance to us was a proposal to change the date at which we declare the number of members (to calculate the capitation). However, at present these are proposals. Otherwise the changes will have minimal effect. Your representatives at Executive committee meetings and Congress will be fully briefed. If you wish to receive a copy of the document – 22 pages please let your President know. A stamped (large letter) addressed A5 size envelope would be appreciated. Amendments will follow to the internal regulations. These deal with the way the European bureau and executive, and the Congress, should conduct their business.

We have been represented in both series of European Days in the past 12 months – in Cordoba, Spain in June 2006, and in Kudowa Zdroj, Poland, in September. Both were thoroughly worthwhile, well organised and enjoyable events. There will be four British section members in Romania, next month, and six are going to Austria in September. At the Executive committee meeting in Romania, we shall learn if our proposal for European Days in York, in September 2009 has found favour.

Perhaps our big breakthrough has been this month. In view of our status as an international advisory organisation to the EU and to the UN, we have the right to representation at certain meetings in Geneva, Vienna and New York (at our own cost before you all rush to volunteer). Whilst Vienna and Geneva were not a problem, New York was; and our European President sought my advice. Our Hon President came up with a possible person, known to him personally. Whilst this person was not able to oblige, he was able to suggest someone who might – and indeed has. She is Linda Travis, who is a career railway woman, involved with the New York City Transit Authority, President of the Metropolitan Association of Railroad Officers, a member of the American Association of Railroad Superintendents and an officer of the Women's Transportation Seminar. I must thank her for her consideration. I hope she won't find the job too onerous but interesting. I have asked Jean-Pierre Estival, our European President, to advise her of the necessary contacts and let her know what we would want her to do. I hope we come up to scratch! My special thanks to Theo Steel for initiating this arrangement.

Returning to home territory, our visits have consisted this last year in working through those proposed when John Woods was Visits secretary. These have been reported in the newsletter, so I shall not enlarge except to state when and where they took place. In July 2006 we followed Theo Steel's itinerary to see the progress on railway sites in the Stratford area of London, relating to the 2012 Olympic Games, and in August had a great day out to the 'Watercress Line' between Alton and Alresford. At the end of January 2007, we had our very own film festival at the Royal Oak, one of the highlights being a film of very early vintage – certainly no later than about 1900, of the Channel tunnel disaster – and another relating the greater success of the beginnings of Eurostar, in which our past President featured. We held the Annual Dinner in March – in Sampford Peverell, as last year. While it was less well attended, the 15 of us enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing weekend.

We are planning a day based in Norwich and a day in Nottingham on the last Wednesdays in June and July – just which will be where is still to be decided. Details will be in the next newsletter. Also we shall be looking for those interested in attending a reception at St Pancras New International Terminal. Again no date yet, but it will be at the end of October or beginning of November, not long before the opening. We hope for a large multinational contingent to test the passage of

travellers through the various controls, to make sure everything works, so going in should be like going for your Eurostar train to Europe. We shall need to report the numbers to Eurostar by the end of June. More in the newsletter. This date window may also be convenient for us to host friends from the Paris group of the French section, who have expressed the desire to visit London.

Finally I should like to thank your committee for their support during the past year. Our membership continues to dwindle slowly, so please do all you can personally to recruit people to the cause. Remember that AEC is what you make it. You may also like to start thinking about a new President. Whilst it is my intention to see through my present term of office, which expires at the 2010 Annual General Meeting, I think by then I shall have done my bit. I am beginning to notice the limitations of age and it would be best that someone a bit closer to the world of the modern railway was there, ready and willing to carry the British section of AEC forward into the next decade.

Philip Worsfold

19th April 2007

THE OLYMPIC GAMES LONDON 2012

Mini maps of the Stratford/Olympic area showing the rail lines and details of the timelines of the build, have been included with the postal edition of this newsletter. You can find the same information to a larger scale at www.Newham.com/2012games/.

SUMMARY OF DATES

London Reunions on the second Thursday of the month at the “Lord Moon of the Mall”,
Whitehall, London:

14th June, 12th July, 9th August and 13th September 2007.

Dates reserved for talks or visits on the last Wednesday of the month:

27th June, (Norwich), 25th July, (Nottingham), 29th August, 26th September 2007 etc.