



**British Section**

**Newsletter**

**Vol.13 No.4**

**Summer 2009**

**\* *‘Waverley’ Special – See Page 11\****

## **European Association of Railway Personnel**

**Association Européenne des Cheminots (AISBL)**

**International Association (A.R. 4.2.1985)**

**International Non-governmental Organisation with advisory status to the  
Council of Europe (6.4.1977)**

**International Non-governmental Organisation with consultative status to  
the UN (decision E/ 2002/ of 22.07.2002) and member of the  
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Registered address: A.E.C (AISBL). - 25 Square de Meeus 1000 Brussels, Belgium.**

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SUMMER 2009**

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**A separate membership application form  
is enclosed with this issue.**

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

AEC France is at [www.aecfrance.eu/](http://www.aecfrance.eu/))

AEC Italy is at [www.aecitalia.org](http://www.aecitalia.org)

AEC Latvia is at [www.ldz.lv/biedriba/](http://www.ldz.lv/biedriba/)

AEC Spain is at [www.aec-esp.blogspot.com](http://www.aec-esp.blogspot.com) (CHANGE)

AEC Poland is at [www.aecpl.republika.pl](http://www.aecpl.republika.pl) (*Private site, not officially recognised.*)

AEC Austria is at [www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf](http://www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf)

AEC Romania is at [www.aecaferom.xhost.ro](http://www.aecaferom.xhost.ro)

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. The former ASLEF District 5 website is now inoperative.

## **Editorial: A note from the President.**

During our discussions about forthcoming visits, a trip on the paddle steamer 'Waverley' was suggested. John Batts has kindly researched this for us and has found that the most convenient trip for the majority of members would be the sailing from Penarth (South Wales) on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June**. The Waverley is a former LNER ship and is the last surviving sea-going paddle steamer in the world – for the technically minded; she is a three cylinder compound. There are of course other smaller paddle steamers, such as the 'Kingswear Castle' (under different ownership). The 'Waverley' sails a regular programme of cruises from locations around the British coast each summer and a sailing from Tilbury in September was first considered, but timings were such as to make this impractical for all except those in the immediate area of London and Essex. Timings of trains from London, Reading and Bristol Parkway are shown on page 11, together with connecting train services from Minehead on the West Somerset Railway, with bus connections to Taunton at the other end of the line. If you wish to take part, you are advised to book your place by **e-mail or by phone – see page 11** for details. It is possible to 'turn up on the day' but these trips are very popular and if the vessel is full you could be disappointed (and stranded!) **Booking is on an individual basis. The association is not making these arrangements on your behalf.** Time is short, so if you want to come, make your booking **NOW!**

I must make an apology. Sorry! I have just checked our membership list and found that I have failed to transfer some members onto my distribution list for the newsletter. I have now put this right and forwarded back numbers by post. They should receive this edition in this way at the same time as everyone else who receives the printed version. I hope they will not give up on us and will renew their subscriptions at the appropriate time!

We had a useful Annual General Meeting in April. The minutes and President's report are included in this edition.

Philip Worsfold and the production team.

## **Recruitment**

Bright ideas should be discussed with **Bob Clark**. Philip Penaluna has suggested that we produce a 'Powerpoint' presentation to aid recruitment. This could be multilingual, within limits, for use by any national section, if required. We shall be discussing it further in the Administrative Council meeting in Lüneburg.

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

The new committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 is unchanged and is as follows:

**Honorary President:**

Theo Steel (Retiring Project Director ONE Railway)

**Past Honorary President:**

Malcolm Southgate OBE (formerly Deputy Director, Eurostar)

**Honorary Vice-president:**

Colin Charman, MCIT,  
Operations Safety & Standards Manager, Eurostar UK Ltd,  
Times House, 5 Bravingtons Walk, Kings Cross, LONDON. N1 9AW  
Tel: +44(0)20 7843 5015; E-mail: [colin.charman@eurostar.co.uk](mailto:colin.charman@eurostar.co.uk)

**President:**

Philip Worsfold, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.,  
8B Whitnage Road, Sampford Peverell, TIVERTON, Devon. EX16 7BU  
Tel/Fax: +44(0)1884 821 805 ; E-mail: [wors@8bwhi.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:wors@8bwhi.eclipse.co.uk)

**Vice-president:**

Patrick Rigby,  
E-mail: [patrickrigby@bun.com](mailto:patrickrigby@bun.com)

**Secretary:**

Gerry Atkin M.I.L.T, 6 Mallard Close, HERNE BAY. Kent. CT6 5RJ  
Tel: +44(0)1227 363 352; E-mail: [gandeatkin@aol.com](mailto:gandeatkin@aol.com)

**Assistant Secretary:**

Peter Davies, 24 Foxglove Drive, BIGGLESWADE. SG18 8SP  
Tel: +44(0) 1767 317 683; E-mail: [24foxglove@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:24foxglove@tiscali.co.uk)

**Visits Secretary (Co-opted):**

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

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:**

Bill Andrews, 32 Greet Road, LANCING Sussex. BN15 9NS  
Tel: +44(0)1903 521 850; E-mail: [fam.Andrews@ntlworld.com](mailto:fam.Andrews@ntlworld.com)

**Recruitment Secretary:**

Bob Clark, 52 Farcroft Road, POOLE, Dorset. BH1 2 3BQ.  
Tel: +44 07941 069 018 (mobile); E-mail: [bobclark\\_aec@yahoo.ie](mailto:bobclark_aec@yahoo.ie)

**Auditor:**

Mike Hill

## PEOPLE

### † Mike Atkin

Mike (Mick to his family and work colleagues) joined AEC in 1994, just after retirement from railway service with British Rail at Ashford works, where he was involved with the maintenance of tampers. He became a regular at our London Reunions and also very keen to go on European Days. I don't recall the first of these events he attended maybe his first one pre-dated mine! But he turned up as regular as clockwork and I have happy memories of his company in Poland, Italy, Germany, Austria and Italy. (I can't recall if he came to the Czech Republic.) His last European days was to Kudowa Droj in Poland. Sick though he was, he was still game to try to climb a mountain! Mike was always the life and soul of the party.

His was an unusual life. He was the son of a man who came to Britain from Germany in the late 1930's; an escapee from the Nazi regime. Mike was born in April 1937, less than a month after my birth. He told me he was in fact, born on the outskirts of Berlin when he visited his parents' old house there, although his family told us that he was born in Blackpool after his parent's arrival in Britain. He was a bit young at the time, so his memory may have not been quite clear on this point! On coming to Britain, Mike's father wanted to shed his German identity and changed his name to Tommy Atkin, being able to think of nothing more British than that!

In his time, Mike had served not only in the British army but in the Merchant Marine as well. His years at sea may have accounted for his rugged appearance for, with his beard, he was the image of 'Captain Birdseye'! His French friends referred to him affectionately as 'Le Capitaine' and his German ones as 'Der Kapitan'. He held no rancour for the Germans and I recall my astonishment when I saw him with the late Georg Maybaum – another man with maritime leanings, who also wore a beard and was the image of King George V (or his cousin Kaiser Wilhelm) – discussing together the allied tactics for the bombardment of the U-boat pens on Helgoland.

Mike was a heavy smoker and there was something of inevitability about his getting cancer. This had spread in recent years, only slowed by chemotherapy. It was a great pleasure to see him at the British section dinner in my home village of Sampford Peverell in 2006, when he made a present of one of his colourful waistcoats to the landlady at the Parkway Hotel. None of us thought then that he would make it to the next one. Sadly he wasn't well enough to come, but we saw him several times after at London reunions and during visits to Tunbridge Wells; true though that we missed him the first time we went because we were waiting at different stations – but Patrick Rigby called at his home on the way home!

Now he is gone and the Parkway Hotel (which latterly became the Parkway Inn) has been demolished to make way for an old people's home. So that has all gone too.

P.W.  
06/05/09

### New Members

We welcome new members, Reginald Sargeant and Arnold Betteley (belatedly) and Peter Gatenby.

## EUROPEAN DAYS and OTHER EUROPEAN EVENTS

The current position is as follows:

*1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2009* Trip organised by the **Italian section** to Rodi Garganico (east coast of Italy, where European days were held in 2001). Full board **650euros**.

20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009 European Days in **York, England**. (booking for this event is now closed)

24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 European Days in **Santiago de Compostella, Spain**. (preliminary details in this edition.)

12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 European Days in **Poland**. (preliminary details in this edition.)

Spring 2011 European Days in **Italy - 'twixt Sea and Mountain**.

Autumn 2011 European Days in **Romania**.

### Events in the German section calendar are as follows:

Juni	Wittenberge	Besuch der Bundesgartenschau in Schwerin
06.06.2009	Frankfurt	Wiesbaden, Hessischer Landtag und Neroberbahn
10.06.2009	Rostock	Patientenverfügung, Vortrag im Club
12.-14.06.2009	Dresden	Wochenende in Zinnwald
17.06.2009	Rostock	Ozeaneum Stralsund
19.06.2009	Hamburg	Matjesessen in Glückstadt
<b>01.-14.07.2009</b>	<b>Italien</b>	<b>Reiseangebot nach Rodi Garganico 650,euro-Vollpension</b>
04.07.2009	Berlin	Gaststätte Spreewaldbahnhof in Burg (Modelbahn serviert)+Kahnfahrt
18.07.2009	Hamburg	Grillen in Meckelfeld
03.-06.09.2009	Frankfurt	Lathen mit Magnetschwebebahn und Norderney
09.09.2009	Rostock	Informationen aus der Bürgerschaft, Vortrag im Club
12.09.2009	Berlin	Grillparty in Bernau bei Fam. Pause
<b>20.09 -26.09.2009</b>	<b>Großbritannien</b>	<b>Europäische Tage York</b>
06.10.2009	Berlin	Filmpark Babelsberg
10.10.2009	Frankfurt	Ausflug nach Idar-Oberstein
14.10.2009	Rostock	Kegeln im Brauereikeller
11.11.2009	Rostock	Informationen aus dem Bundestag, Vortrag im Club
13.-15.11.2009	Hamburg	event. Rhönfahrt
14.11.2009	Frankfurt	Gänseessen in der Gaststätte "Zur Waldeslust"
18.11.2009	Rostock	Theaterbesuch
28.11.2009	Frankfurt	Weihnachtsfeier in Miltenberg in Nordbayern
03.-06.12.2009	Dresden	Weihnachtsausflug nach Neudorf
04.12.2009	Berlin	Weihnachtsfeier Gaststätte „ Zur S- Bahn“ am Bahnhof Kaulsdorf
05.12.2009	Hamburg	Adventskaffee in Winsen
09.12.2009	Rostock	Weihnachtsfeier im Club
<b>24.05. 29.05.2010</b>	<b>Spanien</b>	<b>Europäische Tage Santiago di Compostella</b>
<b>Herbst 2010</b>	<b>Polen</b>	<b>Europäische Tage Hajnówka</b>
<b>Frühjahr 2011</b>	<b>Italien</b>	<b>Europäische Tage Sektion Italien Region Turin</b>
<b>Herbst 2011</b>	<b>Rumänien</b>	<b>Europäische Tage Sektion Rumänien</b>

**The Spanish Section of AEC is organising, on the occasion of the year of SAINT JAMES OF COMPOSTELA (AÑO XACOBEO), EUROPEAN DAYS in SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – GALICIA, from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 29th May 2010**

Accommodation will be in the 3 star Hotel Congreso [www.hotelcongreso.com](http://www.hotelcongreso.com) 3 km from Santiago de Compostela.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May** (meeting of Administrative Council)

From 09h00 to 23h00: Reception of participants at Lavacolla airport or at Santiago railway station.

- 10h00 Meeting of the AEC Administrative Council
- 13h30 Light lunch (Tapas)
- 16h00 continuation of meeting of the AEC Administrative Council
- 18h30 Visit to the town of Santiago de Compostela (Cathedral and historic area)
- 20h30 Inaugural dinner of European Days with participation of a Folk group (venue to be determined)

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May.** Visit to the Atlantic Isles National Park and south Galicia.

- 07h00 to 08h15 Breakfast
- 09h15 Excursion to Vigo.
- 11h00 Chartered boat crossing to visit the islands in the vessel “Ría de Vigo”.
- 13h30 Lunch in a restaurant
- 18h15 Visit to “Parador Nacional de Bayona”, old Celtic village at La Guardia, and the Palace “Castrelos” in Vigo
- 20h30 Dinner at the Hotel Congreso.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.** Visit to the towns of Ourense and Monteforte de Lemos.

- 07h00 to 08h00 Breakfast
- 09h30 Depart by train for Monforte de Lemos, visit to the Railway Museum, cellar, monasteries and the “Castro Caldelas” castle.
- 13h30 Lunch in a local restaurant
- 16h15 Visit to the Sil canyons.
- 18h00 Return from Ourense to Santiago de Compostela
- 20h00 Dinner at Hotel Congreso

**OPTIONAL Wednesday visit : Palaces and Museums of the Region’**

- 07h00 to 09h00 Breakfast
- 09h30 Depart by bus to visit the Museum House of the poet Rosalía de Castro, the Museum of the Camilo José Cela Foundation for the Nobel Prize for Literature and the Railway Museum at Padrón.
- 13h30 Lunch at the “Escala” restaurant in Padrón.
- 16h15 Depart by bus to visit the “Pazos” of Ortigueira and Oca
- 19h30 Dinner at Hotel Congreso

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May.** Visit to Ferrol and the Ortegal area in the north of Galicia.

07h00 to 08h15 Breakfast

09h00 Depart by bus for Ferrol; visit the castles and the Naval Museum.

12h00 Boat trip aboard the “la Ría”

14h15 Lunch in Ferrol

16h15 Trip to the area of Ortegal, San Andrés de Teixido and Cedeira.

21h00 Dinner at Hotel Congreso

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.** Pilgrim’s Mass offered to the Apostle St James at the Cathedral and visit to the historic area of the town and the ‘City of Culture’.

07h00 to 08H30 Breakfast

09h15 Depart by bus for the town centre.

09h30 Visit the “City of Culture” in Santiago de Compostela

12h00 “Traditional Pilgrim’s Mass”, with offertory to the Apostle St James and, later, “Botafumeiro” – the swinging of the great thurible or censer (incense burner).

13h15 Reception at the mayor’s parlour of Santiago by the municipal authorities in the Rajoy Palace, opposite the Cathedral of Compostela.

14h30 Lunch (venue to be determined)

17h15 Visit the town of de Santiago.

21h30 Gala Dinner with Folk group and dance at Hotel Congreso.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May.** End of European Days.

07h00 to 08h15 Breakfast

DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

This programme is provisional and subject to change. Booking details are still to be received, but arrangements will be made for booking through the British section.

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## **EUROPEAN DAYS – AUTUMN 2010**

### **BIAŁOWIEŻA**

The region – designated as a World Biosphere Reserve on the UNESCO World Heritage list – is situated in the south-eastern part of Podlasie province, almost on the border with Belarus, 200 km east from Warsaw.

**THE POLISH SECTION (AEC PL) CORDIALLY INVITES  
THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL SECTIONS AEC FOR EUROPEAN DAYS  
TO EXOTIC POLAND**

### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

#### **12 September (Sunday)**

- Arrival of Participants and accommodation in hotels
- Supper
- Meeting in the bar of the hotel

### **13 September (Monday)**

- Breakfast
- Meeting of the Administrative Council and arrival the other Participants of European Days and transfer to hotels
- Visit to the Nature and Forest Museum with guide for the other Participants
- Lunch in the hotel
- Tour by bus to the European Bison Show Reserve and to the local market place of regional handicrafts
- Supper and formal opening of European Days with the spectacle of the Belorussian Choir from the Hajnówka Cultural Centre

### **14 September (Tuesday)**

- Breakfast
- Tour by bus to the main station of the historic Forest Narrow Gauge Railway and visit to the Museum of Narrow Gauge steam engines
- Trip by forest train through the Primeval Forest to the forest lake „TOPIŁO”, accompanied by the folk band
- Performance of the hunting signallers
- Competitions – games in the open air
- Meal in “picnic” style
- Return by forest train to main station in Hajnówka and tour by bus to Białowieża
- Supper in the hotel

### **15 September (Wednesday)**

- Breakfast
- Tour by bus to Białystok and Choroszcz
- Visit to: Branicki Palace-Garden, Lubomirski Palace, Holy Spirit Orthodox Church, Podlaskie Museum
- Lunch in the restaurant in Białystok
- Return to Białowieża
- Supper in the hotel
- Tour by bus to Hajnówka for a spectacle of the Orthodox Choir in the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Hajnówka
- Return to the hotel

### **16 September (Thursday)**

- Breakfast
- Tour by bus to the Grabarka Holy Mountain (the centre of the Orthodox Church in Poland).
- Lunch in the restaurant in Siemiatycze
- Tour by bus to Janów Podlaski Stud established in 1817, the oldest state owned and operated Arabian and Anglo-Arabian horse stud in Poland; demonstration of horsemanship.
- Return to the hotel
- Supper
- Singing presentation from the participants all the national groups' of European Days and folklore spectacle typical of Podlasie
- Dancing for all the participants

### **17 September (Friday)**

- Breakfast
- Visit to the National Park (the unique Primeval Forest in Europe) with guide (1<sup>st</sup> Group - younger participants) – trip on foot
- Visit to the ethnographic museum - wooden architecture of the Russian people from Podlasie (2<sup>nd</sup> Group - older participants) - tour by bus
- Lunch
- Free time
- Formal Supper and Closing of European Days

### **18 September (Saturday)**

- Breakfast
- Departures of the participants of the European Days from Białowieża

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Warsaw – Hajnówka - 199 km  
Warsaw – Białowieża – 218 km  
Warsaw – Białystok – 190 km  
Białystok – Hajnówka – 57 km  
Hajnówka – Białowieża – 18 km

### **TRANSPORT OPTIONS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Variant:** journey by fast train from Warsaw to Białystok (journey time - 2h30) and from Białystok transport by bus to Białowieża (journey time -1h)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Variant:** journey by bus from Warsaw (journey time -3h30)

This programme is provisional and subject to change. Booking details are still to be received, but arrangements will be made for booking through the British section.

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### **RECENT EVENTS...**

We have continued to meet at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' once a month. In May, however, due to a mis-print in the Spring newsletter, we met there on the first Thursday. So as not to miss out on our second Thursday date, we met again a week later, but, for a change at the Knights Templar in Chancery Lane, London, to see what it was like.

Our 'last Wednesday' visits have also been most enjoyable. On 25<sup>th</sup> March a group met up with our Honorary President, Theo Steel, who conducted us to Stratford, pointing out the relevant sites of the East London line extension and the works in connection with the construction of the Olympic stadium and village at Stratford. We then moved on to Pudding Mill Lane to view the Olympic stadium work more closely. On 29<sup>th</sup> April, we went to Woolwich via the Docklands Light Railway extension. There we had a hearty lunch before visiting the Greenwich local museum in the site

of the former Woolwich Arsenal, where we were able to find out about the history of the old armaments factory. It was interesting to note that the bungalow provided for Napoleon on his exile to St Helena was built as a prefabricated assembly at Woolwich and shipped out to the mid-Atlantic – especially for your editor, who knows someone who had lived there for a couple of years! Apparently Napoleon argued so much about the details once the bungalow was in place that he died before actually taking up residence in it! We decided at the AGM to keep 27<sup>th</sup> May free, since it was during European Days. *[We have since changed our minds and there will now be an optional visit to Brighton on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.]*

### ...AND THINGS TO COME

#### The 'WAVERLEY' Trip

Below are the timings for the proposed trip on PS Waverley on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The recommended itinerary is highlighted. If you wish to come on this trip, you are advised to book via the website or telephone number below. The voyage from Penarth Pier (a short walk from the station through the garden) to Minehead will follow more or less one of the proposed lines for the Severn Barrage. On arrival at Minehead, you can either leave the vessel to walk to the West Somerset Railway station (1.2km / ¾ mile) and catch a steam train back to Bishop's Lydeard, the southern terminus of the line, and thence by bus to Taunton; or stay aboard for a short cruise to Porlock Bay and back. Bristol Parkway train times are shown for the convenience of those travelling other than from the London area.

#### London - Waverley - London 19 June 2009

Paddington	d	09:45	10:15				
Reading	d	10:11	10:41				
Bristol Parkway*	d	11:07	11:42				
Cardiff	a	11:48	12:21				
Cardiff	d	12:01	12:31				
Penarth	a	12:16	12:46				
			boat				
Penarth	d		13:00			#	
Minehead (Pier)	a		15:00	OR		16:15	
			steam			dmu	
Minehead (WSR)	d		16:05			16:55	
Bishop's Lydeard	a		17:21			18:11	
			bus 28	bus 28A		bus 28	
Bishop's Lydeard	d		17:41	18:11		18:41	
Taunton	a		17:59	18:29		18:59	
Taunton	d			18:30	18:53	19:31	19:51
Bristol Parkway*	a				19:38		20:38
Reading	a			20:07		20:51	
Paddington	a			20:39		21:23	

\* for connections from/to the North and West

# Including Porlock Bay Cruise

WSR = West Somerset Railway. Minehead station is approx 1.2 km (¾ mile) from Minehead Pier.

Bookings from:

[www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk) or

0845 130 4647

## Other Events

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, **11<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009** etc. Depending on opinions following the visit to the Knights Templar on 14<sup>th</sup> May, we may consider a move there from October, to make a change from the 'Lord Moon of the Mall'; but any such move will be confirmed in the next newsletter.

**Please remember that, generally, the last Wednesday of the month** is earmarked for possible lunchtime talks or visits. Forthcoming 'last Wednesday' dates are: **27<sup>th</sup> MAY (Visit to Volks Electric Railway Brighton – 10h36 train from London, Victoria).**

**24<sup>th</sup> June** (to Exeter on the 'Cornish Riviera' and Newton St Cyres for lunch at the 'Beer Engine' and tasting the beer brewed there); **29<sup>th</sup> July (Advise John Woods beforehand if you wish to attend this visit** to Fuller's Brewery at Chiswick – a short walk from Turnham Green Underground – meet at the Mawson Arms (the brewery tap) at 12h00); **26<sup>th</sup> August** (visit to Hythe Pier (near Southampton)); **30<sup>th</sup> September** (although we may all be too worn out after European Days in York the previous week) and **28<sup>th</sup> October 2009** etc.

Further details are available from John Woods on +44 (0)7985 151 540 or e-mail to [jauwoods@googlemail.com](mailto:jauwoods@googlemail.com). To keep abreast of developments it is advisable to contact John regularly, since some events, such as the November brewery visit are arranged at short notice and it is not always possible to announce them in these pages. Also contact John to register for the visit to Fullers Brewery on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

## 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 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

Philip Worsfold holds an up to date copy of The Stationery Office Great Britain All Line Timetable and also Cooks European Rail and Shipping Services timetable (monthly edition). This timetable contains the majority of British services in a succinct, abbreviated form. Train operators produce their own pocket timetables.

## 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 **10<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH SECTION AT THE 'ROYAL OAK', 44, TABARD STREET, LONDON SE1 4JU ON THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2009, COMMENCING AT 1630HRS.**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

- 1. Opening remarks and Apologies for absence.**

Philip Worsfold, President, took the chair.  
Apologies for absence received from Peter Davies, Gabriel Drew, John Cresswell, Malcolm Southgate, Colin Charman, Gerry Atkin, David King, Jenny Worsfold and Mike Hill.  
New member Peter Gatenby was welcomed to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008.** The previously circulated minutes were summarised and approved.
- 3. Matters Arising.** A colour version of the publicity leaflet was now available. It can be sent to members as an e-mail attachment if they want to make copies.
- 4. Correspondence.** Most of the correspondence received related to differences of opinion regarding the registration of the new European Statutes in Belgium. The differences had been largely resolved and the matter will be dealt with in May 2009 during European Days in Lüneburg. Contact with Linda Travis, the AEC representative in New York has been maintained. Other correspondence related to translation of European documents into English from French (mostly), German (or both).
- 5. President's Report.** This is appended.
- 6. Reports from Officers.**

Secretary – nothing to report.  
Visits Secretary – A number of successful visits have been reported in the newsletter. In July 2008, the visit to the Mid Norfolk Railway was delightful, with a very nice lunch in Wymondham prior to the trip. We had made a further trip to Southend and on this occasion were able to travel on the pier railway and have a quick look at the restoration work at the end of the pier. Theo Steel hosted an interesting visit to Stratford, Pudding Mill lane and Tottenham Hale to view progress on the infrastructure works in progress for the 2012 Olympic Games. Our video session, in February this year, was presented by Philip Worsfold, due to John Batts' absence abroad and proved interesting.  
Recruitment Secretary – Nothing to report.
- 7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.** (This item was taken out of order at the end of the meeting due to the treasurer's delayed arrival.) Bill Andrews presented and explained his accounts for the year. (Further copies are available from him on request.) Membership stood at 73, including honorary members. Despite a slowly falling balance, the subscription rate of £5 can be maintained for the forthcoming year, at least. Payments for European Days in York are beginning to arrive slowly.
- 8. Election of Officers for a period of one year, from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009.** There were no candidates other than the retiring officers, who had all indicated their willingness to continue. They were re-elected en bloc. (proposed, J. Woods, seconded J. Roberts, Unanimous) The post of Visits secretary, held in abeyance since the last AGM, was continued in that state.

9. Mike Hill had agreed to continue as Auditor and was reappointed by acclaim.
10. **Nomination of delegates for European Committee meeting – (New Belgian law).** Philip Worsfold and Patrick Rigby would represent the section at the forthcoming committee meeting in Lüneburg.
11. **Dates and Venues for forthcoming European Days. – Draft programme for European days in York.** The following programme had been agreed.  
 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 European Days in **Lüneburg, Germany.**  
 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009 European Days in **York, England.**  
 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 European Days in **Santiago de Compostella, Spain.**  
 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010 European Days in **Poland.**  
 Spring 2011 European Days in **Italy** (Turin) ‘Twixt Sea and Mountain’.  
 Autumn 2011 European Days in **Romania.**

The programme for York had been refined but changed only in small detail. Bookings had been slow in being received and only a few days before the deadline it appeared that we might have to cancel the event. However we now have about 105 confirmed bookings although not all the deposits have been received. It was suggested that we should advise ‘Rail News’ of the event to get some cover and publicity thereby. Also an invitation to Transport Minister, Lord Adonis, might be considered, in view of his interest in Rail Transport. **Peter Davies would be asked to investigate.**

12. **Events Programme.** – The following events are in the pipeline:-  
 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Meet at Fenchurch Street for visit to Woolwich Ferry.  
 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 falls within European days and no separate event has been arranged. **[BUT see notes on pages 11 and 12]**  
 24<sup>th</sup> June 2009 Visit to the ‘Beer Engine’ pub and microbrewery at Newton St Cyres, near Exeter.  
 29<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Return visit to Fuller’s Brewery at Chiswick.  
 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009 Visit to Hythe (near Southampton) pier and ferry.  
 A trip on the ‘Waverley’ paddle steamer is proposed for late September/ early October 2009. The precise date and location will depend on suitable sailings, which **John Woods and John Batts are investigating.**
13. **Proposal for a Powerpoint Presentation.** – Member Philip Penaluna has offered to prepare a ‘Powerpoint’ presentation to aid recruitment. This could offer a range of language options, making it suitable for use both nationally and in other member countries. Philip Worsfold has already mentioned the possibility to the European Bureau and has received encouragement. There would be modest material costs involved but no charge for Philip’s time. It was agreed that Philip should be invited to prepare a mock up version to give us an idea of what he had in mind.
14. **Any Other Business.**  
 a. **Pro Rail Alliance.** – FEANDC in Germany is considering joining this lobbying organisation, ‘Allianz Pro Schiene’, which is active particularly in Berlin as a foil to the ‘asphalt’ lobby and their German President made a statement at the recent FEANDC committee meeting, which your President attended. The problem was that there is a minimum annual contribution of 500euros required. It was wondered if AEC and FEANDC might manage a ‘joint’ membership or perhaps one organisation join to share the information and subscription between the two associations. Philip Worsfold proposed that he would raise the subject at the forthcoming meeting of the AEC Executive Council in Lüneburg.

**b. Other FEANDC activities**

Four of us attended the FEANDC Spring meeting in Colmar, France, last week and had an enjoyable time.

Bookings can still be accepted for the FEANDC event in Clairvaux, Luxembourg, up to the end of the month.

**15. Date of next Annual General Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was discussed to consider whether there was a more convenient day or time. It was decided that since there were problems for some people whatever day or time we choose; we would remain with the Thursday at 16h30 formula. The date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Section will therefore be Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010 at 16h30 at the 'Royal Oak', 44 Tabard Street, London. SE1 4JU.

**Appendix**

**Report by the President to the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of AEC British Section, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009.**

2009 has been a fairly successful year, with a good selection of visits besides regularly attended Reunions at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' in Whitehall, London. Sadly we have had to report the passing of two of our members, Joe von Ruhland and Mike Atkin. Some words about them have appeared already in the Newsletter and more will be told of Mike's interesting life in the forthcoming one. Here I should like to record their enthusiasm for and commitment to AEC. Whilst on membership, this has continued to decline. Although we have recruited a few new members, we have lost more. Bill Andrews will report the details. We have been represented at two European Days events in the past 12 months – in Antwerp/Brussels and in Lyon. Both proved highly enjoyable and instructive and those of us who went were happy to meet up again with old friends. Patrick and I have also just returned from an FEANDC event in Colmar (France) where AEC was represented as part of the co-operating arrangements which are developing between the two organisations. Later this year, we embark with some trepidation on our own European Days in York. After a rocky start, we were finally able to give an assurance that the event would take place early in April, when a stark reminder about deadlines for booking produced the desired effect. Bookings in mid April stood at around 110, although it is sad to note that so few of our own members have seen fit to attend. It is a pity too that we have been unable to offer a free ride for helpers. To do so would have made the asking price prohibitive. We shall, however, endeavour to share out any remaining money after all the bills have been paid, among those who have helped with the event. I hope you have found the Newsletter worth reading. I try to make it interesting and provocative, without, I hope overstepping the mark by too great an extent. Your articles and comments are always welcome. Finally our thanks go out to the committee who have worked hard behind the scenes – most particularly to Peter Davies, unfortunately unable to be with us today. Without his organising skills we would not be holding European Days in York in September. And my thanks to you for turning up today.

## SUMMARY OF DATES

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

**11<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009** etc. (but see note on page 12.)

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

**27<sup>th</sup> MAY (visit to Volks Electric Railway, Brighton.)**

**24<sup>th</sup> June** (Exeter on the ‘Cornish Riviera’ and Newton St Cyres for lunch and tasting the beer at the ‘Beer Engine’), **29<sup>th</sup> July 2009** (Fuller’s Chiswick Brewery – register your intention to attend with John Woods – see page 12), **26<sup>th</sup> August** (visit to Hyde Pier (Southampton), **30<sup>th</sup> September** (although we may all be too worn out after European days in York the previous week) **and 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009** etc.

# A.E.C. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other\*. Surname:.....Initials:.....

Forename:.....

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Membership of the A.E.C. costs only £5.00 per annum and is open to anyone in the railway industry without qualification. However, if you would like to complete the following statement, please do so. It would be helpful for us to know.

I can speak the following language(s) (state how well, e.g. fluent, fair, a little)

.....

**I should like to join the Association Européenne des Cheminots.**

**Signature**.....

Data supplied will be kept on a computer database. Home, **where authorised above** and Work telephone and Fax numbers and electronic mail addresses can be divulged to other members **only**.

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