



British Section

Newsletter

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Winter 2009/10

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.

**A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION NEWSLETTER, Vol. 14 No. 2
WINTER 2009/10**

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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/)

AEC Italy is at www.aecitalia.org

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

AEC Spain is at www.aec-esp.blogspot.com

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

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

AEC Romania is at 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.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Editorial: A note from the President.

Firstly, may I apologise for the late appearance of this edition of the newsletter. This is due to a combination of personal circumstances, which meant that there was no time to prepare it prior to my annual pilgrimage to Paris, which I fear took precedence! It has also meant that I have not been so visible at recent association events and that this edition is smaller than usual.

European Days in York are over. The general view was that they were a great success although there were one or two misunderstandings and small gripes because the layout of the booking information was different from what people were used to and some missed the fact that one of the meals was not included in the basic price, despite clear indication. The Administrative Council meeting was productive and the Special General Meeting as brief as had been hoped, achieving its objective of a vote for the amendments to the Statutes. As a result of this vote, four members of the Administrative Council were able to register the new Statutes in the presence of our Belgian solicitor in accordance with Belgian law and the new Statutes are now in force. All that remains is to translate from French and check the modifications and insert them into the current English version to produce the definitive version in English. Colleagues in other countries will be doing the same in their languages. The revised version in English should be ready by the time the next edition of the newsletter is published. Should you wish to receive a copy please let me know. A full report on the event will appear in our next edition, after we have had the opportunity to digest the reports published in the journals of other sections.

There are a number of things about people which are worthy of mention. Some are happy and some a bit worrying. You will find the details later in the newsletter. We are still seeking candidates for British section President, to take my place when I retire after the Annual General Meeting in April. I'm sure that there is someone out there who is willing to take on the job. I stress that I have offered to continue the editing of the newsletter and to undertake any further translation work into and from French (and German at a push). So let's be having some candidates.

We have four delegates for European Days in Santiago de Compostella. Time will tell if the remoteness of the venue for European Days in Poland in the autumn will attract anyone from Great Britain. The revised programme appears in this edition. Already a number of European venues have been quite remote and even York was considered difficult by some because it involved changing mode of transport in a country not renowned for its use of languages other than English. It is evident that some of our European colleagues don't appreciate the hoops that we British have to jump through before we arrive at their national destinations – or indeed that we don't use the euro here in Britain!

Since my last comments concerning railway photography, the expected sense does not seem to have filtered down to many police officers on the street. There have

been more incidents highlighted in the national and local press in several areas and it appears that the lack of precise rules for officers has resulted in anyone with a camera being regarded as a terror suspect (mobile phones appear to be immune for some obscure reason – I would have thought they would have been the first choice of anyone involved in clandestine activities). Still, I did manage to pass through the controls at St Pancras International Station without my integrity being questioned. It is to be greatly regretted that the security situation has degenerated to one of paranoia – which to my mind plays into the hands of terrorist organisations.

Philip Worsfold and the production team.

Recruitment

Bright ideas should be discussed with **Bob Clark**. Philip Penaluna has produced a 'Powerpoint' presentation to aid recruitment. This can be multilingual, within limits, for use by any national section, if required. Should members wish to use it as an aid to recruiting new members, please let me know and it can be forwarded as an e-mail attachment.

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 committee 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,

E-mail: colin.charman@eurostar.co.uk

President:

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

E-mail: wors@8bwhi.eclipse.co.uk

Vice-president:

Patrick Rigby,
E-mail: patrickrigby@bun.com

Secretary:

Gerry Atkin M.I.L.T.
E-mail: gandeatkin@aol.com

Assistant Secretary:

Peter Davies,
E-mail: 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,
E-mail: fam.Andrews@ntlworld.com

Recruitment Secretary:

Bob Clark,
E-mail: bobclark_aec@yahoo.ie

Auditor:

Mike Hill

PEOPLE**Malcolm Southgate**

Malcolm has been in hospital with a heart problem but has now been home for a few weeks. We all hope he will be enlivening our London reunions again soon.

Claudia Appenheimer (Austria)

Claudia has been through a hard time following the diagnosis of cancer. However recent treatment appears to have been successful and we were delighted to see her at European days in York. We hope the good prognosis continues.

Heinz Kämmerer (Austria – European Vice-President)

Heinz has had a cancer diagnosed and is undergoing treatment. He is nevertheless still able to take an active part in AEC affairs. We hope all goes well for him.

Jenny Worsfold

Jenny slipped down on wet grass when walking on Dartmoor early in November. She fractured a bone in her ankle. She is now out of plaster and is progressing well. I have difficulty in keeping up with her when she sets out on her crutches!

Matthew Cheesebrough

Matthew was born on 24th November to Zena and Phil; a little brother for Chloe. Mum and Baby (and Dad and Chloe too, I understand) are doing well. Congratulations all round.

† Gianni Perdona

Sadly, a popular member of the Italian section and friend, passed away after a serious illness on 28th June. He was a great character and leader of the singers of the Italian group at European Days. We shall miss his rendition of 'O sole mio' enormously.

EUROPEAN DAYS and OTHER EUROPEAN EVENTS

The current position is as follows:

24th – 29th May 2010 European Days in **Santiago de Compostella, Spain.** (revised details in this edition.)

12th – 18th 2010 European Days in **Poland.** (revised details in this edition. Booking arrangements are awaited.)

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

Autumn 2011 European Days in **Romania.** (The preliminary programme has been published but will appear in a later edition of the newsletter.)

The Spanish Section of AEC is organising, on the occasion of the year of the COMPOSTELAN SAINT (Año Xacobeo),
EUROPEAN DAYS in SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELLA - GALICIA,
from Monday 24th to Saturday 29th May 2010

Accommodation will be in the 3 star Hotel Congreso www.hotelcongreso.com.

Located 3 Km from Santiago de Compostela, well communicated and just 10 minutes from the town centre in a quiet, residential and commercial area. With completely renovated facilities, the hotel has the "Q" certification of tourist quality that the Institute for Spanish Quality Tourism grants. It includes gardens, bar-cafeteria, Andalusian Patio, private security service and outdoor swimming pool (open in May with good weather). Comfortable rooms with Wireless Internet (wifi), television with international channels, telephone, bathrooms with hairdryer and bidet.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME (July 2009 version)

Sunday 23th May : Reception of the members of the Administrative Council during all the day at Lavacolla airport and at Santiago railway station.

Monday 24th May: (MEETING OF AEC ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL)

From 09h00 to 23h00 Reception of participants at the airport or at railway station; transfer to the hotel.

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10h00 Meeting of the AEC Administrative Council, in Hotel CONGRESO.

- 13h30 Lunch for the members of the Administrative Council in the hotel.
- 16h00 Continuation of meeting of the AEC Administrative Council in the hotel
- 20h30 Inaugural dinner of European Days with participation of a Folk group in the hotel

Tuesday 25th May: VISIT TO THE ATLANTIC ISLES NATIONAL PARK (GALICIA'S SOUTHERN AREA)

- 07h00-08h30 Breakfast
- 09h00 Excursion to Vigo by bus
- 10h15 Chartered boat crossing to visit the Cíes Islands in Vigo's *ría* (a long narrow area of water formed when a river valley floods).
- 13h30 Lunch in a restaurant in the village of *Bayona*
- 18h15 Visit to "Parador Nacional de Bayona", old Celtic village at La Guardia.
- 20h30 Dinner at the Hotel Congreso

Wednesday 26th May: VISIT TO THE TOWNS OF OURENSE AND MONTEFORTE DE LEMOS (INTERIOR OF THE GALICIA REGION)

- 07h00-08h30 Breakfast
- 09h00 Depart for Monforte de Lemos and visit to the Railway Museum.
- 13h30 Visit to a cellar and lunch in a restaurant (<http://www.acantina.es>)
- 15h30 Visit to remarkable monasteries and to the viewpoint of the Sil river canyons
- 18h00 Return to Santiago de Compostela
- 20h00 Dinner at Hotel Congreso

Thursday 27th May: VISIT TO FERROL AND THE ORTEGAL AREA IN THE NORTH OF GALICIA

- 07h00-08h30 Breakfast
- 09h00 Depart for the city of *Ferrol* and visit of the North Coast of Galicia
- 14h15 Lunch in Ferrol
- 17h30 Conference about the Galician railway infrastructures.
- 20h30 Dinner at Hotel Congreso

Friday 28th 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'

- 07h00-08h30 Breakfast
- 09h00 Depart by bus for the *Monte del Gozo*, to walk a stretch of Camino de Santiago up to the cathedral, (optional) (4.8 Km)
- 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 Raxoy Palace, opposite the Cathedral of Compostella.
- 14h30 Light lunch (Galician tapas) in a restaurant.
- 17h00 Free time.
- 20h30 Gala Dinner with Folk group and dance at Hotel Congreso.

Saturday 29th May: END OF EUROPEAN DAYS / DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS

- 07h00-08h30 Breakfast
- Transfer to the railway station in Santiago / Airport Lavacolla.

IMPORTANT:

- There will be a maximum of 200 participants, establishing a minimum for each country and respecting the order of deposit and registration.
- The date of reception of deposit will be the priority order to attend the European Days in Santiago.

CONDITIONS FOR REGISTRATION

A.- PRICES.

The prices are for one person, whether it is a double, triple or individual room, as indicated. The prices include all the meals for the days requested, inaugural and gala dinner for the participants, excursions and visits, transport for the trips, entrances and any other expenses from the visits. Include daily buffet breakfast.

(A) * BASIC programme. (5 nights accommodation).

From dinner on Monday 24th to breakfast on Saturday 29th

- double room :	580 €
- triple room:	550 €
- double room, individual use:	700 €

(B)* COUNCIL programme. (2 nights accommodation). Special weekend for the members of the Administrative Council and their partners.

From dinner on Sunday 23rd to breakfast on Tuesday 25th

- double room:	170 €
- triple room:	160 €
- double room, individual use:	210 €

Any supplementary meal (lunch or dinner) in the hotel: 20€

(C) * 1 extra day + BASIC programme. (6 nights accommodation).

From dinner on Sunday 23th to breakfast on Saturday 29th

- duoble room:	670 €
- triple room:	640 €
- double room, individual use:	800 €

(D) * SPECIAL programme =Saturday to Saturday=. (7 nights accomodation).

From dinner on Saturday 22nd to breakfast on Saturday 29th

- double room:	760 €
- triple room:	720 €
- double room, individual use:	920 €

Notice: For supplementary days to these programmes, the prices, booking and payments of the expenses you should enquire directly to Hotel CONGRESO (hcongreso@hotelcongreso.com), indicating as reference "JORNADAS AEC".

The event is arranged by the Spanish section of AEC, which is the responsible organiser. Payment through the British section is offered purely to minimise the cost of money transfer. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, a deposit of £225 per person is required. The British section does not act 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 or losses 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.

Registration has now officially closed but efforts will be made to accommodate late registrations. You should indicate:

NAME AND SURNAME, passport or ID number, programme and type of room, money transferred and day and time of departure + arrival from/to the Lavacolla airport or railway station in Santiago.

The date of the transfer of the deposit into the Spanish bank will remain the order of reservation of the total number of places of those attending in these European Days.

> Deposit payment : **275 €/person.**

> Balance of payment, **according to the chosen programme, converted to sterling** should reach Philip Worsfold by **1st March 2010.**

The responsible person for registration is: Mónica Guerrero,
– mguerrero@tmb.cat

The responsible person in Spain, in charge of bank transfers is: Francisco Casquete
– pacocasquete@gmail.com

EUROPEAN DAYS IN PRZEMYSL, POLAND 12TH – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2010
The Programme for European Days in Poland has been completely revised

11th September (Sunday)

- Arrival of Participants and accommodation in hotel Grumada in Przemysl
- 19h30 – 2200 Supper

13th September (Monday)

- 08h30 Breakfast
- 10h00 Meeting of the Administrative Council and arrival the other Participants of European Days and transfer to hotel
- 14h00 Lunch in the hotel
- 15h00 Town Visit with guide – Kasimirzowski Castle, Old Town, Pipe and Bell Museum (*on foot*)
- 19h00 – 22h00 Supper and formal opening of European Days with music from a Chamber Ensemble.

14th September (Tuesday)

- 08h00 Breakfast

- 08h30 Tour by bus to Lancut – Visit to the castle, Park Kutschen Museum, Orangerie, buy souvenirs.
- 14h00 Lunch
- 15h00 Travel to Lezajsk – visit to the Bernardine church; samt concert of organ music.
- 18h30 Return to the hotel.
- 19h00 Supper in the hotel.

15th September (Wednesday)

- 07h30 Breakfast
- 08h00 Tour with guide to Bieszczady Mountains. Round trip of Bieszczady to the Staud dam on the San in Solina (the biggest reservoir in Poland). Walk across the dam. Trip to Ustrzyki Dolne – Natural Science Museum of the Bieszczady National Park.
- approx 13h30 Lunch in Ustrzyki Dolne.
- Trip to the main station of the historic Forest Narrow Gauge Railway in Majdan (Bieszczady). Trip by special train on the line Majdan – Cisna – Przylup.
- approx 18h30 arrive back in Przemysl.
- 19h00 Dinner. Singing presentation by AEC by national sections. Disco.

16th September (Thursday)

- 08h30 Breakfast
- 09h00 Visit to the new Przemysl Regional Museum.
- 11h30 Trip to Bolestrzyce – visit and walk through the arboretum.
- 14h00 Lunch.
- 15h30 Journey to Krasiczyn. Visit the Castle and Park complex in Krasiczyn. Beer festival meal with music by a folk band. Evening meal. Attraction on the castle walls – a mysterious 'White Lady'.
- 21h00 Return to the hotel Supper

17th September (Friday)

- 08h00 Breakfast
- 09h00 Visit to Tataren Hill – town panorama, Ski-lift; a toboggan run is possible.
- 11h00 We get to know the fortifications and history of the Przemysl Fortress of the First World War.
- 14h00 Lunch
- 15h00 Free time, purchases, relaxation (and for those who are interested, a visit to the border freight station of PKP Cargo S.A. in Medyka – the EU boundary between Poland and Ukraine – with dual gauge track).
- 18h30 Festive Closing of AEC European Days; Evening dinner and dancing (to recorded music).

18th September (Saturday)

- 07h00 – 09h00 Breakfast
- Departures of the participants of the European Days from Przemysl.

Booking through the British section.

The conditions regarding booking for this event are not yet available. Details will be published as soon as possible. The event is arranged by the Polish section of AEC, which is the responsible organiser. Payment through the British section will be offered

10 purely to minimise the cost of money transfer. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, a deposit of £225 per person (cheques payable to Philip Worsfold) will be

requested when booking details are known. The British section does not act 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 or losses 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.

RECENT EVENTS...

We have continued to meet at the 'Lord Moon of the Mall' once a month. Your President was, unfortunately, unable to attend the 'last Wednesday' visit to Southampton and Hythe Pier on 26th August but others have reported that it was an enjoyable event.

...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, **10th December 2009, 14th January 2010, 11th February, 11th March, 8th April** etc. You may wish to note that in 2010, Good Friday is 2nd April and Easter Sunday 4th April.

Please remember that, generally, the last Wednesday of the month is earmarked for possible lunchtime talks or visits. **There will be no AEC event on 30th December since most of us will be recovering from earlier jollifications on that day!**

Then we continue in the New Year on **27th January 2010** with a film show presented by John Batts at **The Royal Oak, 44 Tabard Street, London SE1 4JU.**

Thereafter, forthcoming '**last Wednesday**' dates are:

24th February, 31st March, 28th April and 26th May 2010.

At present we have nothing further arranged but we are considering the possibility of visits to the Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire (we shall need also to investigate transport from the railway station) and to Bletchley Park; and a talk about the publishing activities of Thomas Cook, at Peterborough.

Further details will be available from John Woods by e-mail to

jauwoods@googlemail.com To keep abreast of developments it is advisable to contact John regularly, since some events are arranged at short notice and it is not always possible to announce them in these pages.

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.

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 **12th February 2010**.

SUMMARY OF DATES

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

10th December 2009

14th January 2010

11th February

11th March

8th April 2010 etc.

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

There will be no AEC event on 30th December since most of us will be recovering from other jollification that day!

Then we continue into the New Year on

27th January 2010 – Film show presented by John Batts at **The Royal Oak, 44 Tabard Street, London SE1 4JU.**

Other reserved dates are:

24th February 2010

31st March

28th April

26th May 2010 etc.

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

Forename:.....

Job Description:.....

Work Address:.....

Town/City:..... Postcode:.....

Internal Phone:..... Fax:.....

External Phone:..... Fax:.....

Micromail Box No:..... E-mail Address:.....

ACTIVE / RETIRED *

Home Address:.....

Town/City:..... Postcode:.....

Telephone:..... Include in Directory?: YES/NO *

Mobile:..... Include in Directory?: YES/NO *
(*delete as applicable)

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**.

Please make cheques/PO's for £5.00 payable to: "A.E.C."

Send this application to:

Mr W. Andrews, Hon. Treasurer, A.E.C.

32, Greet Road,

LANCING. BN15 9NS

E-mail: fam.andrews@ntlworld.com

If you encourage 7 people to join within your subscription year, the next year's subscription is free!