

COUPE NEWS

March 2003

No:1

Editorial:

Fellow Pullman Society member, welcome to the first copy of Coupe News.

Over the last couple of weeks a number of members have contacted me asking for an update on the Society, and during the conversation, I asked if they had an e-mail address to which I could forward details to.

This gave me the idea for Coupe News as link until the problems have been resolved in getting the real Society Journal to you.

To make this available to as many e-mail members as possible, I do not intend to publish any photos in this or future editions, as some member's computers can not accept large attachments.

This is not a replacement for the Society Journal "The Golden Way", but a news letter of Pullman related matter to keep you up to date on the Society and Pullman news.

All I ask you to do as payment for my time and effort in getting this to you.

Is to pass a copy of "Coupe News" to any member you know locally without an e-mail account.

Committee Update:

Members of the Society Committee have been undertaking a lot of work unseen over the late summer trying to get the membership list together and the publication of the Society Journal "The Golden Way". After a couple of unforeseen problems I can advise you that the Journal is not far from going to press as I type this for you.

A letter was posted to known members addresses in mid January by Antony Ford, I am aware that some members did not receive a copy, and over the last week I have forwarded names and addresses to Antony to get the membership list up to date.

Membership renewal, those members who renewed for 2002/3 will have there memberships carried over into 2003/4 due to the failure to supply the membership with copies of the "The Golden Way" from the Issue No 64 Spring 2002.

2003 AGM.

Saturday 17th May, a suitable venue is too secured, but the Bluebell will be the venue, and car FINGALL has been reserved for that evenings "Golden Arrow".

Further details on AGM will be announced shortly.

Society Members:

Ray Addy, I have no news to report on Ray's present condition.
Alistair Munday, I have no news to report on Alistair's present condition.

I am sure you will join me in wishing both members well.

Preservation News:

I have forwarded to as many members as possible by e-mail, a copy of my latest up to date 2003 Preservation List. I hope this will be of interest to all those I have sent it to.
Pullman news and history is for sharing I believe.

CARINA. Has been sold by the VSO-E to a private owner, and as luck would have it, moved to my local preserved line at Pickering.
Located on the carriage siding outside Pickering Station, the car is sheeted over when Seen last summer. The restoration of the car will be a long term project.

GARNET. Noted partly sheeted over at Pickering last summer, restoration is a slow affair.

Car No.333 "MAGNA" Casterton Taverner at Stamford. August 2002 Broken up.
The site at Stamford has been demolished completely.

Car No.346."CASTRA" Casterton Taverner at Stamford. August 2002 Broken up.
The site at Stamford has been demolished completely.

Car No.14. I saw this car in mid June 2002 at San Francisco, she is in a good condition considering the change of ownership of building she is attached to.
Alas it was a Sunday so no one was around to get an update on her and the future.

Car No.84. Reported as sold by the VSO-E to a private owner on the KWVR.

STORK. Has been broken up, unsure if this was on site or not.

FLORA. Relocated from Ewell, Surrey to Petworth Station.

Video Box:

Branch Line Video – Memories of the Barnstaple - Ilfracombe Line.

This video I purchased last Autumn has views on board the "Devon Belle" service, which appears to be a BTF film, which covered the service. But see below before buying this tape.

Coming to us on video in 2003.

"With the Devon Belle to the West", at long last this BTF film is due out this year on a video compilation titled Volume 12 "This Sceptered Isle West Country & Wales".
I have contacted the distributors on a possible release date, but they can not give one at this moment in time.

The New Hornby Pullman Cars:

For those members like myself who have received the "Bournemouth Belle" set, well or I can say is they are well worth the wait.

Yes, the lamps do glow within the coupe & saloons, the exterior finish includes roof detail, water tank filling pipes, Vestibule hand grab rails, builders plates beneath each vestibule door, sprung buffers, under frame detail each car is every inch perfection.

Remove the gangway bellows cover, and you have access to the vestibule to add your Pullman car attendant, preparing to assist those passengers leaving and joining the train.

The coupling system brings the cars closer together, and is no longer an integral part of the bogie.

Even if you do not have a model railway to operate, I recommend purchasing at least one model with a piece of track to stand it on. Then place it in your study, hobby room or even the living room, you will not be disappointed with the style, elegance and perfection Hornby have gone to get the model range correct.

The 3 car add on set for the Bomo Belle will be about to be released, and the new individual cars LEONA, CYNTHIA, Car No.35, 171 & 65 will be released early April.

So pay a visit to your local Hornby dealer now, and get your order in.

PS: A couple of years ago I purchased a number of Comet body sides to convert the then 1928 Parlour Car Hornby produced, The conversion work was never started.

And now who wants to get stuck up doing a conversion with these new cars that come straight out of the box ready to run.

All I can say is "Well done Hornby" and a personal acknowledgement to Society Chairman Charles Long for his part in assisting Hornby get it right.

For those of you who attend Model Railway Exhibitions, I am expecting the price to drop on the two 1928 models secondhand, as the market becomes flooded with these models as people restock with the new car models.

Finally my thanks to Simon Kohler of Hornby, who over the last 6 months has answered all my questions with regard to the new product range and Pullman Train Sets.

Hornby Collector Magazine - Edition 31 Feb/March 2003:

Within the latest magazine is a two page history on Pullman entitled "Puttin' On The Ritz".

For any member interested, I can recommend joining the Hornby Collectors Club.

For an annual membership fee of £18(uk), £22(Europe), £23 (Rest of the World).

You receive a copy of the "Hornby Collector" magazine on a regular basis, this will keep you up to date on new releases, access to Limited Edition models and interesting articles on classes of locomotives, coaching stock etc. In addition to this on renewing your annual membership you receive a free gift, and 2003 it is a working model of a 0-4-0st Caledonian Railway Class 0F.

Pullman Talks:

I have already 10 talks booked in my diary for this year, alas not all can be made open to members, but that those members who may wish to attend I list below those made open to Society members.

For those of you in the North East, I am giving a talk to the "Railway Athletic Transport Group" who meet at the Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington.

Wednesday 12th March at 7.30pm.

The subject "The restoration of the VSO-E Cars" and "London to Venice on the VSO-E".

The Durham Tramway Group.

Wednesday 16th July 7.30pm. "The restoration of the VSO-E Cars".

The Wensleydale Railway Association.

Who meet in the R.A.F.A. Club, High Street, Northallerton.

Monday 10th November 7.30pm. "Pullman History within the UK".

Society Information Stand:

I have been invited to two exhibitions already this year, Middlesbrough May 2/3rd, and Redcar August 16/17th. If you can make it to either or both events, please make yourself known to me as it's always nice to put a face to an e-mail address.

Look Back at Pullman:

For those of you who remember these articles within the Journal, I have dusted down my history file and opened to look back at the news for 75, 50 & 25 years ago.

1928.

The former London Brighton & South Coast Railway Paint Shop at Preston Park, Brighton.

Taken over by the Pullman Car Company, as a replacement workshop to Longhedge. (i).

(The PCCo remained at Preston Park until closed under the ownership of British Rail in November 1963 – This year marks 40 years since the closure). (*)

16th February. At a ceremony at the French Embassy in London. The French Ambassador presents Lord Dalziel with the Insignia of the Guard Officer of the Legion d 'Honour. (ii).

1953.

8th March. The down working of the "Bournemouth Belle" was noted departing Southampton-Central being hauled by the 1947 LMS Prototype Co-Co No.10000 locomotive. (iii).

Look Back at Pullman ctd.

1978.

- 1st February. Car ORION delivered to Peco at Beer, Devon. (iv).
- 2nd February. Ford Motor Company charter London Victoria to Brighton.
All first class train formation locomotive hauled. Within the formation was noted lone Pullman Car ("HAWK") Kitchen/First now relabeled as E314E. (*).
- 4th February. Brighton Football Club. Brighton to Hull football special. Train formation includes lone Pullman Car E314E. (*).
- 3rd March. "Mayors of America" train charter. London Victoria to Hollingbourne.
All first class train formation locomotive hauled. Within the formation was noted lone Pullman Car E314E. (*).
- 4th March. Brighton Football Club. Brighton to Bolton football special. Train formation includes lone Pullman Car E314E. (*).
- 18th March. BR Mk2 Pullman car formation (no car identity's) noted passing Hemel Hempstead with a Football Special. (v).

Information Sources.

- (*). T.Bye records.
(i). Julian Morel.
(ii). Railway Magazine. April 1928. Page 331.
(iii). Railway Magazine. May 1953. Page 326.
(iv). Railway Magazine. April 1978. Page 203.
(v). Railway Magazine. May 1978. Page 303.

Tail Lamp:

Well I hope you have found this first copy of interest, I would appreciate your feed back, as this has taken in total approximately 8 hours of my time to collate from my files etc.
I am only to happy to give up my time if this is worthwhile to you, as I have mentioned earlier Information is for sharing, not gathering dust in files.

If you have any news or material you think would be of interest and would like to share with other Pullman Connoisseur's please forward to me by no later than the 28th March for inclusion in the April edition of Coupe News.

T.Bye
1st March 2003.

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