National Model Railroad Association, Inc

History of the British Region

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The British Region

Early Beginnings

In October 1942, at the height of World War II, a British model railroad enthusiast published an announcement that he wished to compile a list of names of all British residents interested in the modelling of American railroads. It was the intention of William F Bolton, the originator of the announcement, that these people might become the nucleus of the British Model Railroaders Association. Bill Bolton was at that time serving in the Royal Navy and all the organising work had to be carried out by correspondence. However by early 1944 it was possible for an announcement to be made that Larry Sagle, then President of the National Model Railroad Association of America, would back cooperation between the two groups.

During January 1945 the Annual Executive Committee Meeting of the N.M.R.A. appointed Bill Bolton as their British representative and charged him with the collection of 50 names in order that the British Model Railroaders Association might be incorporated as a Region of the N.M.R.A. The collection of names was completed by Bill Bolton by August of that year and thus Bill may be said to be the "Father of the British Region". A provisional Committee was appointed to draw up a Regional Constitution and arrange a Management Committee ready for such times as a Region Charter should be granted.

A provisional committee met for the first time on November 17th with Bill Bolton in the chair. Meeting place was the office of George H. Lake, Editor of "Railways" magazine and a founder member of the group. Also present were the following committeemen – H.M.B. Wood one time brakeman on the Grand Trunk, S.G. Hudson, A Lines, G.H. Lake and M.W. Earley, well-known British Railway Photographer. The meeting had a full agenda including matters of dues, N.M.R.A. policy, financial state and adoption of three candidates for the forthcoming election of Regional Officers (Session 1946-47). The candidates adopted were: For President the Right Hon Lord Brabazon of Tara, M.C., F.C.; For Vice-President John H Ahearn; For Secretary/Treasurer William F. Bolton. A Lines was appointed Ballot Officer. The proposed ballot forms made provision for alternative candidates to be written in. C.H. Lake was appointed Press Relations Officer for the new Region. Listed membership stood at 266.

1946

The British Region Charter was received from the N.M.R.A. in January and presently hangs in the Barkston Ash Model Railroad Club at Tadcaster, Yorkshire, the only 100% N.M.R.A. club in the Region. At the time the Charter was received the listed membership stood at 330. At the election a Mr Curtis of Chingford was elected President with John Ahearn as Vice-President and Bill Bolton taking the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Regular monthly Committee Meetings were inaugurated. A major matter for discussion was the difficulty of transmitting National dues to the United States due to currency control regulations.

The Region's first public display was put on the Medway Model and Experimental Engineers Society Exhibition at Chatham on the 14th-21st September. The first General Meeting was held at Crouch End and was attended by seven members. During the year a Region magazine "Highball" was instituted and became the forerunner of the present

"Roundhouse". "Highball" was edited by Bill Bolton and published from Region Headquarters 156 Camden High Street, London NW1.

This was a printed 5" x 7½" magazine, well supported by advertisers. Edition No. 3 carried the very welcome news that "Model Railroader", "Trains", and "Railroad Magazine" were now available for sterling. A Purchasing Department was opened but unfortunately had to close due to difficulties of trade with dollar areas. The Region was represented in the United States when Flying Officer Butterell of Royal Air Force paid a goodwill visit to that country with his Squadron and visited many pikes.

It is of interest in view of later events, that was this year that the Board of Directors of the N.M.R.A. appointed J.H. Robinson of Victoria, Australia to organise an Australian Region.

1947

The year opened under the Presidency of George H. Lake. Financial difficulties resulting from a marked falling-off of membership forced the suspension of "Highball". Further tightening of currency regulations caused difficulties in the transmission of National dues to the United States and at one time it seemed that the Region might have to sever its connection with the parent body. Fortunately this was not necessary and relations continue uninterrupted.

Regular committee meetings were transferred from George Lake's offices to the home of Ken Brennan in North London. The first Annual General Meeting was held on July 12th at the premises of the Kenview Model Railway of Crouch End in London, venue of the previous General Meeting. Eleven members attended. Proposals were made that the Region should be subdivided into smaller areas with local leadership but nothing came of this. From November, intermittent publication of "Highball" in duplicated 6½" x 8" format with Denys Fletcher as Editor.

During the year during the Founder of the Region, Bill Bolton, took up an appointment as Transport Engineer to the Gold Coast Government in Africa and left the country. Ken Brennan took over his duties pending the Annual Ballot. He was assisted by William Whyles as Treasurer until July. John W Whitworth took up the position of Treasurer in August.

Region dues 5/6. 2 duplicated issues of "Highball" 61/2" x 8", 24 pages.

1948

The year opened without a President or Vice-President due to disagreement over nominations. Austin Muir, Secretary, resigned in the March. This left Kent Brennan, Vice-President (South) and John Whitworth, Treasurer, to control the Region's affairs. Coupled with the "Dollar Crisis", this loss of leadership led to a rather uncertain year.

About this time there was an organised group of model rails in London called the Harrow Model Railroaders. They were a very virile crew, 100% N.M.R.A. and many Region members were also members of this London group. As the aims of the Harrow Model Railroaders were in many ways similar to those of the Region it was not surprising that a certain amount of misunderstanding arose. Ultimately a joint meeting of interested

parties numbering some 50 held on October 2nd and the two groups agreed to cooperate. For a period the Region had the Region newsletter in the group's magazine "Harrow Hoggers" as a substitute for their own "Highball".

The joint meeting with the Harrow group in September was also the occasion of the Region Annual General Meeting.

Regional dues 5/6. Services to members during the year included the Peter Clarke constructional Prints of American Rolling Stock and services. Five duplicated issues of "Highball" 6½" x 8", 64 pages. Resumed in November, 1947.

1949

Ken Brennan was the President of the Region for this year with Ernie Phelps as Vice-President. Treasurer was Pete Densham with Reg Perrin, leader of the Harrow group as Secretary. After the fall in membership in 1948, membership again rose steadily and the newly introduced sustaining memberships and increased dues helped finances

The Region magazine reappeared on a monthly basis under the name "Roundhouse" and for the first six months incorporated the "Harrow Hoggers", the magazine of the Harrow group. Editor was Denys Fletcher. In July 1949 the Harrow Hoggers reverted to independent publication. The Purchasing Department was revived under Eric Johnson and did fine work procuring hard-to-get items for Region members. On Saturday January 29th at Chelsea Colour Films Ltd, a showing of films of model and prototype railroads was arranged and what was well attended. Contacts with model rails in the United States became closer and more frequent and sympathetic co-operation was received from National Officers and American Railroads who sent literature for distribution to members. These closer contacts helped members to feel more closely bound to the National organisation and the United States railroads they have chosen to model.

The third Annual General Meeting was held in a Room 102 of the Northampton Polytechnic in St. John Street, London EC1 on Saturday November 12th from 3 to 9pm. For the first time the Annual General Meeting was described as a Convention, and the aim was minimum cost. Room hire was 30/- and delegates had to find their own food at nearby catering establishments. Thirty delegates came along and the programme set the pattern for later and more ambitious Conventions. The programme included a general get together and display of models, a business meeting, a "banquet" (fish and chips round the corner) and a film show.

Other matters of interest during the year included the revision of the Region Constitution, setting up a library under Harold Wightwick, the tooling up for co-operative production of a Region HO 0-6-0 locomotive, the appointment of John Whitworth as Assistant Treasurer, N.M.R.A. to deal with National dues, the circulation of postal portfolios of photographs, drawings etc, a photographic contest, receipt of a gift parcel of HO materials from Herby Schultry and a Region display Wimbledon Model Railway Club Exhibition on September 16th and 17th. "Roundhouse" ran to 166 duplicated Roneo pages 6½" x 8", full of drawings, construction articles, prototype features, swap columns, adverts, etc., etc. Regarding the Region 0-6-0 locomotive, Charles Hern, who made most of the parts, was able to write 10 years later, "I still have several pounds worth of materials on hand which were never used".

Keeping the best until last, an account of 1949 must include mention of the first Region Yearbook, the work of John Whitworth. This was a 32 page 5½" x 8½" letterpress and photogravure publication issued free to each member. Contents included articles by National and Regional Officers, Region Constitution, Regional facilities, Library listing, Membership listing, Convention details and officers' report, 1949 and 1950 Officers, paid commercial advertising and many paid adverts from British and American model railroads.

Dues raised to 10/6.

1950

This was a notable year, the theme for the Region being Development and Extension and it is to the credit of the then officials, or Trustees as the British Region calls its Top Brass, that the development and extension was maintained without an increase in dues. The Region subscription for a full member remained at approximately \$1.50 per year.

The year saw the appointment of a Regional Financial Representative in the USA, George Collins of Joplin, Missouri, the appointment of two National Advisers to the Region in the USA, Ed Ravenscroft and Bob Bast, expansion of the Postal Folio Scheme, the setting up of a Technical Advice Service under the Vice President, the distribution of Rolling Stock plans from the USA and complimentary copies of "Trains" and "Model Railroader" from Al Kalmbach, extension of US membership, expansion of the Library, two letterpress and photogravure supplements to "Roundhouse" and great activity in the Purchasing Department. An American member wrote giving background details to photograph of a roundhouse used on the cover of "Roundhouse" for many years. Apparently this was on the Erie Railroad at Salamanca, NY.

Highlight of the year was undoubtedly the Convention held of the Royal Station Hotel at York over the weekend of October 28th and 29th. This was the first of a series of annual events organised by the energetic President John Whitworth. They were based on the block bookings of hotel accommodation and organised visits. Prices were on an "all-in" basis varying only according to length of stay. During the weekend at York, 104 members, relatives and friends passed through the hotel which was the scene of a Banquet, model display, competitions, sales of equipment and books, a film show and the Annual General Meeting. Guests of Honour at the Banquet were Mr and Mrs S W Jesper, Public Relations Officer of the North Eastern Region of British Railways. An interesting item at the banquet was the two recorded speeches from Herb Schultz, the National President and Ed Ravenscroft, past National President. Tom Norfolk carried off the Region Trophy for the best model on show. Incidentally Tom had presented the trophy to the Region and this was its first award.

The event also included an Auction sale of surplus equipment, to become traditional at all future Conventions, a raffle, impromptu clinics, and for the ladies a visit of the world framed Kirk Collection of Antiquities at the Castle Museum. For the men there was a visit to the Railway Museum with its collection of a dozen or so ancient locomotives and other attractions.

"Roundhouse" continued its lively monthly publication and totalled 208 duplicated 6½" x 8" pages for the year. "Roundhouse" was supplemented by a second edition of the

Region Yearbook in similar format to 1949, but much expanded and running to 80 pages. As in the previous year the Yearbook was the unaided work of John Whitworth.

A Trustee meeting was held in Leeds on December 9th, first of many follow in succeeding years, and all of which were open to attendance by members within distance.

1951

The year saw a considerable amount of social activity. On March 3rd, 32 members and friends entertained the prominent American manufacturer Wm. K Walthers, and Mrs Walthers, at the Charing Cross Hotel in London. On April 7th a similar function, again attended by 32 members and friends took place at the Metropole Hotel in Leeds for the benefit of the more northerly members. On July 16th Gordon and Mrs Varney entertained a small number of members and British manufacturers at the Grosvenor Hotel in London. About this time the Region President John Whitworth conceived the idea of combining the 1952 Convention with the First International Model Railroad Meet. His suggestion was enthusiastically received by Bill Walthers went back to the States to start a campaign for bringing over to the United Kingdom a large party of American Region members, and other American model rails who might be interested, to the 1952 meet. Gordon Varney also went home with the intention of returning in 1952. Thus the stage was being set for the most enterprising International Meeting the following year and much of the President's year of office and that of his fellow Trustees and Officers was spent on making arrangements for the meet.

During this year a number of Australian members of N.M.R.A. joined the British Region in the absence of a Region of their own and continued membership until the formation of the Southern Cross Region. For the first time the Region was officially represented at the famed Model Railway Club Exhibition in London from 27th to 31st March. Dues remained the same. Editorship of "Roundhouse" changed hands and Ken Littlewood replaced Denys Fletcher who was moving to Scotland. "Roundhouse" was now a letterpress magazine running to six bi-monthly issues for the year, and totalling 118 $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" pages for the year. The new method of production allowed of more content in fewer pages.

The main event of the year was the now traditional Convention, held at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham on October 12th, 13th and 14th. Again, President John Whitworth had booked practically the whole of the hotel and the event was well supported. There being so much business to transact the Annual General Meeting was split into two sessions. Major matter of interest was the rejection by members of a proposal for Associate Membership. A decision was made approving the manufacture of Region lapel badges incorporating the Region crest. The Region crest consists of the N.M.R.A. coupler surmounted by a very lean lion, similar to the lion in the British Railways crest. Guests of honour were Mr and Mrs A J Dymond. Mr Dymond was an official at the Swindon locomotive works of the Western Region of British Railways.

The Region trophy for the best model on show passed to Frank Tombs along with many other awards.

1952

This was to have been a major year for the Region with the main work of the Region's Trustees devoted to the preparations for the First International Model Railroad Meet to be held in York in October. In addition to leading the organising of the activities at York, President John Whitworth personally organised a 14 day "package tour" of the United Kingdom for the benefit of the American contingent who had promised to come over. This involved a tremendous amount of detailed work, such items as official welcomes to Blackpool by the Mayor and to Edinburgh by the Lord Provost, not to mention the intricacies of hotel accommodation and the timing of railroad visits. Arrangements were made for the operation of the Region's for first "Dreamliner" hauled by the World's Steam Speed Record holding Pacific, Mallard. Bill Walthers paid the deposit on a KLM aircraft for the exclusive use of American delegates, published a brochure on the package tour, and made sea passage arrangements for some delegates. The National press in the United Kingdom were alerted, as were the British Broadcasting Corporation. The public relations department of British Railways Board pulled out every stop in the laying on of facilities for delegates.

Came the weekend of the Convention, venue the Royal Station Hotel, York and the terrible anti-climax - only one American present at the Convention, Captain Eber H Allen, later National President, and then stationed in the United Kingdom. Bill Walthers cabled at the last minute saying all his support had withered, his chartered plane was cancelled and there would be no American delegates. In spite of this body blow the Convention went on as planned. The "Dreamliner" ran to Doncaster with a visit to famous locomotive works.

British Railways allowed visits to the new all-electric signal box at York, the largest in the world. As at the previous York Convention Joe Clayton played host to the delegates at the up and coming Barkston Ash Railroad, largest American pike in Europe. Guests of Honour at the banquet were, by popular request, the same as 1950, Mr and Mrs S W Jesper. The bell, presented to the "Royal Scot" locomotive on her Canadian/American tour, was again removed from its resting place in the Railway Museum at York to grace the top table. All the usual Convention activities were included; Annual General Meeting, Model Displays, Film Shows, Auctions as etc. The Convention was reported by 24 newspapers and magazines and the "Dreamliner" story was flashed over every wire service in America and to every radio and television news desk in the States by courtesy of British and Irish Railways, Inc, in New York

Other activities of the year included representation of the British Railway Model Standards Bureau meeting which adopted N.M.R.A. Standards for British TT gauge; a stand at the Manchester Model Railway Show in the new year. Distribution of leaflets on the CNR 2-6-0 locomotive sent over by O.S.H.O.M.E. of Toronto, revival of the postal folios. "Roundhouse" ran 74, 6½" x 8" letterpress pages in bi-monthly issues, a Region business circular, "Extra Fare" made intermittent appearances, and a local meeting was held in London on November 18th at the Zoological Gardens with 29 members present.

1953

The year saw increased activity in publicising the Region by means of displays. The Model Railway Club Exhibition held in London from April 8th to 11th saw a Region stand for the first time in for some years. This was almost a one-man job by V P Dennis Watton part of his pike for the track work. Another stand was arranged at the Accrington Y M C A exhibition in the fall. When the railroad film "Titfield Thunderbolt" was shown at the

Odeon Cinema at York, a window display of models was jointly arranged with the York Miniature Railway Society from of May 4th to 9th. Informal meetings commenced amongst local groups and a listing of membership in "Roundhouse", coupled with pike advertising, helped to get members in touch with each other. It was a mixed year for the Region magazine which appeared bi-monthly for four issues in letterpress format of $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8". The bi-monthly issues were supplemented by the revived "Extra Fare" which carried business news. A small committee recommended the merger of "Roundhouse" and "Extra Fare" in the summer and a further bi-monthly issue for September/October and issues for November and December, all in duplicated $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" format completed a year which totalled 100 pages.

Improved arrangements has enabling region members participate in the National ballot saw the Region take top place in percentage of the members voting in each Region.. This top place has been held in all but one subsequent years which indicates that although the Region was the smallest, until the formation of the Southern Cross Region, its sense of responsibility in National affairs is not lacking. The year saw National dues go up from \$2 to \$3 but Region dues remained at 16 shillings.

As usual the annual highlight was the Convention held at Charing Cross Hotel, London, on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. Star attraction was a visit to the unique Post Office Underground Railway in the heart of the City where driverless trains carry the mail through a maze of tunnels. Guests of Honour were Mr G K Nield, European PRO for Canadian Pacific Railway, and Mr (and Mrs) Geo. Dow, well-known railway author and then PR & PO for the London Midland Region of British Railways. During a banquet Mr Nield presented the Region with an inscribed bell from Canadian Pacific Railway 4-6-0 Locomotive No. 536 of Class D-6-b. Presentation of the bell meant that British Railways have no longer have to remove the "Royal Scot" bell from its concrete base in York Museum for use at the Region function. The remainder of the Convention period was taken up with all the traditional activities.

1954

The previous year's expansion of Region displays was continued. The Region had displays of one sort or another the following functions: Dagenham show, February 1st, organised by Mike Kelly; Model Railway Club Exhibition, London, April 20th - 24th, organised by Dennis Watton and Eric Johnson;: and Kodak Society of Model Engineers, Wealdstone, May 15th and 16th, organised by E Johnson. The Region stand at the Model Railway Club Exhibition was the occasion of a meeting of 17 members from all over the United Kingdom. Further local meetings were held in Manchester. N.M.R.A. members, not necessarily of the Region, started regular meetings in London, forming the "LCL" Club.

Our members in Australia formed local chapters, one in South Australia and one in Victoria, and sent a regular newsletter of their activities for publication in "Roundhouse". In spite of their remoteness from the United Kingdom and the only benefit for their dues being receipt of "Roundhouse", many remained loyal members of the Region until the formation of the Southern Cross Region. An expansion meeting was arranged at the County Hotel, Newcastle on May 12th with the general public being invited to attend a showing of railroad slides. The Region President who showed the slides and two retired engine drivers were the only attendees. To fill the two additional Vice President vacancies created by the 1953 ballot, Fred Cooper and Dennis Adams were co-opted by

the Trustees to complete the official year. A layout design contest was sponsored by George Gregory who needed a plan for his pike.

"Roundhouse" ran to monthly issues with the exception of September, and totalled 148, 6½" x 8" duplicated pages. There were 11 issues of "Extra Fare" included with "Roundhouse" and a new departure was the provision of a different cover sketch by members, each month.

The annual Convention was held at the Royal Station Hotel, York over October 1st to 3rd. The event opened on Friday evening with open house at the Barkston ash Model Railroad Club where Club President, Joe Clayton and his wife, were hosts for what had now become a traditional Barkston Ash Fish and Chip supper. On the Saturday there were no formal arrangements in order to give more time for Sandhouse chats but the first part of the Annual General Meeting was held during the afternoon. Guests of Honour at the evening Banquet were the Region's old friends Mr and Mrs S W Jesper and Mr and Mrs G K Nield. The Banquet was followed by the usual film show. A wellknown N.M.R.A. figure, Don Pierce of the North East Region accompanied by his wife was present for the Convention, being on a visit to his married daughter. Sunday morning saw the ladies travelling down the historic River Ouse to see the riverside palace of the Archbishop of York while members were getting further up the creek at the continued Annual General Meeting. The major item on the agenda was a proposal for associate membership to go in the annual ballot in order to help membership over the hurdle of heavy National dues. The proposal was carried. In the National ballot the Region dropped to third place in percentage of members voting.

1955

The year opened with an event that gave great pleasure to members. Mr S W Jesper, Public Relations and Publicity Officer, North Eastern Region, British Railways, and Mr G K Nield, European Public Relations Officer, Canadian Pacific Railways, accepted Honorary Life Memberships of the Region. These were to be the first Hon Life Memberships awarded by the Region and were in recognition of the valuable help afforded the Region by these two gentlemen over a number of years.

The library changed hands at the start of the year and members were startled to find that the whole collection of books had to be burned on the instructions of the local Sanitary Inspector. They had become damp during the changeover period. The new Librarian was faced with the problem of building up a new collection and thanks to the help of members in the United Kingdom and the United States he largely succeeded by the end of the year.

The Region was again represented at the Model Railway Club Exhibition in London at Easter. The stand was organised by Tony Martens. The Region was again on show through a pike at the Weedon Church Fete held on July 2nd, arrangements being made by Dennis Watton and Eric Johnson. Local meetings were formed into Local Chapters in Birmingham, London, Manchester and the South-West. Once again the Region topped the National Ballot in percentage of members voting. Best news of the year was the permission to transfer National Dues to the States and the unfreezing of National Dues held in the United Kingdom. In October members had a surprise when "Roundhouse" appeared in the letterpress, kindly printed by member Ross Collman, of Fort Collins,

Colorado, USA. Unfortunately delays caused by the distance prevented the Region from accepting Russ's kind offer to print "Roundhouse" regularly.

Highlight of the Convention, held at the Grand Hotel Brighton from September 30th to October 2nd, was the attendance of 59 members and friends of "Railroad Enthusiasts Inc" of New York who were spending 16 days visiting railways in Great Britain and Eire. Convention activities included visits to a local Trade Fair and the retail stores and mail order house of member of Bob Bradshaw; and all the now traditional of events, except the usual film show which was omitted to give more time for talk with the American visitors.

During the year "Roundhouse" ran to 11 issues 10 being 6½" x 8" duplicated, and one 6½" x 8" printed, with a total of 128 pages.

1956

This was not one of the Region's brightest years, due to a certain amount of grumbling about continuity of office of certain Region Trustees and the lack of elections the previous year. The President published related correspondence and an official statement on the situation, which was due to lack of alternative nominations which would be welcomed for any year's ballot.

The now traditional Region Display at the Model Railway Club Exhibition in London over April 3^{rd} to 7^{th} was again organised by Dennis Watton, and Adrian LeMottee arranged a display at a Rotary Exhibition in the Nottingham area during March. Once again the Region had the highest percentage of members voting in the previous year's National Ballot. The Barkston Ash Chapter was formed in the New Year and brought the number of United Kingdom Chapters to five. The two Chapters in Australia continued. "Roundhouse" continued in $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x 8" duplicated format, with the issues totalling 168 pages. The May cover was printed and donated by Russ Collman of Colorado.

Venue for the Convention was the Granby Hotel, Harrogate over the weekend of October 5th to 7th. The event opened with a gathering at the Barkston Ash Club on Friday evening. Mr and Mrs Clayton were hosts and the British Broadcasting Corporation made a film of the proceedings, later shown on their television newsreel. Saturday was taken up with a "Dreamliner" trip by chartered two-car diesel railcar unit over the Yorkshire Moors to Whitby and Scarborough. The train crew were decked out with genuine American Engineers' striped caps and the Region's bell was rung as the train sped though each station en route. Guests of Honour at the evening Banquet were our old friends the Jespers and Nields with the addition of Mr (and Mrs) K Gore-Brown, producer of "Roundhouse". On Sunday there was the Annual General Meeting and the usual Convention attractions. Arising out of a proposal at the Annual General Meeting it was agreed that members should be asked on the Regional Ballot, to approve the establishment of a Nominating Committee, and the proposal received a majority vote on the ballot. Once again an American member of the N.M.R.A. was present at the Convention, a Lieut. Roth stationed in Germany. Bill Avery was awarded the Region Trophy.

1957

This was another crucial year in the Region's history due to the cancellation of the planned Brighton Convention due to lack of support and a shortage of funds for financing Region activities. The Nominating Committee formed as a result of the proposal on the previous year's ballot was charged with setting up a slate of Trustees for the 1957 Region Ballot.

During the year the Region was again represented at the Model Railway Club Exhibition, 23/27th April, with a stand organised by Tony Martens: a working pike was arranged for an exhibition in Weymouth on 13th August by Doug Baker. This latter was operated by remote control as Doug was in Australia at the time. In view of cancellations of the Convention an informal meeting of N.M.R.A. members was held in London in the fall.

One bright spot in an otherwise depressing year was a function held at the Royal Station Hotel, York on Sunday July 21st, when S W Jesper, PR&PO NE Region, British Railways, presented a 1/3rd full size replica of a loco bell to the Region on behalf of the North East Region, N.M.R.A.. This was a surprise gift from the N E Region who had heard, through Don Pierce, of the British Region's difficulties in moving full size loc bells to their minor functions. The proceedings were recorded and the tape sent to the North East Region for reproduction at their Convention.

"Roundhouse" had ten 6½" x 8" duplicated issues totalling 148 pages plus an experimental December issue in a proposed new format of 8" x 10", this had 18 pages. The August issue was produced and financed by the Barkston Ash Chapter and was entirely given over to an illustrated history and description of the Club and its pike. Another innovation of the year was a series of inserts featuring "Two-Rail Electrification".

October saw the end of President John Whitworth's eight continuous years in that office as John had chosen not to stand for office for the following year. This record of the British Region's history would not be complete without paying tribute to John Whitworth for nursing the Region through times good and bad, single-handedly producing two books, and above all for organising four Conventions and the proposed Grand Tour of Great Britain in 1952.

John Whitworth was succeeded as President by Martin Waller, a Region member from way back and Martin called his first official meeting in Manchester on October 27th. This meeting shaped a new policy for "Roundhouse" to conserve funds. Members loaned sufficient money to purchase a typewriter and electric duplicator, a member donated a year's supply of paper, and Fred Cooper undertook to edit, type, duplicate, bind and circulate a copy of "Roundhouse" each month in order to avoid expense of commercial production. The meeting also made plans to strengthen the Chapters and arrange a "Pike Visiting Scheme". The widows of two Region members, Mrs Barratt and Mrs Naylor, were made Hon Life Members of the Region.

In place of the Annual General Meeting at the cancelled Convention a special meeting was held at the Waldorf Hotel in London on November 24th. This meeting covered outside criticism of the Region (which had been aired in the National "Bulletin"), a post mortem of the cancelled Convention and confirmation of the future plans made by the Trustees at the Manchester meeting the month before.

1958

Activity in this year was mainly concerned with arousing interest in the Chapters and stimulating the visiting of neighbour's pikes. A pike directory with visiting arrangements was published in "Roundhouse", and a large amount of publicity was given to the affairs of the Chapters, which were operating in the Midlands, London (LCL Club), South-west, Manchester, Barkston Ash, North Wales, Cyprus (on a temporary basis) and the North Riding. A questionnaire was sent to all members seeking information to guide future policy of the Region. Stands were again organised at the Model Railway Club Exhibition, April 8th - 12th, and at Weymouth. During the year one of the Region's stalwarts, Eric Johnson, emigrated to Canada, presumably to see the end of steam. The Most Highly Derogatory Order of the Embroidered Brownie found its way into the Region and a number of awards were made. As a result of a letter in the National "Bulletin" for May, 10 Americans came forward and joined in correspondence with Region members. Reports were published in "Roundhouse" from globe-trotting members, one of whom reached the Pacific by tanker via the East and others reaching the same ocean via RAF Comet jet via the States. A further layout design competition was held which indicated that yet another member was getting out of the armchair.

A new departure was the Spring Meeting held on 20th April in Chester and arranged by the Northwest Chapter. 46 members and friends spent a happy and hectic day with three working pikes and a variety of interesting items for the ladies.

"Roundhouse" appeared in a new guise under its new management. Pages were increased to 8" x 10" and totalled 222 for the year. Amongst the contents were illustrated construction articles, real photographs of American prototype locomotives many trade reviews, a page for the ladies including a controversial cookery competition, a page for Junior Members soon dropped through lack of interest and an illustrated page from Russ Collman in Colorado. Members gave increased support in the form of articles and many pike histories were published. Up-to-the-minute trade news was included.

The Annual Convention was held at the Milestone Hotel in London's fashionable Kensington district during the first weekend in October. One of the highlights was the chance to see British Overseas Airways first Comet IV jet plane arrive at London Airport on the first commercial jet airliner service on the North Atlantic. This year there were no guests of honour and no Banquet speeches. To make up for this there was plenty of talk at the Annual General Meeting which ran to two sessions. The even produced one of the best model displays the Region had seen and competition entries were to a high standard. Eric Lloyd carried of the Norfolk Trophy with his magnificent hand carved figures. Delegates had the opportunity to see the Kalmbach Film "Along the Right of Way" and many other railroad films.

1959

This was a year of consolidation as the needs of members were translated into practice. There was a sudden interest in narrow gauge modelling with members switching over from normal HO, and this interest was reflected in "Roundhouse". Members continued to publish their railroad histories and visiting among members increased. Every encouragement was given to members to get to know each other. One highlight was the lifting of import restrictions on American model railroad items, although the procedure for obtaining these was to remain log and tedious.

"Roundhouse" continued in its new format under a Chief Editor with a staff to help with the production and publication. It ran to 174 pages covering a wide variety of items. The hundredth issue was published in February. Trade reviews continued and there was a re-run of photograph blocks made years ago for the benefit of recent members. A Model Railroad Directory was commenced in serial form and a Membership Directory published. The usual display was staged at the Model Railway Club Exhibition at Easter in London

Convention City was Chester in the Northwest. The Queen Hotel was the venue. Main attraction as the "Dreamliner" train which started from Chester as a two car diesel railcar and ran to Minfford. Here passengers transferred to the 1' 11½" gauge Ffestiniog Railway, recently saved from oblivion by a Preservation Society. The five car train, complete with buffet and observation car was hauled by the famous double boilered locomotive, "Taliesin". The special ran to Tan-y-bwlch, controlled by the Kingdom's only woman station-master, who took duty in her conical Welsh hat. After lunch, the special returned to Boston Lodge works to see other diminutive locomotives being reconditioned for service. Afterwards the party rejoined their diesel set and returned to Chester. Guests of Honour in the evening were Mr (and Mrs) George Hearne of Vancouver, Canada and Mr (and Mrs) George Mellor, a well-known British manufacturer. Mr Hearne showed slides of his fabulous "O" gauge layout and there was the usual film show. On Sunday the ladies visited Chester Zoo whilst their menfolk thrashed out the Region's business.

The Future

The members of the British Region consider themselves rather unique in British modelling circles and rightly so. They have chosen as prototypes for their modelling the railroads of a country that many of them have no chance of visiting. In spite of this, accuracy and authenticity are a mater of pride to members and this has led to many contacts with modellers all over North America who can supply vitally needed data. These same friends in North America have, do they but know it, made the continuation of the Region, during dark and difficult days, possible. For these friends have been instrumental in generously sending those hard to get kits and parts, without which even the rugged English enthusiast for American railroads might have given u modelling. Members of the Region are deeply grateful to these many friends. Now that things are easier for Region members, those very links, forged in the dark days, are to ensure that the Region progresses. Amongst the hard core of Region members there is no thought of ever abandoning American railroads for their models, and with the slowly increasing supply of American prototype models from British and European sources many modellers, presently outside the Region, are expected to come into the fold to receive the benefits of Regional and National membership.

Although representing only a fractional portion of the N.M.R.A. membership the members of the British Region are confident in heir belief that no other Region thinks more highly of the N.M.R.A. or is more active in its support. The record of the British Region's activity in those affairs of the National body, within which it can play a part, because of distance, will stand any examination. With a magazine that is superior to that of any other Region, a response to the National Ballot superior to that of any other Region, and a spirit of endeavour also superior to that of any Region, the first of the overseas Regions of the N.M.R.A. wishes to hold itself up as an example of what the N.M.R.A. can mean to the model rail when its aims are translated into practice.

In conclusion, as this history is intended for publication in the 25th Anniversary Number of the National "Bulletin" the members of the British Region wish to express to all other N.M.R.A. members their cordial greetings and to say how much they look forward to the next 25 years of the N.M.R.A..

Appendix A British Region Trustees and Officers

1946

President Mr Curtis
Vice-President J H Ahearn
Secretary W F Bolton
Editor "Highball" W F Bolton
Purchasing Agent H N R Wood

1946/47

President G H Lake
Vice-President H N R Wood
Secretary K Brennan

Treasurer K Brennan Until W Whyler W Whyler Resigned 12/7/47

J W Whitworth

Editor "Highball" W F Bolton Until D H Fletcher

D H Fletcher Appointed 12/7/47 Started Nov issue

Public Relations Officer J W Whitworth From 12/7/47

G H Lake To 12/7/47

Purchasing Agent H N R Wood Until department closed

1947/48

President Vacant Due to nomination disagreements

Vice-President (South) K Brennan
Treasurer J W Whitworth

Secretary A Muir Resigned March 1948

Editor "Highball" D H Fletcher

Librarian H Wightwick From 1/9/48

1948/49

President K Brennan
Vice-President K Phelps
Secretary R Perrin
Treasurer P Densham

Editor "Highball" D H Fletcher Last issue 12/48
Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher First issue 1/49

Librarian H Wightwick
Purchasing Agent E W Johnson

President J W Whitworth Vice-President A Illingworth Secretary S R Ellis Assistant Secretary - Publicity G Roberts S Walls Assistant Secretary - Administration Treasurer T E Norfolk D H Fletcher Editor "Roundhouse" Assistant Editor - Distribution J Aylett Librarian H Wightwick **Purchasing Agent** R Wood Liaison Officer - Overseas Railroads K Brennan E D D Adams Official Artist Resident Representative US G Collins

1950/51

President J W Whitworth Vice-President M Waller Secretary S R Ellis Assistant Secretary - Publicity G Roberts Treasurer T E Norfolk Editor "Roundhouse" K W Littlewood

Assistant Editor - Distribution S Walls Overseas Public Relations Officer K Brennan Librarian H Wightwick **Purchasing Agent** R Wood Official Artist E D D Adams Resident Representative USA G Collins Resident Representative - South Pacific J H Robinson

Public Relations & Publicity Officer F W Cooper From 1/8/51

1951/52

President J W Whitworth Vice-President M Waller S R Ellis Secretary T E Norfolk Treasurer

Editor "Roundhouse" K Littlewood To 6/52 From 7/52

D H Fletcher

Librarian H Wightwick

Purchasing Agent S Walls From 1/52

President J W Whitworth
Vice-President D F Watton

Secretary S R Ellis to 12/52 A J LeMottee from 1/53

Assistant Secretary - Administration S Walls

Treasurer T E Norfolk

Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher

Editor "Extra Fare" F W Cooper

Assistant Editor - Mailing D Hiscock from 1/53

Public Relations & Publicity Officer F W Cooper
Overseas Public Relations Officer G Roberts
Librarian H Wightwick
Official Artists E D D Adams
F Bishop

Pike Register Editor J P R Pinkney

Ballot Committee A L Firth

Asst Public Relations & Publicity Officer A L Firth

Ballot Committee J Clayton
A L Firth

1953/54

President J W Whitworth
Vice-President D F Watton

Vice-PresidentF W CooperAppointment made by Trustee pending ballotVice-PresidentE D D AdamsAppointment made by Trustee pending ballot

Secretary A J LeMottee

Assistant Secretary - Administration S Walls

Treasurer T E Norfolk to 27/6/54 A L Firth from 27/6/54

Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher
Editor "Extra Fare" F W Cooper
Assistant Editor - Distribution D Hiscock

Librarian H Wightwick to 6/54
D Binns from 6/54

Ballot Committee C W Collier W Avery

Resident Representative - South Pacific J H Robinson to 27/6/54

B J Cotter from 27/6/54

Official Artists E D D Adams F Bishop

President J W Whitworth Vice-President D F Watton Vice-President D H Fletcher Vice-President E D D Adams

Secretary A J LeMottee to 8/55

Assistant Secretary - Administration S Walls Treasurer A L Firth **Assistant Treasurer** F E Tombs Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher Assistant Editor - Distribution D Hiscock D Binns Librarian E D D Adams Official Artists

F Bishop

Region Representative - London J P R Pinkney Public Relations Officer M Jones **Ballot Committee** W Avery C W Collier

1955/56

President J W Whitworth Vice-President D F Watton Vice-President D H Fletcher Vice-President J P R Pinkney Secretary R W Dye Treasurer A L Firth F E Tombs Registrar Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher Assistant Editor - Distribution D Hiscock

Librarian D Binns to 6/56 from 9/56 D F Watton

Official Artists K Chapman F Bishop

Public Relations & Publicity Officer M Jones Hon Auditor F Bishop N.M.R.A. Supplies Agent E K Dimond

C W Collier **Ballot Committee** W Avery

President J W Whitworth Vice-President D H Fletcher Vice-President M Waller G J Pollinger Vice-President R W Dye Secretary Treasurer A L Firth F E Tombs Registrar D H Fletcher Editor "Roundhouse" Assistant Editor - Production G J Pollinger

Assistant Editor - Distribution D Hiscock to 2/57 from 1/10/57 J Chalmers

Librarian D F Watton

Public Relations & Publicity Officer M Jones

N.M.R.A. Supplies Agent E K Dimond from 6/57

Ballot Committee C W Collier W Avery

1957/58

President M Waller Vice-President J Clayton Vice-President A L Firth Vice-President A J LeMottee Secretary R W Dye Treasurer F E Tombs Registrar G Gillies

Editor "Roundhouse" D H Fletcher to 11/57 F W Cooper from 12/57

Assistant Editor - Distribution J Chalmers to 11/57

Librarian G W Fitzpatrick Public Relations Officer - Great Britain G J Pollinger N.M.R.A. Supplies Agent E K Dimond Auditor J Maxwell **Ballot Committee** W Avery C W Collier Nominating Committee

R W Dye F E Tombs A Martens G T Weston J W Whitworth

1958/59

President M Waller Vice-President J Clayton

Vice-President A J LeMottee

Vice-President F W Cooper

Secretary A L Firth

Treasurer F E Tombs

Registrar A J Day-Winter

Editor "Roundhouse" F W Cooper to 12/58 A J LeMottee from 1/59

Publisher Roundhouse E W Slater from 1/59

Librarian G W Fitzpatrick

Public Relations Officer G J Pollinger

N.M.R.A. Supplies Agent E K Dimond

Auditor J Maxwell

Ballot Committee C W Collier
W Avery

A L Firth
F E Tombs
A Martens
G T Weston
J W Whitworth

1959/60

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee

President A L Firth

F W Cooper Elected President but unable to take up post]

Vice-President

Vice-President

Vice-President

D Eve

Secretary

R G Foster

Treasurer

F E Tombs

Registrar

A J Day-Winter

Editor "Roundhouse" A J LeMottee to 12/59

D Eve from 1/60

Librarian G W Fitzpatrick
Public Relations & Publicity Officer J Harrison

N.M.R.A. Supplies Agent E K Dimond

Auditor J Maxwell

Region Historian F W Cooper

Ballot Committee C W Collier
W Avery

F E Tombs R W Dye J W Whitworth A Martens G T Weston

Appendix B Annual General Meetings and Conventions

Year	Date	City	Venue Co	AGM/ onvention	Notes I
1946		London	Kenview Model Railway Club	Α	First General Meeting
1947	July	London	Kenview Model Railway Club	Α	First AGM
1948	Oct 2	London	North Met Power Co, Kenton	Α	AGM
1949	Nov 12	London	Northampton Polytechnic	A/C	First Convention
					K Brennan, E W Johnson
1950	Oct 28/29	York	Royal Station Hotel	A/C	J W Whitworth
1951	Oct 13/14	Cheltenham	Queen's Hotel	A/C	J W Whitworth
1952	Oct 10/11/12	York	Royal Station Hotel	A/C	J W Whitworth
1953	Oct 2/3/4	London	Charing Cross Hotel	A/C	G T Weston
1954	Oct 2/3	York	Royal Station Hotel	A/C	J Clayton
1955	Oct 1/2	Brighton	Grand Hotel	A/C	R G Bradshaw
1956	Oct 5/6/7	Harrogate	Granby Hotel	A/C	J W Whitworth
1957	Nov 24	London	Waldorf Hotel	Α	No Convention AGM only
1958	Oct 4/5	London	Milestone Hotel	A/C	G J Pollinger
1959	Oct 2/3/4	Chester	Queen Hotel	A/C	F E Tombs, A L Firth

Appendix C British Region Membership

Year End	Region Ordinary	Members Paid up	Honorary	Lady Me Ordinary	embers Honorary	Junior Members
1946¹	61	-	-	-	-	3
1947¹	133	-	-	-	-	6
1948 ¹	2	1	-	-	-	-
1949	70	1	-	-	-	-
1950	123	1	-	-	-	-
1951	141	2	-	-	-	1
1952	173	2	-	-	-	12
1953	151	2	-	12	-	11
1954	114	2	-	4	-	8
1955	98	2	2	12	-	8
1956	121	2	2	13	-	7
1957	96	2	2	13	-	7
1958	88	2	2	14	2	8
1959 ²	81	2	2	13	2	6

Notes

^{1 -} These numbers are not correct as some records cannot be traced

 $^{2-\}text{Figures}$ correct to end of first nine months of accounting year i.e. to 30^{th} October

Appendix D Positions Held by Individuals

E D D Adams

1949/50	Official Artist
1950/51	Official Artist
1952/53	Official Artist
1953/54	Vice-President
1953/54	Official Artist
1954/55	Vice-President
1954/55	Official Artist

J H Ahearn

1946 Vice-President

W Avery

1953/54	Ballot Committee
1954/55	Ballot Committee
1955/56	Ballot Committee
1956/57	Ballot Committee
1957/58	Ballot Committee
1958/59	Ballot Committee
1959/60	Ballot Committee

J Aylett

1949/50 Assistant Editor - Distribution

A D Baker

1959/60 Vice-President

D Binns

1953/54	Librarian
1954/55	Librarian
1955/56	Librarian

F Bishop

1952/53	Official Artist
1953/54	Official Artist
1954/55	Official Artist
1955/56	Auditor
1955/56	Official Artist

W F Bolton

1946	Secretary
1946	Editor "Highball"
1946/47	Editor "Highball"

K Brennan

1946/47	Treasurer
1946/47	Secretary
1947/48	Vice-President (South)
1948/49	President
1949/50	Liaison Officer - Overseas Railroads
1950/51	Overseas Public Relations Officer

J Chalmers

1956/57	Assistant Editor - Distribution
1957/58	Assistant Editor - Distribution

K Chapman

1955/56 Official Artist

J Clayton

1952/53	Ballot Committee
1957/58	Vice-President
1958/59	Vice-President

C W Collier

1953/54	Ballot Committee
1954/55	Ballot Committee
1955/56	Ballot Committee
1956/57	Ballot Committee
1957/58	Ballot Committee
1958/59	Ballot Committee
1959/60	Ballot Committee

G Collins

1949/50	Resident Representative US
1950/51	Resident Representative US

F W Cooper

1950/51	Public Relations & Publicity Officer
1951/52	Public Relations & Publicity Officer
1952/53	Editor "Extra Fare"
1952/53	Public Relations & Publicity Officer
1953/54	Editor "Extra Fare"
1957/58	Editor "Roundhouse"
1958/59	Vice-President
1958/59	Editor "Roundhouse"
1959/60	Elected President unable to take up post
1959/60	Region Historian

B J Cotter

1953/54	Resident Representative - South
Pacific	

_ Curtis

1946 President

A J Day-Winter

1958/59	Registrar
1959/60	Registrar

P Densham

1948/49 Treasurer

E K Dimond

1955/56	NMRA Supplies Agent
1956/57	NMRA Supplies Agent
1957/58	NMRA Supplies Agent
1958/59	NMRA Supplies Agent
1959/60	NMRA Supplies Agent

R W Dye

1955/56	Secretary
1956/57	Secretary
1957/58	Secretary

1957/58 Nominating Committee 1959/60 Nominating Committee

SR Ellis

1949/50	Secretary
1950/51	Secretary
1951/52	Secretary
1952/53	Secretary

D Eve

1959/60 Vice-President 1959/60 Editor "Roundhouse"

A L Firth

1952/53	Ballot Committee
1952/53	Asst Public Relations & Publicity Office
1953/54	Treasurer
1954/55	Treasurer
1955/56	Treasurer
1956/57	Treasurer
1957/58	Vice-President
1958/59	Secretary
1959/60	President

V Firth

1959/60 Publisher Roundhouse

G W Fitzpatrick

1957/58	Librarian
1958/59	Librarian
1959/60	Librarian

D H Fletcher

1946/47	Editor "Highball"
1947/48	Editor "Highball"
1948/49	Editor "Roundhouse"
1948/49	Editor "Highball"
1949/50	Editor "Roundhouse"
1951/52	Editor "Roundhouse"
1952/53	Editor "Roundhouse"
1953/54	Editor "Roundhouse"
1954/55	Vice-President
1954/55	Editor "Roundhouse"
1955/56	Vice-President
1955/56	Editor "Roundhouse"
1956/57	Vice-President
1956/57	Editor "Roundhouse"
1957/58	Editor "Roundhouse"

R G Foster

1959/60 Secretary

G Gillies

1957/58 Registrar

J Harrison

1959/60 Public Relations & Publicity Officer

D Hiscock

1952/53	Assistant Editor - Mailing
1953/54	Assistant Editor - Distribution
1954/55	Assistant Editor - Distribution
1955/56	Assistant Editor - Distribution
1956/57	Assistant Editor - Distribution

A Illingworth

1949/50 Vice-President

E W Johnson

1948/49 Purchasing Agent

M Jones

1954/55	Public Relations Officer
1955/56	Public Relations & Publicity Officer
1956/57	Public Relations & Publicity Officer

G H Lake

1946/47	President
1946/47	Public Relations Officer

A J LeMottee

1952/53	Secretary
1953/54	Secretary
1954/55	Secretary
1957/58	Vice-President
1958/59	Vice-President
1958/59	Editor "Roundhouse"
1959/60	Roundhouse Dispatch

K W Littlewood

1950/51	Editor "Roundhouse"
1951/52	Editor "Roundhouse"

E Lloyd

1959/60 Vice-President

A Martens

1957/58	Nominating Committee
1958/59	Nominating Committee
1959/60	Nominating Committee

J Maxwell

1957/58	Auditor
1958/59	Auditor
1959/60	Auditor

A Muir

1947/48 Secretary

T E Norfolk

1949/50	Treasurer
1950/51	Treasurer
1951/52	Treasurer
1952/53	Treasurer
1953/54	Treasurer

R Perrin

1948/49 Secretary

K Phelps

1948/49 Vice-President

J P R Pinkney

1952/53	Pike Register Editor
1953/54	Region Representative - London
1954/55	Region Representative - London
1955/56	Vice-President

G J Pollinger

1956/57	Vice-President
1956/57	Assistant Editor - Production

1957/58 Public Relations Officer - Great Britain

1958/59 Public Relations Officer

G Roberts

1949/50	Assistant Secretary - Publicity
1950/51	Assistant Secretary - Publicity
1952/53	Overseas Public Relations Officer

J H Robinson

1950/51	Resident Representative - South
Pacific 1953/54 Pacific	Resident Representative - South

E W Slater

1958/59	Publisher Roundhouse
1959/60	Publisher Roundhouse

F E Tombs

1954/55	Assistant Treasurer
1955/56	Registrar
1956/57	Registrar
1957/58	Treasurer
1957/58	Nominating Committee
1958/59	Treasurer
1959/60	Treasurer
1959/60	Nominating Committee

M Waller

1950/51	Vice-President
1951/52	Vice-President
1956/57	Vice-President
1957/58	President
1958/59	President

S Walls

1949/50	Assistant Secretary - Administration
1950/51	Assistant Editor - Distribution
1951/52	Purchasing Agent
1952/53	Assistant Secretary - Administration
1953/54	Assistant Secretary - Administration
1954/55	Assistant Secretary - Administration

D F Watton

1952/53	Vice-President
1953/54	Vice-President
1954/55	Vice-President
1955/56	Vice-President
1955/56	Librarian
1956/57	Librarian

G T Weston

1957/58	Nominating Committee
1958/59	Nominating Committee
1959/60	Nominating Committee

J W Whitworth

1946/47	Treasurer
1946/47	Public Relations Officer
1947/48	Treasurer
1949/50	President
1950/51	President
1951/52	President
1952/53	President
1953/54	President
1954/55	President
1955/56	President
1956/57	President
1957/58	Nominating Committee
1958/59	Nominating Committee
1959/60	Nominating Committee

W Whyler

1946/47 Treasurer

H Wightwick

1947/48	Librarian
1948/49	Librarian
1949/50	Librarian
1950/51	Librarian
1951/52	Librarian
1952/53	Librarian
1953/54	Librarian

HNR Wood

1946	Purchasing Agent
1946/47	Vice-President
1946/47	Purchasing Agent

R Wood

1949/50	Purchasing Agent
1950/51	Purchasing Agent