



The Stephenson Locomotive Society

From the past - into the future



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Press Release

The World's Oldest Railway Society Working Towards a New Future

The Stephenson Locomotive Society (SLS) has been aware for some time of the changing nature of the hobby which so many enjoy and has had tentative discussions with the Locomotive Club of Great Britain to explore means of greater collaboration and co-operation. This was followed by an approach from the Railway Correspondence & Travel Society (RCTS) to initiate similar discussions.

The SLS recognises the many challenges facing railway societies such as age, recruitment, succession management etc that are common to many such organisations. There is a need to secure and further promote knowledge and understanding of railways in their many facets. It is recognised that through greater collaboration and co-operation between like-minded organisations the mass of information held by these organisations could be safe guarded for future generations.

The SLS is very pleased to announce that preliminary discussions with the RCTS have resulted in the signing of a formal Heads of Terms Agreement which commits both parties to explore how working together more closely will benefit members of both societies. This agreement has paved the way for working parties to investigate, during the coming months, such areas as membership services, integration of both societies' magazines, review of Library collections etc for the benefit of members of both societies.

These are the first steps towards ensuring that the many items about railways that both societies hold – archival and photographic material, nameplates, books etc - are secured for the benefit of future generations of railway researchers, enthusiasts and others to enjoy.

The SLS is looking forward to productive and fruitful discussions.

Brian Dotson

Chairman

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