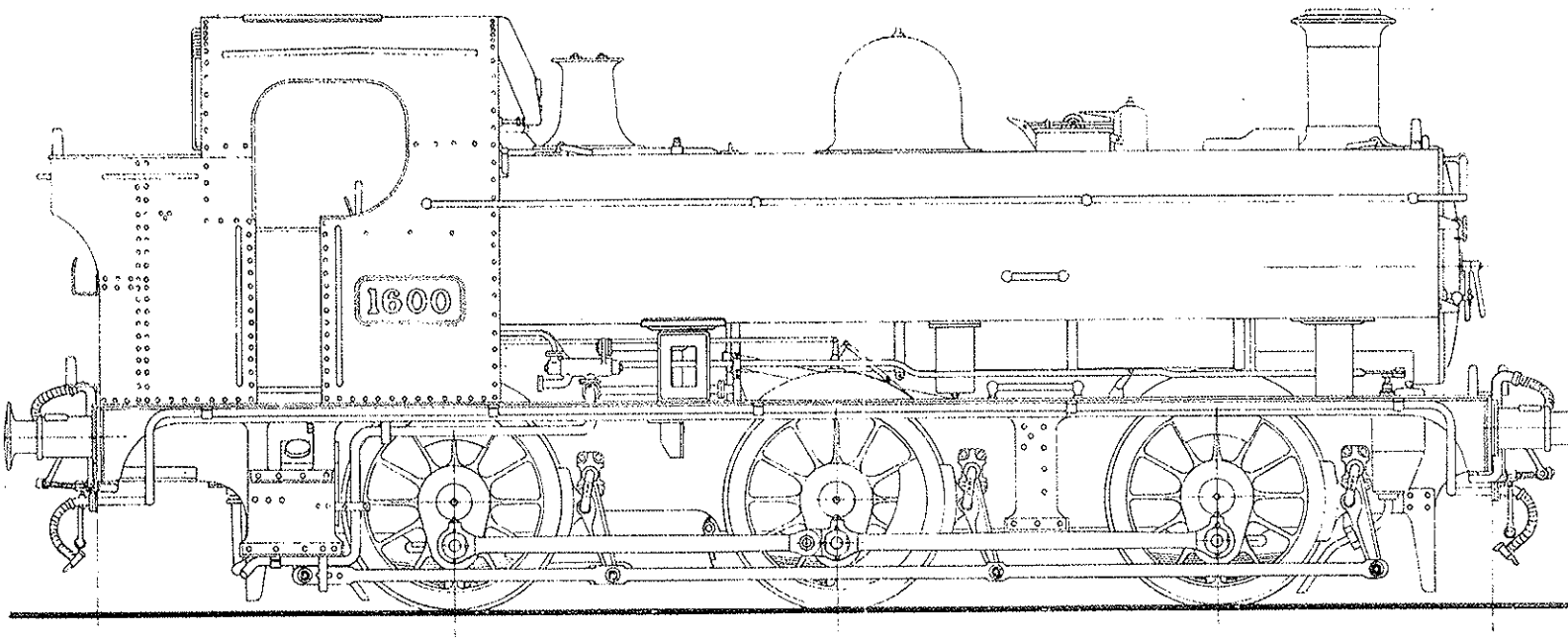


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No 39. There is  
therefore no number 39

# COCK O' THE NORTH

Newsletter of the Angus Railway Group



**0-6-0 PT 16xx CLASS**

## ANGUS RAILWAY GROUP

**Chairman**—Mr L. A. C. HORNE, Breadalbane, 10 Seymour Avenue, Dundee.

**Secretary**—Mr IAN RATTRAY, 126 Prestwick Court, Ardler, Dundee.

**Treasurer**—Mr J. CUMMING, 20 Perth Road, Scone, Perth.

**Sales Officer**—Mr TOM SMITH, 228 Townhill Road, Dunfermline.

**Minute Secretary**—Mr STUART McDONALD, 37 High Street, Lochee, Dundee.

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Articles for inclusion in the Cock o' the North should be sent to the  
Newsletter Editor.

Back numbers, 10p each, are obtainable from the Secretary.

September 1975 Newsletter

E D I T O R I A L

Our most sincere and heartfelt thanks must be given to the hosts who provided such abounding hospitality at our first indoor meeting of the season. Indeed, one distinctly felt that no expense had been spared. Recently we have been sampling B.R. coffee at 13 p per cup ( which they don't allow you to take away) and really there can be no comparison. We should like to thank Mary Kendal who assisted in the preparation and serving of this sumptuous feast and to apologise for the mis - spelling of her surname in a previous issue.

The meeting took the form of a quiz - something like ' Mastermind ' - and the title " Train Brain 1975 " went to Ian Johnstone, who made light work of some very stiff questions. Well done Ian. John Cumming and Lindsay Horne were second and third respectively.

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S O C I A L   N I G H T   O U T

It was decided at the last indoor meeting that this year's night to remember ( or try to remember ) would be held on Saturday November 8th at the Clifftown Hotel located in Arbroath. A special bus will be provided between Dundee and Arbroath. Our Secretary informs us that if 40 people go the overall cost will be £2.00. With 30 people it will be increased to £ 2.25 and 20 people £ 2.50. So please will as many members as possible let the Secretary know as soon as they can. We have been asked to emphasise that should you miss the bus, there will be a supplementary charge in the event of a double journey being necessary.

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A R T I C L E S   F O R   S A L E

PRINZ CONCORD 1Q 2500 35 mm Slide Projector ( Including Lamp and 36 Slide Magazine)  
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A MESSAGE FROM BUNFERRLINE

Our Sales Officer has only just telephoned with a problem. How to get rid of an enormous quantity of beautiful Kyle Line Calendars. These are of course for 1976. At only 35 pence each, they really are of unjustifiably good value. They come in special robust envelopes and are ready for despatch to friends and relatives anywhere in the world. So make a point of catching Tom at the next meeting.

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THE FORTH BRIDGE

Shortly after 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 23rd August 1975, seven unsuspecting people gathered in the Bridge Inspector's Office at Dalmeny station, where they were issued with yellow warning jackets and quite a few statistics. For instance, did you know that the bridge contains 6½ million rivets, weighing more than 4,200 tons or that the 20 painters use 17 tons of paint annually?

We set off along the South Approach Viaduct and after a short distance went down one of the hatches set between the tracks. This led to a walkway beneath the main deck and ran for about 200 yards before returning to track level.

At the entrance to the cantilever sections, we were shown the gauges for measuring the expansion and contraction of the structure and then were taken up inside the masonry pier. From the train this appears solid, but it is in fact open inside and at one time housed meteorological instruments.

The rails on the Bridge are laid in the same way as Brunel's broad gauge on longitudinal oak beams and weigh 125 pounds per yard.

At the centre of the Bridge we were led onto a thin narrow plank (there's no other word for it!), near the side of the Bridge. I think I can safely say it struck terror into a few of us, though it was a little unnerving to see Bob Kennedy striding out as if he was walking along the High Street! However from here a ladder led about 100 feet down onto Inch Garvie - the island in the centre of the Forth. Some idea of the size of the Bridge can be got from the island.

Before returning to Dalmeny, we were able to see the gold rivet put in by the Prince of Wales when he opened the Bridge in 1890.

To those members who were unable to attend this meeting, I would recommend this as a possible visit next year, as the Bridge Inspector and his staff are always ready to answer questions and explain the day - to - day working of the Bridge.

STUART MACDONAIL.

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COVER DESIGN

We are reminded that it will very soon be time to choose the 1976 cover picture for our Newsletter. So now's the time to go through your collections and re - discover that shot you took in carefree boyhood days - that shot which could bring you everlasting fame.

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A SUGGESTION has been received that the Angus Railway Group might adopt a motto. One idea put forward is "Yield Not To Temptation" - can anyone better this?  
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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY STATION

Mr Stuart rolled over in bed and nudging his wife said " Time to get up ". " Just another five minutes " was her reply. " O.K., as long as you are up to meet the mail ".

Five minutes later, they hear the whistle of the train crossing Blackford level crossing. " Four minutes and it will be here " exclaims Mrs Stuart as she leaps out of bed and pulls on her housecoat. Making her way to the front door of the station house, she is to be found as always awaiting the arrival of the train.

As the train crept into the station with a 2 - 6 - 0 in charge, George Wilson, the driver, asked " Where's Mr Stuart ? ". " It's his morning in bed " was the reply. " Well, make sure he's up for the 9.15 from Glasgow. The General Manager's doing a spot check today ", explained George. " Thanks, I'll tell him " Mrs Stuart shouts back, as the train moved on to stop just short of the branch signal.

Mr Cosgrove, the mail man, opens the door of his coach. " Fine morning " he says. " Not many today " he adds as he tumbles out ten sacks of mail. " Just as well " replies Mrs Stuart. " Old fusty face is coming today. " " I wonder what he wants " enquired Mr Cosgrove. " We will find out when he arrives, " answers Mrs Stuart. " Good Luck ", added the mail man, as he pulled shut the door and returned to the sorting of his mail.

Mrs Stuart turns to sort out the sacks - one pile are for the local post office and the rest are stacked at the edge of platform 3 to wait for the first branch train of the morning.

Ian Smart pulls off the platform signal for the last time before changing over shifts. A short toot from the train's whistle and slowly she moves away without much bother up the incline to Perth.

Mrs Stuart, after sorting the mail, turns towards the station house, but as she reaches the front door pauses just for a moment to watch Ian Smart change shift with Tom Adamson, the other signaller. These two always have a cup of tea together, maybe because they're glad of someone to talk to after a long lonely shift.

Mrs Stuart stoops to pick up the milk and papers and heads for the kitchen. " Come on Ian " she shouts " fusty face will be off the 9.15 train from Glasgow. " A couple of minutes later Ian Stuart appeared round the door, rubbing his eyes and yawning. " How did you find out he was coming? " he asked. " George Wilson told me " Mary Stuart replied, at the same time as she turned Ian's bacon. " Wonder what he wants " Ian murmurs to himself.

About this time of the morning Jimmy Herd, the driver of the branch line engine - a Fowler 2 - 6 - 4T was just beginning to steam his engine. This he usually had done in time for the 7.00 departure of the first train to Dunning. But some mornings when he was a bit late nobody minded. He moved off his shed about ten minutes before departure time and drew up at the end of the carriage siding. Here he whistled for Tom Adamson to throw the points and then reversed up to his three coaches. After his fireman coupled them up he moved off for platform three. He stopped just before the end of the platform. " Get a good head of steam up " he snapped at the fireman and stepped down on to the platform.

Ian Stuart finished his bacon, sipped his now cold tea, then got up and slipped on his jacket. " I'm off " he shouted to his wife, who was upstairs dressing. As he emerged from his door he saw Jimmy getting down from his cab. " Fine morning, Jimmy " " Looks like it's going to be a scorcher, Ian " was the reply. They both made their way back the train to the last coach, where the guard was loading the mail. " Want a hand Dugie " asked Jimmy. " No thanks, just about finished " responded the guard as he threw the last sack into the cage and slammed shut the door. " That's that done " states Dugie, " Not much this morning " says Ian. " That's the way I like it " replies Dugie. " I have some parcels in the office, better come and get them " Ian said to Dugie.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COUNTRY STATION cont.

So all three made their way over to the office on platform two, where Dugie picked up the parcels and making his way back to the train installed himself comfortably with his newspaper.

The engine driver and the stationmaster stood for a while talking about the previous Saturday's football match. "Better be off" exclaimed the guard, looking at his watch. "See you later" Ian said. Presently Jimmy moved out on to the platform and climbed into his cab. He checked his pressure, turned off his brake and moving over to the window gave a blast on the whistle. Easing open the regulator, the big engine slowly lumbered away from the platform.

To be Continued.

IAN RATTRAY.

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SOLUTIONS TO JULY AND AUGUST CROSSWORDS

JULY

Across

1. Mae 5. Art 7. Surplus 8. Slush 10. Nairn 12. Strap Hanger 13. Rebel  
15. Loose 18. Magical 19. Rob 20. Oxo

Down

1. Mass 2. Essay 3. Archipelago 4. Glen Falloch 5. Asti 6. Thin 9. Litho  
11. Reels 13. Ruhr 14. Bomb 16. Oslo 17. Echo.

AUGUST

Across

2. Chains 6. Tea 7. Ago 8. Railway 10. Angus 11. Irate 14. Assam 17. Group  
18. Algeria 20. Tor 21. Ill 22. Strain

Down

1. Stooges 2. Cares 3. Alibi 4. Now 5. Banana 9. Aft 12. Apostle 13. Export  
15. Sol 16. Maria 17. Grain 19. Get.

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