

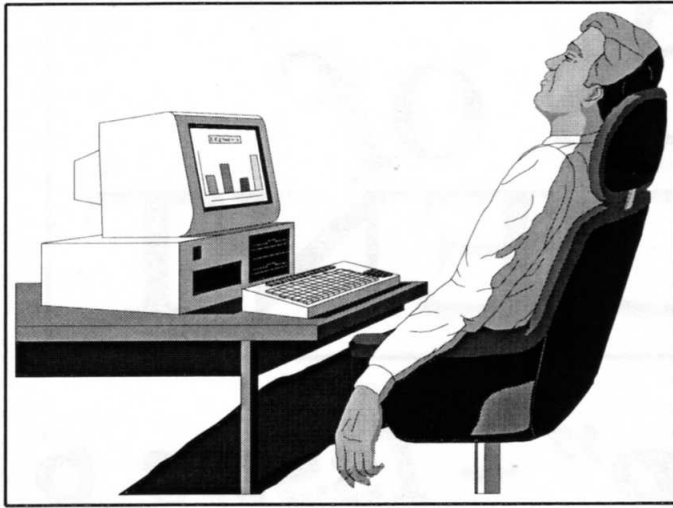
Friends of PRESIDENT

“Steaming Up” – Issue 6

Grand Draw raises £1900



David Suchet draws out the winning ticket for our Grand Draw. This raised over £1900 for the restoration fund. Full details of the winners are included in this issue.



From the Editor

Yes, it's in the water, Yes the cabins done, but as yet no magic first Whoomph of paraffin being lit in the boiler and the cloud of black smoke that will mark the first trial steaming. In this issue I will bring you full details of our Grand Draw results, plus a full update on progress since the last issue.

First of all it's been a long time since the last issue, for which I must hold my hands up – guilty as charged. However, I have been in the process of moving house. We are now fully ensconced in our new house and everything is out of the boxes. Trouble is, the decorating now begins! Incredibly just over three months ago we were not planning on moving, but saw this house advertised, viewed it, sold ours and had an offer accepted on this one in eight days. So if you'll excuse me I'll use this worthy publication to give my formal change of address notice to FOP. The new address being

***Station House,
Meadow Lane,
Little Somerford,
Wiltshire, SN15 5JJ
Telephone 01249 720978***

For those who are interested it is an ex GWR stationmaster's house on the line which runs from Bristol to Swindon avoiding Chippenham and Bath. The line was built as a bypass line in the late 19th century to allow better access for coal trains from the South Wales pits. The line is still open with about three trains an hour. They pass about 120 feet from where I am sitting. However, they pass by at about 90 mph and don't disturb you at all.

As with many organisations a lot is carried out by relatively few, normally I am not in favour of naming individuals, but I think thanks should go out to all those who helped organise the draw. Chiefly David Powell and John Byham. The £1900 raised is a valuable contribution towards the final restoration costs. Also thanks to all those members who went out and sold the tickets.

At times boat restoration can be a frustrating business. In January 2000 the boat was delivered to Stourbridge and here we are 22 months later and still it's not completed. But really the end is in sight. The cabin is now complete and by all accounts looks superb. The last major job is to do is to pipe up the engineroom and complete the installation of the steam plant. And as they say everything comes to those who wait. Here's to that first trip.

***Happy Christmas and a steaming new year!
Simon Nuttall***

website www.nb-president.org.uk

