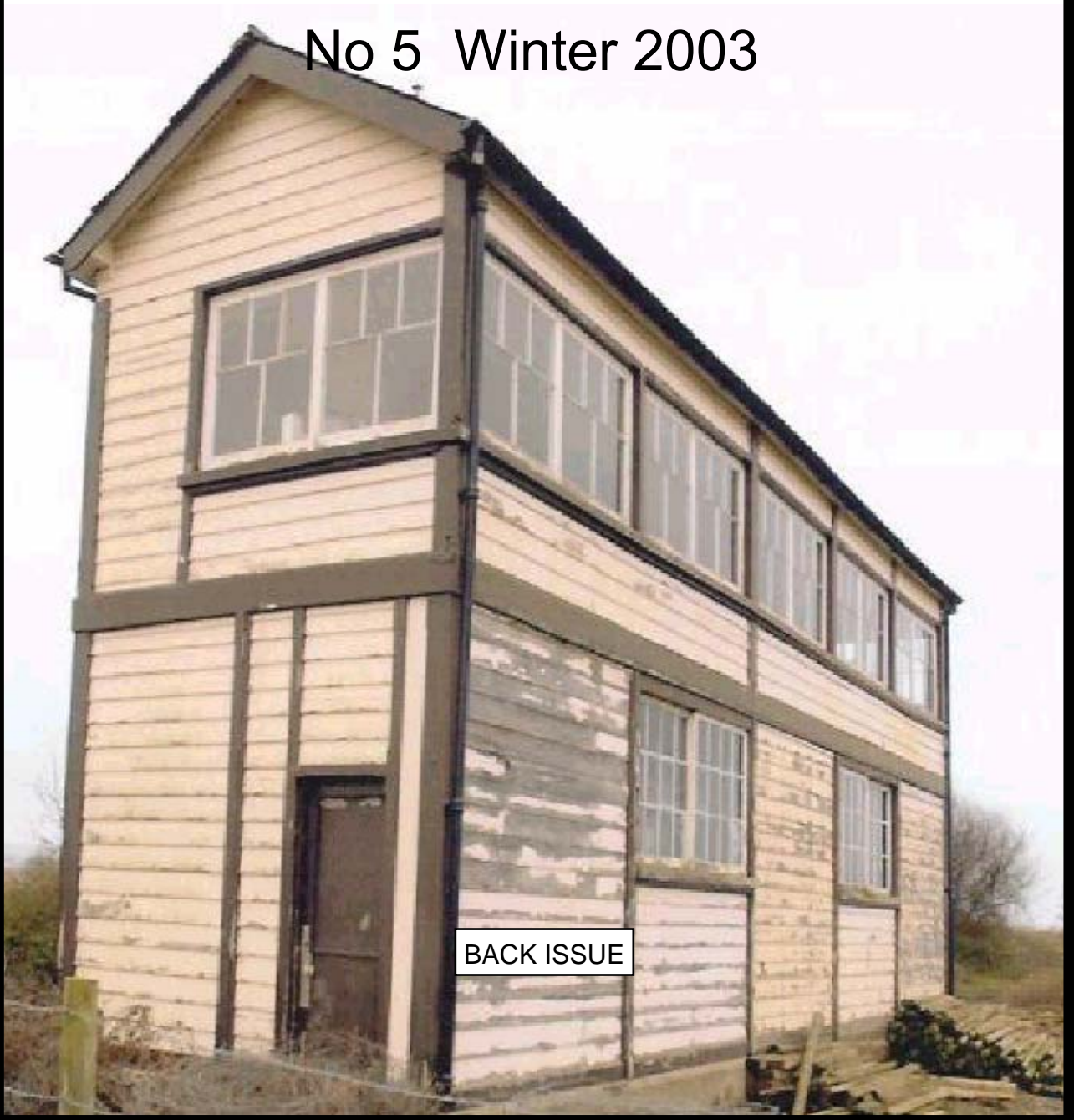


**EXMINSTER SIGNAL BOX PRESERVATION
SOCIETY**

NEWSLETTER

No 5 Winter 2003



BACK ISSUE

EXMINSTER SIGNAL BOX PRESERVATION SOCIETY

www.exminstersignalbox.org.uk

Newsletter No 5 Winter 2003

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NEWS

Danny Scroggins

As we wait for the Charity Commission to reach a decision on our charity status we are very excited, but also slightly disappointed. We had hoped that 2004 would be the year in which we removed the Signal Box from the Exminster site. But with the delays in applying for charity status (caused mainly, I'm not afraid to say, by National Westminster Bank), and the 'resignation' of our method statement author, it is now very unlikely that we will move into the Box in 2004. I am not going to be unrealistic and print false hopes of things that are not going to be, hence I am not dressing up the missing of our 2004 target, but I am sure that Summer 2005 (which is really only 18 months of planning away) will see the final days of the Signal Box at Exminster.

So we know where we want to be, but how are we going to get there? After the Charity Status attainment, which we hope should not cause us any further problems, there are two key issues to be addressed. These are a) The lack of a method statement and b) The degradation of the Signal Box building while it waits for us to take it down.

The method statement is a detailed plan of exactly how we are going to remove the Signal Box when the time comes. It cannot, therefore, be drafted by anyone other than someone who knows what they are talking about, and when it comes to building structures and regulations, I don't. So if you have the necessary skills or you know someone who has, and are willing to help the project then please get in touch with me, my details are in the front

cover. We will also canvassed for help in “Connecting Network Rail”, the national railway network’s internal staff magazine.

The degradation to the Signal Box structure is a worrying issue. The Box will have to face another winter after this one, and while the RSPB do maintain the box, as a redundant asset it is understandably not urgent on their repairs list. With all this in mind, we have decided to hold a working party weekend at the Signal Box in Spring 2004. More details will follow in the spring newsletter, but if you think you might be interested in helping out please get in touch with me and I will be sure to keep you updated. Tasks we hope to undertake mainly focus on repairs to the wooden exterior, on which the paint is now very flaky.

Back to the Charity application. As you all know, my grand plan for funding this project has always been to bleed you dry of all your cash(!) Well I’m delighted to say that the time for this is nigh. Some supporters have been “chomping at the bit” to give me membership money for some time now (John Prytherch!).

Enclosed you should find a membership application form (if you are reading this via the website or email, a copy of the form can be downloaded from the project website, www.exminstersignalbox.org.uk, or contact me and I will post / email / carrier-pigeon you one). If you would like to officially join the Society please fill out one of these, or send the equivalent details to me (contact details inside front cover). Cheques made payable to ‘ESBPS’ (or if you really want ‘Exminster Signal Box Preservation Society’!). Feel free to photocopy these forms and leave them in strategic places, like the mess room or signal box of your local preserved railway.

Your membership donation can be enlarged by Mr Tax Man at the Inland Revenue via the reclamation of Gift Aid Tax. A donation of £10 becomes £12.80! When you pay your subs you can authorise us to reclaim this tax. This does NOT cost you any extra or affect your tax. However, your normal tax must be at least the amount we are reclaiming. So, for example, if you don’t pay any tax, you cannot authorise us to reclaim it. If you do not want to authorise us to reclaim the tax, delete the appropriate sentence on the application form.

If you would like to withhold your membership application until we have definitely attained charitable status, still feel free to send us the form and cheque, and indicate that you want us to wait until we are awarded charity status. Then we won’t process your cheque or your application until that time. If you apply in this way we will return your application and cheque if requested at any time.

For your digest, the Society’s governing document (constitution) as submitted to the charity commission is printed in this issue. The constitution details exactly how the society will operate.

Looking forward to seeing my postman’s bike buckling under the weight of all those membership applications!

Andrew Dickinson continues his look at the technical issues of the Signal Box...
(Earlier parts of Andrew's work are available from the Society website.)

PART 3 – APPROACH LOCKING

Andrew Dickinson

I would suggest that approach locking was installed on all those signals that applied to facing points that were more than a specified distance away from the signal box, and because of that the signaller would have had a restricted view of these points, if any at all. By definition, all signals applying to facing motor-worked points would fill these criteria. In addition, points that were not readily visible, such as those obstructed by station buildings or bridges, could also be a candidate for approach locking.

I'm not completely sure where the idea has originated that signals 63/64 were provided with approach locking. The Box Instructions state [published in Issue 3] that "the Down Goods Line Starting Signals had a time release instrument provided in connection with the working of the approach locking in the Down Goods Line", but these signals were surely signals 46/47, not 63/64. [Agreed. DS.]

I would suggest that signals 63/64 never had approach locking provided on them. If this locking had been provided, then there would undoubtedly have been a track circuit through points 59 in the Down Goods Line as part of the working of the approach locking circuitry, but as was originally stated [back in Issue 3], there were no track circuits in that area.

Interestingly, the lever frame order sheet [available from the Society website] omits 46 in the list of levers equipped with NB locks. This is the signal for moves out onto the Down Main. Lever 46 would certainly have had an NB lock fitted to it as approach locking was provided on both signals 46 and 47.

Another item of equipment that was installed in the overall provision of control circuitry and equipment for signals with approach locking was another relay. This was an essential part of the working cycle of the approach locking circuitry, and was called a 'Stick Relay', or 'SR' using equipment letters. At Exminster, they would have been identified as 46/47SR and 65/79SR.

The purpose of a stick relay is to store an 'event' (such as the passage of a train) or the granting of a permission, for use later by the equipment, but for one operation only (such as the block release on the section signal for 'one pull' only).

This was achieved by wiring a feed to the coils of the relay through the front contact on the same relay. When the relay has 'picked' (usually through other equipment operating for a short time to put a 'pick up' feed onto the relay, it will hold up through that contact. But if the feed to the coils is cut when other relays or equipment operates, the relay drops and remains down even if the feed is then restored. For a stick relay in the circuitry to operate in general requires a 'make' circuit to 'pick' it, and a 'break' circuit to cause it to drop. It is in effect an electric 'latch'.

In practice, with levers 65 and 79 normal, 65/79SR would normally be 'picked' or 'up'. An NB band on lever 79 (and 65) circuit controller was wired into the feed circuits for 65/79SR, so that when lever 79 was pulled beyond the 'B', then this relay dropped down and remained down.

When returning 79 to the normal position, it would be checked at the 'B' position by the electric lock. There were two ways that the lock would pick, either a) through the passage of a train past signals 65/79 (requiring 65/79SR to be 'up'), or b) through the operation of time release unit 65/79JR.

For a) above, occupation of 6IT was required to prove the passage of the train and to cancel the approach locking for that train. To pick 79 'B' lock required 65/79SR picked. This was achieved through the operation of 6IT repeat relays, which caused 65/79SR to pick and stick. When 6IT cleared, 65/79SR remained picked. In other words, this relay had 'stored' this 'event' for future use. If the signalman was slow in replacing lever 79 and the train had cleared 6IT, he could still fully replace the lever due to 65/79SR being picked.

If there were no passage of a train, 65/79SR remained down and 79 'B' lock would not pick. The signalman then had to resort to b) above to fully replace the lever.

Our thanks go to Andrew Dickinson for another most enlightening instalment. See Part 4 – FPL Lockbars later in this issue.

FRIENDS OF EXMINSTER

John Hinson / Friends of Romsey Signal Box

The Exminster Project is not alone in the quest to preserve mechanical signalling. While many preserved railways have rebuilt or preserved signal boxes, there are other societies whose objectives, like ours, are entirely signalling related. One of these is the Friends of Romsey Signal Box.

The preserved Romsey box dates from around 1871, and so we believe it was one of the oldest boxes still in service when it was closed in 1982.

The levers in the box today were first installed in 1884 for the doubling of the Redbridge branch, when an 18-lever frame was installed, and this lasted at least until the First World War. The track layout developed with additional sidings until it reached its maximum extent by 1944.

Then, given the gradual decline in freight traffic, the layout and sidings at Romsey were rationalised several times. The line from Eastleigh through Chandler's Ford was closed to passengers on 5th May 1969, and the line was converted to single track on 1st May 1972. This singling coincided with the start of the conversion of mechanical signals to colour lights. By September 1976 the remaining semaphore signals had been replaced.

The Southampton area and the line through Romsey to Salisbury had escaped conversion to multiple-aspect signalling during the 1960s electrification of the Waterloo to Bournemouth

line, but modern technology finally caught up with Romsey in the 1980s. A major resignalling scheme saw the remaining signal boxes being closed with control being taken over by Eastleigh panel. Romsey signal box was closed on 17th October 1982, with the signals and many of the fittings in the signal box being removed at that time.

After closure, British Rail planned to demolish the redundant building, but this required them to get access to the lineside for the heavy crane they needed to do this. When they approached Romsey Infants School to ask for permission to get access through the grounds for the demolition gang, the Headteacher, Mrs Audrie Gebbie had the idea of saving the box for educational use.

Mrs Gebbie contacted the Romsey and District Buildings Preservation Trust, who agreed to purchase the box for £10 and fund the £1,000 removal costs. On the night of Sunday 26th June 1983, the wooden first floor, weighing about a ton, was lifted across the tracks to a temporary position in the school grounds on the other side of the embankment. The 23-lever frame, weighing over three tons, was then lifted over. A new ground floor was constructed on a piece of land bought from Hampshire County Council, and in April 1987, the frame was lifted onto the new base, followed by the first floor.

The Romsey Signal Box Project became heavily involved at this time, scouring the country to find suitable signalling equipment to fit out the signal box in a style similar to how it looked before closure. The resignalling of the Weymouth area provided many parts which now form part of the exhibit at Romsey.

On 26th June 1991, the first signal (the original down branch home arm mounted on the down branch distant post) was reconnected to the lever frame, exactly eight years after the box was moved to its new location. Work then commenced on the construction of the simulator in the basement of the box, which, when connected to the instruments upstairs, simulates the actions of the neighbouring boxes. The completion of this work enabled the box to be successfully restored to operation on 17th October 1992, the tenth anniversary of its closure.

Work has continued since then to make the site attractive and usable. The site now boasts working mechanical and colour light signals, a ground frame and a short length of track with a set of points. This enables the Friends of Romsey Signal Box to demonstrate most of the features of mechanical railway signalling, a technology that can be traced back to the 1870s but is still in use in many rural areas of the British railway system today.

More recently, a grant of £4,500 has been awarded to the Project by the Heritage Lottery Scheme. This has already been put to good use in constructing a Visitors' Centre at the signal box site. The 'cricket pavilion' type building will provide dry cover for visiting groups (that the small signal box could not fit), and give room for displays and much needed toilet and washing facilities.

For more information about the Romsey Signal Box Project, please visit www.romseysignalbox.org.uk, or write to Dick Hewett, 42 Botley Road, Romsey, Hants.

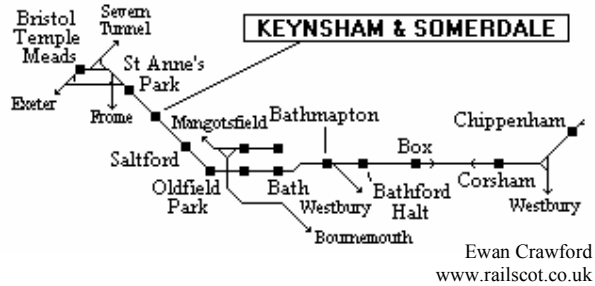
Peter Chatfield discusses an interesting GWR signal diagram...

GWR DIAGRAMS – KEYNSHAM & SOMERDALE WEST

Peter Chatfield

The layout at Keynsham & Somerdale West shows some classic Western features, and must have been an interesting place to work.

We have signals the ‘wrong’ side of the line, in this case including a backing signal with route indicator; goods running loop; and a plethora of distant signals to permit intensive running.



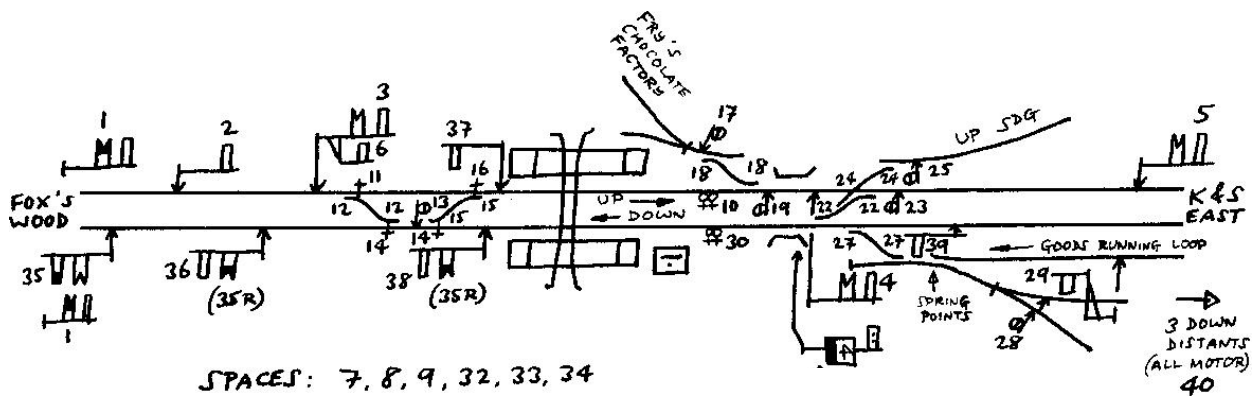
Keynsham also has my pet favourite: Intermediate Block Signals, in this case with the outer and inner distant repeaters. However, no fewer than three distant signals applied to No 39 Down Main Home, sitting under Keynsham & Somerdale East Box’s Down Out Home, Inner Home, and Starting Signal.

No 37 enabled local services to start back from the Up Platform, with No 2 Up Main Home obviating the need to obtain a ‘block back’ to Fox’s Wood for this manoeuvre.

In contrast, acceptance on the Down Main from East Box could not be permitted during shunting moves involving the down sidings.

Incidentally, does anyone know why the facing crossover was at the west of the station: Was there a physical problem or hazard preventing its installation closer to points 37? (Answers on a postage stamp or beer mat please...!)

It would be interesting to know about the bell codes used here, for example, whether the “train approaching” code was used.



- Route Indications: 20 Up Siding
- 21 Up Main
- 22 Dn Main
- 23 Dn Siding

Our thanks to Peter Chatfield for the first in what we hope will be a regular column in our newsletter.

CONSTITUTION

October 2003

1. NAME OF THE ORGANISATION

Name The name of the organisation is the Exminster Signal Box Preservation Society (hereafter referred to as 'the Society').

2. OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

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| <i>Aspirations</i> | (a) | The objects of the Society are to secure, for the benefit of the public, the preservation, restoration, use and maintenance of the building known as Exminster Signal Box (hereafter referred to as 'the Signal Box'), and the equipment contained therein. To use the same signal box and equipment as a working museum, exhibiting items and demonstrations of railway signalling history and practice, and other general railway interest. |
| <i>Restrictions</i> | (b) | The Society shall operate within any restrictions imposed by the 'STEAM - Museum of the Great Western' Museum (hereafter referred to as 'the STEAM Museum'), the appropriate Listed Buildings Offices, and the law of England. |
| <i>Agreement with Museum</i> | (c) | The Society shall maintain an agreement with the governing body of the STEAM Museum, for access to, and operation of, the signal box. |
| <i>Powers</i> | (d) | In the furtherance of these objects the Society shall have the following powers:- |
| <i>Documents & Artefacts</i> | i) | To further the collection of historical records, data and documentation relating to railway operating practices and in particular those relating to railway signalling and so far as reasonably practicable to render the information contained therein available to the public. |
| <i>Availability to other Organisations</i> | ii) | To make available (on such terms as the committee may decide) to charitable organisations having similar objects to the Society's objects any lands, buildings, items, records, data or documentation temporarily not required for the Society's objects. |
| <i>Accept Donations</i> | iii) | To accept donations for any purpose not inconsistent with the Society's objects and may make special appeals for funds to be used in connection with any such purpose. |
| <i>Grants & Loans</i> | iv) | To apply for and accept any loans or grants provided that any condition imposed on such loan or grant is not inconsistent with the Society's objects. |
| | v) | |

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3. MEMBERSHIP TO THE SOCIETY

- Availability* (a) Membership of the Society shall be open to:-
- Individuals* i) Any person who is interested in the objects of the Society, without discrimination as to colour, creed, sex or politics, and;
- Organisations* ii) Any organisation, corporate body, or unincorporated association interested in the objects of the Society (Organisations, corporate bodies and unincorporated associations hereafter referred to as 'member organisations')
- Subscriptions* (b) The annual subscription shall be payable at such an amount as the committee determine payable, on a twelve monthly basis or by any person applying to join the Society.
- Determination* (c) Any member may determine his or her membership at any time by notice in writing to the Secretary.
- Receipt of Publications* (d) All members shall be entitled to receive a copy of Society publications, as deemed by the committee.
- Discontinuation of Membership* (e) The committee may, on a resolution passed by three quarters thereof, discontinue the membership of any member, or member organisation, of the Society whose subscription shall be six months in arrears or for any other reason at the absolute discretion of the committee. Any member expelled shall be given sufficient reason for any decision made.
- Membership Records* (f) The Secretary shall maintain a book recording the name and addresses of the members, the date on which their membership commenced and the date on which any membership is determined.
- Admittance Conditions* (g) The committee may, at its entire discretion, admit persons or organisations to the society under conditions different to those at which membership is usually offered as it may see fit.
- Membership of organisations* (h) Member organisations shall appoint an individual to represent them, and to vote on their behalf at the Society's meetings; and may appoint an alternative to replace their appointed representative at any meeting of the Society, if the original representative is unable to attend. Member organisations shall notify the name of the representative appointed by them to represent that organisation at the Society's meetings, and any replacement, to the Secretary. If the representative or replacement appointed by a member organisation resigns from, or otherwise leaves the member organisation, he/she shall cease to be the representative of the member organisation.

4. MANAGEMENT

- Vested in Committee* (a) The management of the Society shall be vested in a committee consisting of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Engineer and not more than six other members.
- Elected at AGM* (b) The Society shall at its first meeting, and at every Annual General Meeting thereafter, elect a committee for the ensuing year. The members of the Committee shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. All members of the committee may be re-elected for a further term or terms of office.
- Sub Committees* (c) The committee may from time to time appoint such sub-committees as may be deemed necessary and may determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition, provided always that the actions and proceedings of any such sub-committee (or persons referred to in that way) shall be fully and promptly reported to the Committee.
- Vacation of Office* (d) Any person elected to hold office as a member of any committee shall be required to vacate his/her position if:-
- (i) He/She is unanimously deemed by three-quarters of the committee to be unsuitable for further service in such position, or;
 - (ii) He/She is absent for more than six months from the meetings of the committee held during that period.
- Appointment Powers of Committee* (e) The committee shall have power at any time to fill casual vacancies in their body until the Annual General Meeting at which time the appointed committee member shall retire, being eligible for re-election.
- Honorary Capacity* (f) Work carried out by members for the benefit of the Society, whether by members of the committee or not, is entirely honorary. No member shall be entitled to receive payment for any time during which they are engaged in any matter on behalf of the Society, save that nothing herein shall preclude the re-imburement of expenses genuinely and necessarily incurred with the prior approval of the committee in the conduct of the Society's affairs.
- Agreement with Museum* (g) As far as possible, the committee shall maintain the closest co-operation with the STEAM Museum and its staff and directors. There shall be nothing in these rules to prevent the committee from seeking the opinion of the staff or directors of the STEAM Museum on points of interest.

5. TREASURY

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|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| <i>Presentation of Accounts</i> | (a) | The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received and expended on account of the Society and shall present such accounts at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. |
| <i>Bank Account & Cheques</i> | (b) | A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society and all cheques drawn thereon shall require the signature of at least two committee members. |
| <i>Investment</i> | (b) | Any funds not immediately required for the Society's objects shall be invested in such manner as the committee shall decide. |

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

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| <i>Notice of AGM</i> | (a) | The financial year of the Society shall end on 5th April in each year and a general meeting of members shall be convened by the Secretary as soon thereafter as possible, and in any case within three months, for the purpose of receiving the annual report and balance sheet, for electing the committee for the ensuing year and to consider any other business as may be necessary. Fourteen days' notice of such meeting shall be sent to all members. |
| <i>Ten Members Constitute a Quorum</i> | (b) | Ten members present in person shall constitute a quorum at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of a quorum not being present the meeting shall be adjourned to such place, date and time within the ensuing twenty-eight days as the Chairman shall decide and the members present at such adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum. |
| <i>Extraordinary General Meetings</i> | (c) | An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by a resolution of the committee or on the requisition of at least fifteen members of the Society. A meeting held on such requisition shall be held within forty-two days of the receipt of such requisition by the Secretary and the Secretary shall give to members fourteen days' notice of such meeting. |

7. RIGHTS & LIABILITIES

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|---|-----|---|
| <i>Voting Entitlement</i> | (a) | Every member being fully paid up shall be entitled to one vote at any General Meeting. Any member may appoint another person, whether a member or not, to vote on his/her behalf at any meeting provided that person is authorised in writing to do so. |
| <i>Majority Vote</i> | (b) | Every matter shall (except as herein otherwise provided) be determined by a majority of the members present and voting on the question. In case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. |
| <i>Actions on Behalf of the Society</i> | (c) | No person shall act for the Society or in the name of the Society without the prior consent of the committee. |

Continued...)

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(7. Rights & Liabilities Continued)

- Liability of Society* (d) The Society shall at no time and in no circumstances whatsoever accept responsibility or liability in respect of loss of life, injury or other incapacity sustained by any person, whether a member of the Society or not, while such person is in, on, under or in the proximity of any property leased or owned by or otherwise in the possession of the Society at any time. In a like manner, the Society shall accept no responsibility or liability for goods, chattels and effects of any person that may be lost, damaged or destroyed while in, on, under, or in the proximity of any property or vehicle (including railway vehicle) leased or owned by or otherwise in the possession of the Society at any time.
- Liability of Members* (e) No member of the Society, whether a member of the committee or any sub-committee or not, shall be personally liable for or contribute towards the payment of the liabilities of the Society beyond the amount of the annual subscription for such member or any contribution agreed to be given and remaining unpaid.
- Serving of Notice* (f) Any notice required to be served under the terms of this constitution may be delivered either personally, or by posting the same by prepaid letter or card to the last known place of residence of the person on whom the notice is to be served, as recorded in the Society's records. A notice served by post shall be deemed to be served on the day following that on which the same was put into the post and in proving such service it shall be sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and put into the Post Office as a prepaid letter or card.
- Non-Receipt of Notice* (g) The accidental omission to give notice or the failure to receive such notice due to delay or detention by postal or other authorities or the non acceptance of such notice by any person entitled to receive the same shall not invalidate the proceedings at any meeting to which such notice may relate.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS and DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY

- Amendments made at AGM* (a) No alteration shall be made to the constitution except at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of any proposed alteration must be lodged with the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. No amendment shall be made which would cause the Society to cease to be charitable at law.
- Dissolution of Society* (b) If at any meeting of the committee a resolution for the dissolution of the Society shall be passed unanimously by the members of the committee then present, and such resolution, at an Extraordinary General Meeting held not less than one calendar month thereafter, be passed by not less than three-quarters of those present and voting, then the committee shall:-

(Continued...)

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(8. Constitutional Amendments & Dissolution of Society Continued)

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| <i>Disposal of Assets in Interests of Society</i> | (i) | Dispose of as many as possible of the assets, having a historical importance in such a way as best to ensure their continued security, preservation, maintenance and availability to the general public, in accordance with the Society's objects; |
| <i>Disposal of Other Assets</i> | (ii) | Dispose of all other assets of the Society not provided for in (i) above for the best price obtainable within a reasonable period of time, and; |
| <i>Remaining Assets to Other Similar Organisations</i> | (iii) | If any property remains after the satisfaction of the debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed amongst the members but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institutions having similar objects as the Society as the members present and voting at the Extraordinary General Meeting shall determine. |
| <i>Committee Remain in Office</i> | (c) | The members of the committee shall, unless the resolution relating to dissolution otherwise provides, continue to hold office until such time as the business herein provided for is completed. |

9. NOTES

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| <i>Charitable Status</i> | Until the achievement of charitable status, the Society shall operate under the name of the Exminster Signal Box Preservation Project. All references to 'the Society' herein, apply to the Project as they do to the Society. |
|--------------------------|--|

By Order of the Committee of the Exminster Signal Box Preservation Society.

Andrew Dickinson continues his look at the technical issues of the Signal Box...
(Earlier parts of Andrew's work are available from the Society website.)

PART 4 – FPL LOCKBARS

Andrew Dickinson

Newsletter No 3 refers to the bars on points 44 and 56 as fouling bars. They were however, always known as facing point lockbars (or simply FPL bars) and never fouling bars. Certainly there was other signalling equipment known as a fouling bar. This device used the same rail mounted components as FPL bars but it was an entirely different application. It was provided at some locations where the layout required it at either track convergences or divergences, where it would detect the presence of a vehicle that was foul of the adjacent running line when the signalman attempted to pull the lever that worked the bar.

Also, the term approach locking does not apply to an FPL bar. A facing point is certainly locked by the approach of a train when it is occupying the track circuit over the points or when running over the length of the FPL bar, but this is just a coincidence of terminology. The term 'approach locking' relates only to signals applying to facing points equipped with this facility and the 'holding of the route' through the lever frame locking when the lever is in the 'B' position.

The principal of approach locking is to "hold the route for a period of time (usually 2 minutes) if the signal that has been cleared for that route, with the driver of the train having seen or possibly seen a proceed indication from that signal, is then replaced to danger with the intention of changing the route". The safety afforded by the provision of approach locking is certainly very necessary if the signalman decided to change the route from a straight run ahead to a goods loop restricted to 10 or 20 mph with the possible disastrous consequences. It was for this reason that approach locking was devised. Approach locking in BR(VR) days had the track circuiting in connection with this, starting at the ATC ramp itself rather than the home signal approach track circuit.

INTERLOCKING QUIZ

Mr Osment has contacted me regarding the competition question published in the Summer issue which was regarding the longest mechanical lock in the box. The question started "*From the locking information given in this issue...*" so the answer of levers 3 and 69 printed in Issue 4 was technically correct. However, there was a lock that I missed out of the locking table printed in Issue 3. As points 69 are within the overlap of 3, the next signal in rear would be locked as well, so 2 and 69 were mutually exclusive.

69 - 2 = 67, 67 levers x 4" centres = 268" = 7 yards, 1 foot, 4 inches.

(Furthermore, as I requires 2R it could be said that I and 69 were mutually exclusive, but these would not have been directly mechanically locked.)

Worry not, dear readers, we will not find mistakes like these in the restored interlocked frame in the Signal Box as I am not constructing the proper lock chart! We are very grateful to Bob Davies of the Exeter West Group who has agreed to look into the interlocking for us and Andrew Dickinson for providing much useful information.

A HUMOROUS TALE

Dick Hewett

Over 100 visitors attended the Friends of Romsey Signal Box Marathon in September, but one in particular was not attending to view the simulation. When a gentleman in a high visibility vest mounted the steps to the box on the Saturday morning, the Friends operating the box assumed it was one of their members taking the task particularly seriously. However, it is uncertain who was more surprised when the visitor proffered a very simple map of Southern England, and asked for directions to a bridge on the line to Southampton. It turned out he was from the contractors (who shall remain nameless, though the logo was very clear!) undertaking engineering works on the line. He was somewhat disbelieving when he was informed that the signal box was no longer in service with Network Rail, that it was not connected to the proper railway, and that the team were only simulating a train service!

EXMINSTER NEWSLETTERS

The circulation list for this newsletter increases for every issue. If you have not been a reader of the Newsletter of the Project since Issue 1, but you would like a copy of the earlier issues then you can now do so.

Individual back issues will not be produced. This is a) due to the logistics of printing one copy of a single newsletter, and b) to maintain the 'value' of the early issues. We will however produce an annual back issue book, containing the four issues from that year. The 2003 issue is an A5 book containing all four 2003 Issues, and as Issue 1 (Winter 2002) is the only issue for 2002 it has also been included in the 2003 book. So you can have all of Issues 1 to 5 in one handy volume.

Plus... As if that wasn't exciting enough(!), the early issues, where cheap (ie free) good quality printing wasn't available will be printed from their original digital media, so they will be BETTER quality than the originals (which were bad photocopies, if you see what I mean).

Back Issue Volume 1 (2002/3) is available for from Danny Scroggins (contact details inside front cover). They cost £3 each (Including P&P). Combined cheques with membership applications welcome, payable to 'ESBPS'.

NEXT TIME...

For next issue Mike Hanscomb, that's Mike Hanscomb if you didn't hear at the back, promises to write an article about signalling for this newsletter. Don't you Mike?!? Good. Can't get out of it now. I love being the editor.

All that remains is for us to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and we hope there's not too much snow, rain, frost, as there's a certain building in a very exposed position out there that won't fare too well! Happy Christmas Everyone!

GWR

EXMINSTER SIGNAL BOX

Preservation Society