

MEMBERS' DIARY

Date	Details
Sat 23 June 10am-5pm	Historic Vehicle Festival - The Museum site packed with vehicles Summerlee Museum
29 June - 7 July	School holiday event - stay away if you don't like 7 Children Summerlee Museum
Sat/Sun 17/18 Aug	Grand Steam Fair - one of Summerlee's best know events with everyone getting steaming! Summerlee Museum
Sat/Sun 14/15 Sept	Model Engineering Fair - the Exhibition Hall is filled with Models of the engineering variety Summerlee Mus.
Sat12-Sun 20 Oct	Witches and Wizards - no comment Childrens activites Summerlee Museum

Details of Winter Meetings will be given as soon as possible.

STG

SUMMERLEE TRANSPORT GROUP

OPERATING SCOTLAND'S
ONLY WORKING TRAMWAY

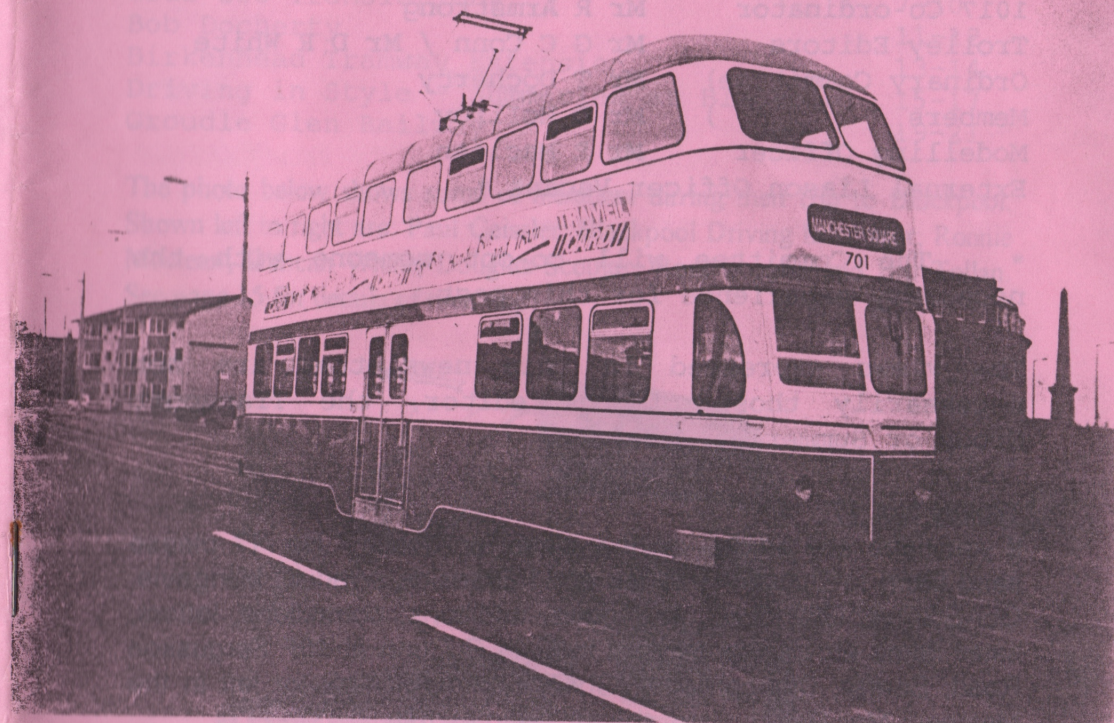
Gary C Conn &
Duncan R White
Summerlee Transport Group
May 1996

TROLLEY

PROVIDING THAT ESSENTIAL LINK WITH SUMMERLEE'S POWERHOUSE

ISSUE No. 16

JUNE 1996



BIGGEST EVER ISSUE

GRAZ 225 TRANSLATIONS PART 2
TRAM DRIVING IN BLACKPOOL
& BIRKENHEAD EXTENSION

TROLLEY

STG

is a newsletter of the Summerlee Transport Group, a voluntary support group of Summerlee Museum and is registered as a charity.

YOUR STG COMMITTEE

Chairman	Mr B M Longworth
Secretary	Mr P Ramsay
Treasurer	Mr R N Sutherland
Sales Officer	Mr J Wilson
Membership Secretary	Mr B Quinn
1017 Co-ordinator	Mr R Armstrong
Trolley Editors	Mr G C Conn / Mr D R White
Ordinary Committee)	Mr T Docherty
Members	Mr D McIlroy
Modelling Officer	Mr R Maclean
External Liason Officer	Vacant *

* The Committee will co-opt someone with the necessary experience for this post.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, the Transport Group or Summerlee Museum.

Trolley No. 17

If you have any articles or new ideas for "Trolley" No. 17 please send them to Duncan R White at 11 Braeside Avenue, Milngavie, GLASGOW, G62 6LH. Any news, additions, corrections, letters, sales items etc should be sent to *****

(or left in the Members Mail Box) no later than the end of July.

The cover photo shows Blackpool Transport Tramcar 'Balloon' 701 which was refurbished and repainted into this striking livery in the early 90's at the on-street Fleetwood Terminus. Read all about tram driving in Blackpool on page 15.

IN THIS ISSUE

OF YOUR NEWSLETTER

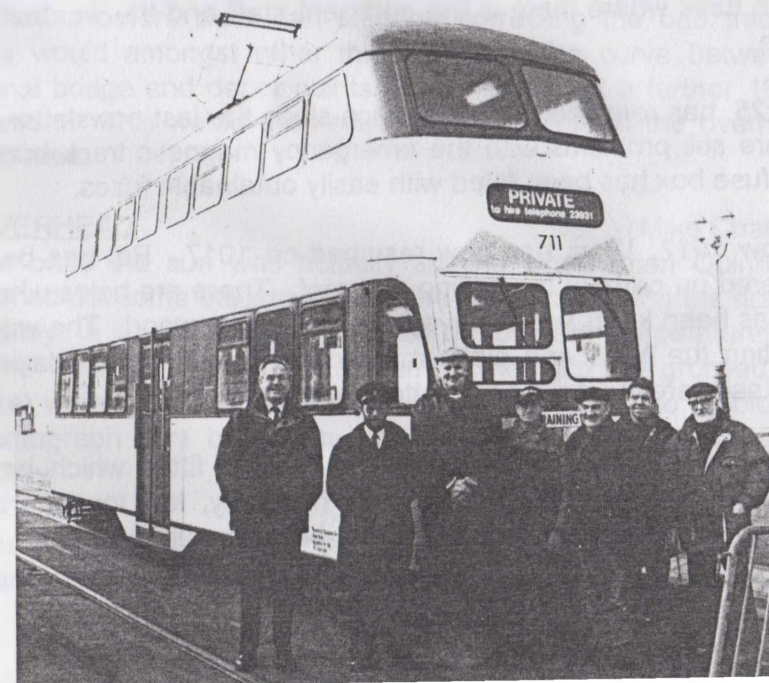
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The photo below shows some of members during their trip to Blackpool. Shown left to right are: Paul Geissler; Blackpool Driving Instructor; Ronnie Maclean; Duncan White; Douglas Scoular; Ross Scoular and Bill Tollan. See page 15 for details of their trip.



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to *Trolley* No 16. Grateful thanks to Paul Geissler, Mike Chalton and Alf Jacob for news and articles supplied and to my joint editor Duncan White.

Gary C Conn

As previously mentioned in *Trolley* the responsibility for the operation of Summerlee Museum has passed to North Lanarkshire Council. One of the Councils' first decisions was to implement admission charges to the museum (Adults £2, Children/Passport to Leisure Holders £1). Members should always bring their membership cards (enclosed) with them when visiting Summerlee to gain free entry. The introduction of admission charges means that there is no longer a separate charge for the Tramway.

NEWS

OPERATIONS

The traction service has been provided by 9062 throughout the Spring. 53 was returned to service in April, after its winter overhaul, in time for the various spring school holidays.

TRAMCARS

Lanarkshire 53 As stated above has returned to service and is used on days where there is the sufficient staff and the weather is suitable.

Graz 225 has remained out of service since the last newsletter as there are still problems with the emergency magnetic track brake. A new fuse box has been fitted with easily obtainable fuses.

Glasgow 1017 Work has now resumed on 1017. Rot has been discovered on parts of the ceiling and roof. There are holes where there has been knots which have fallen out of the wood. The wood supporting the No 1 end platform windows also needs replacing. These tasks are currently being attended to.

Bruxelles 9062 new brake shoes have been fitted which have been cast in chilled iron. These will, hopefully, last longer than previous shoes and their performance is being monitored.

PANTOGRAPH CARBON TRIALS

Mike Chalton

Brussels car 9062 has been fitted with a new top pantograph strip. The STG were asked to help carry out trials on a new carbon-composite material which might be used to replace existing carbon strips on trams and electric locos, EMUs, etc.

The new assembly does away with the top backing bar as it has its own bonded frame together with alloy end horns. the whole unit is secured by only 4 nuts making it very quick and easy to change when worn. Close watch is being kept on it to see how it performs.

DEPOT COMPOUND

Our new 40' container has been filled with various tram spares and acquisitions.

DEPOT

Various items have been obtained from the former depots of Kelvin Central Buses at Stepps and Kirkintilloch. Negotiations are continuing to obtain equipment from Old Kilpatrick which has also recently closed.

PERMANENT WAY

A permanent way contractor is awaiting clearance from Summerlee Museum before work can start on correcting the bad trackwork. this would amongst other things require the curve between the canal bridge and depot points to be moved out a further 18" than present. This would then require adjustments to the overhead in this area.

OVERHEAD

Mike Chalton

For once the sun was actually shining when Brian Quinn and I carried out some adjustments on the overhead during the first week in May. It is usually horizontal rain or sub-zero temperatures when aloft! Certain line ears (the 'clamps' that grip the grooved trolley wire) were no longer vertical on curved sections. No problem with pantograph cars but cause dewirements at speed with No. 53's trolley.

The worst section was at the canal bridge around the depot curve. Part of the problem is that the 'Parafil' span rope (plastic sheathed

nylon filament) slowly stretches. Adjustment has been previously made with turnbuckles but stretching continues. Several tramway undertakings have discarded this material and gone back to using conventional span wire, sometimes with stainless fittings.

Whilst up aloft, messrs. Chalton and Quinn wielded the wire brush, paint and paint brushes (first time for everything - Ed!) continuing the painting of fittings that had to be abandoned because of snow in January. The opportunity was taken to replace a damaged finial on a traction pole near the depot. That leaves only another 1,346 jobs to do!!

EX-LISBON TRUCKS

The Group is currently awaiting action from the museum management to enable regauging and overhaul of the truck(s).

POTENTIAL ACQUISITIONS

No further details are available as yet regarding Glasgow Works Car 21, currently at the National Tramway Museum at Crich. discussions are currently being sought with Summerlee Museum regarding the long term loan of this car.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that they must carry their membership cards when visiting the Museum at all times, especially during opening hours, where the card must be shown to avoid the admission fee.

FIRST AID COURSE

Further details will hopefully be available from the Museum regarding this course. If you are interested there is still time to contact a member of the committee to register.

MOTORSCHOOL

Some Summerlee Visitor Services staff were progressing through the motorschool but this has been suspended due to staff reorganisation and rationalisation.

TRAMWAY MODELLING GROUP

R. Maclean

The group continue to meet each Wednesday evening in the portacabin inside the tram depot compound at 7.30 pm. New

members are always made very welcome and no skills are required.

A scenic background has been added to the model tramway and an overhead is being constructed. Members of the modelling group have between them a fleet of Blackpool and Glasgow trams

The photo below shows members of the modelling group Duncan and Ronnie hard at "work" - Don't let this put you off too much - they are *fairly* normal.



MUSEUM NEWS

New gateposts and fencing have been constructed at the Museum entrance to ensure that all visitors enter through the shop, and pay admission charges.

1996 SPECIAL EVENTS

Confirmed dates are as follows for Summerlee's Special Events.

Historic Vehicle Festival	Sun 23 June
School Holiday Event	Sat 29 June - Sun 7 July
Grand Steam Fair	Sat/Sun 17/18 Aug
Model & Engineering Fair	Sat/Sun 14/15 Sept
Witches & Wizards	Sat 12 - Sun 20 Oct
Christmas Event	23 Nov - Jan 97

Please contact Summerlee Museum on (01236) 431261 for further details.

As usual the Group will have a sales stall at these events as well as many outside the Museum. Please contact the Sales Officer (Jim Wilson) nearer the time if you wish to lend a hand.

1996/7 SEASON OF MEETINGS

Our successful season of meeting for the year 1995/6 has now finished and it is time to look ahead to season 1996/7. If you would like to give a talk on any transport related subject, or know of anyone who would please contact any member of the committee.

SOCIAL EVENTS

In early May some of our members visited the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum at Lathalmond in Fife. Apologies to any members who wanted to attend but were not contacted, as this was arranged at very short notice. We hope to visit again some time in the near future - watch this space for details. The SVBM is however open to the public every Sunday, when there are bus tours around the site and the various sheds.

The planned Group outing in June has been postponed to August. Further details will be given nearer the time.

SALES

If any member is looking for any new or second hand books please contact either Brian Longworth or Sales Officer, Jim (sell your Granny) Wilson. They have a wide variety of old and new books in stock and will try and find one for you if not. Jim also tells us that he has extended his sales 'range' this season.

GRAZ 225: TRANSLATION OF NOTICES Part 2 by Paul Geissler
Members may have often wondered what many of the signs and adverts on 225 actually mean. Paul Geissler gives you the opportunity to do just that, or you can just pretend to visitors that you actually know the translations!

NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

Sehr geehrter Fahrgaste

300 Schilling sind viel geld.....

Dear Passengers

300 Schillings is a lot of money

We must levy this sum if you are found without a valid ticket.

Failure to pay this sum immediately, then the penalty rises to 400.

We believe you could make better use of the money.

Observance of our fares and conditions saves both you and us a lot of hassle.

Additionally, you could be liable to a penalty of up to 3000 Schillings (Art 1.5)

Das ganze Netz

...liegt um S51, bzw S115, zu Fuß

Die Schuler- Gesamtnetz- Monatskarte gilt auch an Sonn- und Ferientagen und ist im Zeitkartenburo erhältlich

The whole network

...for 51 Schillings or 115 Schillings to Fuß

The Scholars Whole Network Monthly Ticket is also valid on Sundays and holidays and is obtainable from the Season Ticket Office.

Der Familienhit

Die Grazer Jahreskarte

Übertragbar auf Ehepartner & Kinder

Gemeinsam nutzbar am Wochenende

Erhältlich im Zeitkartenburo

*4000,-
Umweltbetrag 500,-
der Stadt Graz
S3.500,-*

The Family Success
 The Graz Yearly Season Ticket
 Transferable to spouse & children
 Whole family can use it at weekends
 Available at Season Ticket Office

4000/-

Environmental contribution 500/-
 from the city of Graz

S3,500/-

SCHWARZFAHREN UNFAIR

Fare dodging is unfair

Bezahlen müssen Andere

Other have to pay

Raucherberatung

*in der Raucherberatungsstelle des städtischen Gesundheitsamts
 Graz; dort wird Rauchenrat und Hilfe bei der Entwöhnung
 angeboten durch.....*

ADVICE ON SMOKING

in the Smoking Advice Office of the City Health Department of
 Graz; advice and help to break the craving is available include an
EXAMINATION for progress and success in breaking the crave.

In the **ADVICE TEAM** there are specialists in medicine and lung
 diseases, ENT, and a psychologist available.

ENQUIRIES for those Grazers who wish to break the craving:

Information Office of the City Health Department, Graz

THE ADVICE IS FREE

WITHOUT SMOKE THINGS STILL WORK!

Auf dem Weg zur CA

Die Bank zum Erfolg

On the way to the CA

The bank for success

FREILAND

Großer Besuchstag...

Sparkasse Lilienfeld

FREILAND

Great Day Out

Narrow gauge railway trains in service

Specialist books on sale

Railwayana bargains

Buffet

Railway museum

Open 15 April to 15 October

Sundays 10.00 to 16.00

Lilienfeld Savings Bank

NASIVIN

Kraftvoll gegen Schnupfen, zart zur Nase

NASIVIN

Powerful against colds, gentle to the nose

GRAZER ENERGIE INFO.....

Graz Energy Info of the city of Graz and Graz City Works Ltd will
 give you independent, free and friendly advice and tell you about:

Correct type of heating

Choice of heating systems

Measures to reduce energy costs

Insulation

Energy saving system updating

Availability

Further, we offer:

Calculation of your energy needs in accordance with ONORM

Checking your heating system

Measuring the boilers efficiency and informing you about
 connection to city heating system, gas, electricity and water.

Greif - Graz Energy Info

Monday to Friday 11.00 to 15.00 or appointment by phone

POSTCARD VIEW

Remember with summer upon us if you receive or purchase any
 unusual transport postcards please send them to the address
 inside the front cover for inclusion in Trolley.

BOB DOCHERTY

One of our members, Bob Docherty, has recently taken up a new
 job with Stagecoach in Portugal.

The article on the next two pages is taken from May 1996 edition of
Railnews the newspaper for staff of what was British Rail.

Railman Bob flies off with three parrots to pastures new

Look who's a clever boy . . .

Report
and
picture:
Steve
Chapman

RAILMAN Bob Docherty has gone abroad for a new job, new home and new challenges.

And he has taken his three pet parrots with him. Bob is working for Stagecoach but his responsibilities are a world apart from that of South West Trains staff whose franchise was won by the bus group last January.

Bob, 42, has left his public affairs job with Railtrack Scotland to bring a historic Portuguese tram system back to life.

Stagecoach recently took over the eight-mile line at Sintra, north of Lisbon, appointing Bob its project manager.

It will be his task to oversee the rejuvenation of the disused track and 93-year-old trams, most of which have been moth-balled for 25 years.

Advantage

Two miles of line have been used for seasonal tourist trips since 1980, but Stagecoach plans to introduce all-year commuter services using the old trams alongside newer ones transferred from Lisbon.

Bob reckons that his 18 years railway experience plus his flu-

TAKING THE TRAM: Goodbye Scotland, hello Portugal. Bob Docherty on board a Glasgow tram before his departure to a new job in warmer climes

ency in Portuguese — he has visited the country more than 40 times — will be a great advantage in his new job.

He moved from Strathclyde passenger transport executive to BR's Scottish Region civil engineers' department in 1978, going on to the regional operations department in 1980 and to public affairs a year later.

In April, 1994, Bob moved to Railtrack public affairs.

His duties ranged from issuing permits for depot visits to organising promotions, open days and helping to make feature films.

He reckons the greatest time was the 1980s launch of ScotRail under then general manager Chris Green.

He says of his movies involvement that his biggest job was in the making of "Mission



Impossible" starring Tom Cruise, helping to organise a special train, although he never met the actor.

Challenge

Both as professional and volunteer, Bob has been involved with the restoration of trams and trains at the Crichton tramway museum, Derbys, and at a heritage park at Coatbridge, central Scotland.

The new job may be quite a challenge, but so was moving from Glasgow to Portugal — especially the travel arrangements for his pets.

He says: "I am looking forward to it, once the hassle of moving is out of the way."

Bob had to get export licences and health certificates from the

ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food before he could take the three birds and that meant ploughing through red tape.

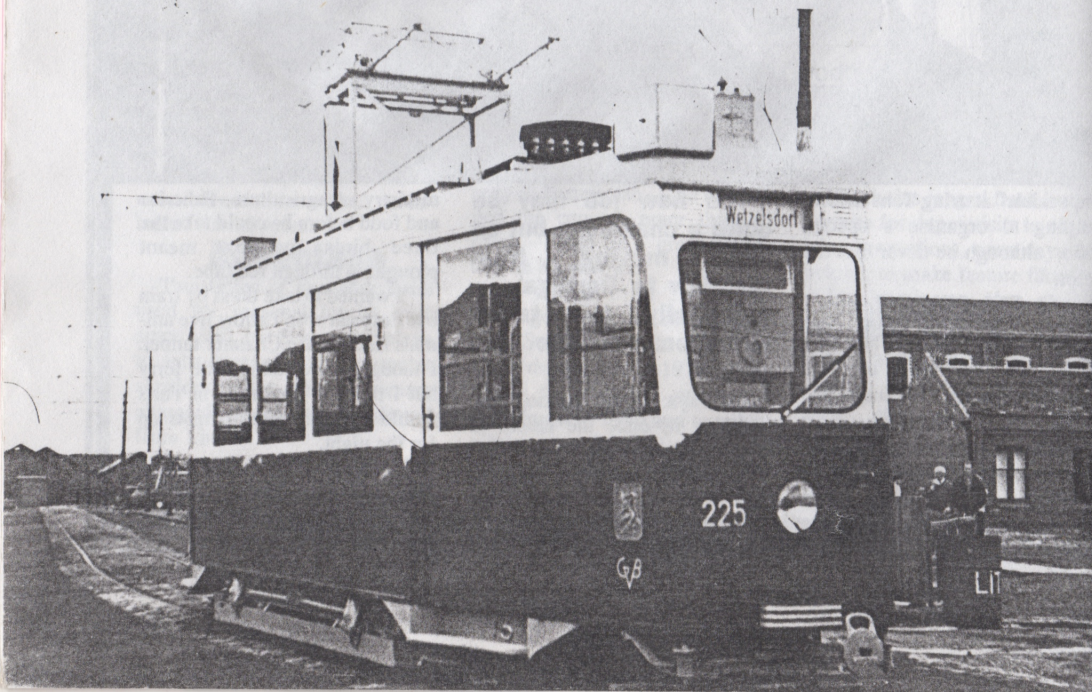
"I wanted to take them by train but Eurostar won't allow live animals through the Channel tunnel. I thought about taking the ferry but I doubt if any hotel in Paris would have put three parrots up for the night.

In the end, Bob and parrots went by plane.



STG

SUMMERLEE TRANSPORT GROUP



BIRKENHEAD TRAMWAY EXTENSION

by Mike Chalton

On 29/4/96 I had the privilege of being on the first tram to traverse the new extension from the Pacific Road Depot to Egerton Bridge via Shore Road. Originally, the purpose of the visit was to see Peter Price of "Peter Price Electrical" to have a look at some of the overhead fittings he manufactures. The previous evening he had completed stringing the trolley wire from the depot to the end of the line. The track was completed a few days earlier. Both the track and the overhead were "Eye Sweet" indeed a joy to behold.

HM Railway inspectorate were checking the track and the overhead on the day of my visit for approval for public operation. After being introduced to Steven Firth (HMI), Bob the Motorman, representatives from Wirral Borough Council, Highways Dept., yours truly awaited the track cleaning to be completed before one of the Hong Kong built cars was brought out. Tarmac was still being laid flush with the rails but just as much seemed to be left in the grooves. The tarmac contractors speedily removed this with a compressor (road drill variety) towed behind a van and an open hose tied to an old broom handle. Very effective! It blasted stones and tarmac many yards at a frightening velocity - all this in front of the H.S.E! Not to worry. rail Blasting completed, it was time to bring the tram out. The first run was done at less than walking pace with the inspector watching every inch of progress both on the deck and up aloft. With brand shiny-new trolley wire with a carbon pick-up head, not a hint of a spark was seen from the overhead. The return current to the track was a different matter though. It appeared that not even a platelayers trolley had been down the track before the tram, so we were treated to a free firework display every time it notched up. The new passing loop has spring-back single blade points and spring-return frogs. No problem here. Clearance was a bit tight at a couple of places where, on a curve, the overhang of the car was a bit too close to the kerbside. It will be the kerb that will be moved over - not the track.

The track to Egerton Bridge crosses from the river side of Shore Road to the landward side about halfway along. The angle of the crossing has been made fairly sharp. The roadway has also been modified so that road traffic crosses the tramway at almost 90 degrees. The reason being to give the motorman a clear field of both ways before crossing. No traffic signals have been installed on this section. Inductive loop traffic lights are already existing between Woodside Ferry and the depot. At the new terminus lurks a sand drag.

I had earlier had a close look at the overhead with Peter Price in his nicely restored Bradford Trolleybus overhead repair wagon. As previously mentioned, he makes his own overhead fittings and good they are too. Modern materials are used but to an older type design - so they "look right". He also uses certain "K&M" Swiss fittings, mainly line ears and pulloffs. Under new regulations triple insulation (not double) is the order of the day. Therefore all sidearm poles have to be insulated from the traction pole. A threaded block of plastic-type material is interposed where the side pole meets the main traction pole. The stay wire above also has an insulator inserted.

These new regulations mean of course that any new extension that may be built at Summerlee will not be able to use any scrollwork on the poles - unless we can make the ornate bits out of plastic?? A quick check with the "Megger" showed virtually no current leakage over the entire system - even after several heavy showers of rain. Peter seemed well pleased, as was the inspector. If you want to see immaculate trackwork and perfect overhead then Birkenhead's the place to visit! (as well as Summerlee! - Ed).

Many thanks to all the friendly folk I met who allowed me to intrude on what must have been an anxious day.

Mike Chalton

Driving in Style

SUMMERLEE AT BLACKPOOL

by Duncan White

ON a cold winter snowy night in March, 6 members (Paul Geissler, Ronnie McLean, Douglas and Ross Scouler, Bill Tollan and Jimmy and Duncan White) made their way to Blackpool for another Busman's Holiday. After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast at 7 a.m. we made our way to the tram depot (we had to report at 8 a.m.) where we were greeted by Tom Moody the Inspector and our Instructor. Our party was joined by Keith Terry, a very knowledgeable tramway man.

We had a short talk on the Blackpool system and then off for a "shot" of a Balloon-quite a big tramcar. The controller was of such that after notching up the handle must be brought back slightly before going on to the next notch and so on right up to top parallel. This is so you cannot notch up too quickly. It was quite a thrill to drive through Fleetwood with other traffic and pedestrians- most of them gave us a clear path.

The next car out was a Trailer-set and we were driving from the trailer-end, it was so very silent as all the "works" were in the driving car. The instructor suggested to turn in the loop at Little Bispham but discovered we didn't have a point changer on the car, (who did the checks before we took it out of the depot?) but noticed a builder's yard opposite and a piece of metal was found and this did the trick. Blackpool's points are changed differently as the lever goes in the middle of the track.

The third car was a Centenary car-very easy to control-one lever does all, forward and the car eases slowly away and to accelerate just keep pushing it forward, to brake pull the lever toward you -and that's it.

Some of the members wanted to by a car but had to make do with a model one - come and see them on our model layout at Summerlee.

We had a short test and presented with a certificate-even Jimmy got one for being a good and patient dog on the tram. Our thanks go to Bill Tollan who arranged this with Blackpool Corporation and also the Hotel accommodation.

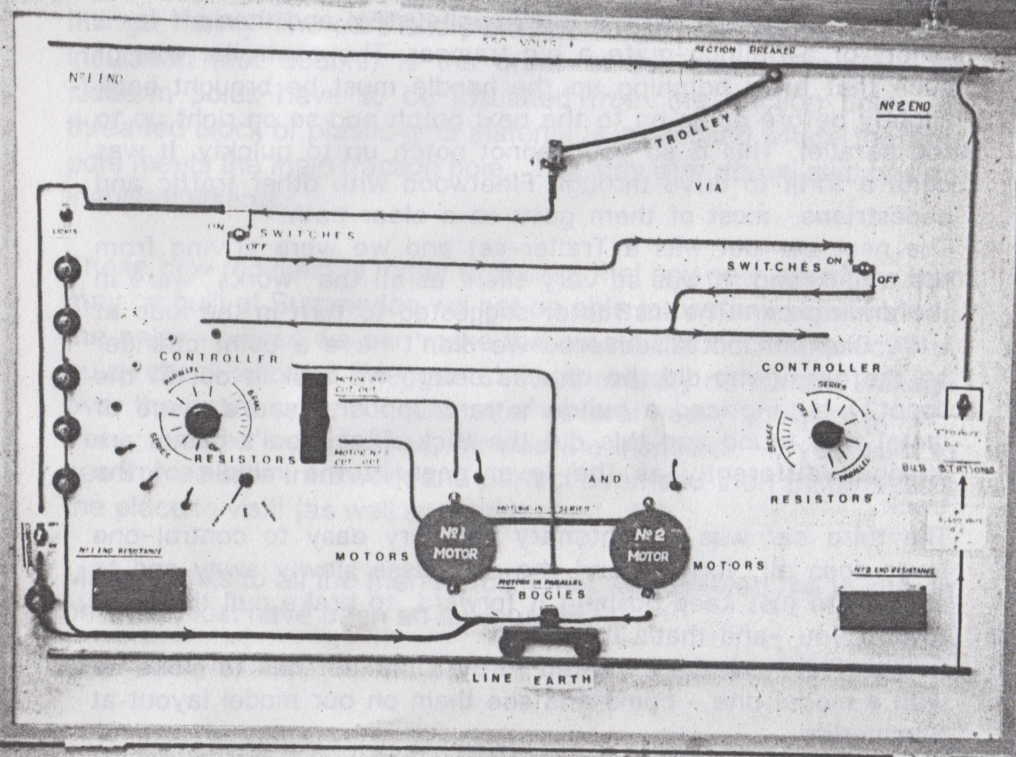
The photo below shows Blackpool Transport's working electrical diagram of a Tramcar
D White

The photos opposite show

Top: Balloon car 726 built in 1935, shown at the Pleasure Beach turning circle

Middle: Twin car set 673/683 motor car 673 rebuilt in 1961, shown on the Promenade.

Bottom: Centenary Car built in 1987, shown on reserved track on route to Bispham.



Blackpool Trams In Action

FROM the producers of Tramtrax Magazine comes Tramtrax Video. This, the first video in a series of tapes, shows the Blackpool Tram fleet of today. People often wonder how many trams there are, what they're like and where they go - well this is it.

The video opens with a five minute music backed introduction to the Blackpool fleet, showing all the different trams of the fleet. After that it's six minutes of OMO cars, 5, 10 and 11 (possibly their last season?) in action. Next its the five Open Boat cars followed by a 12 minute sequence of Brush cars which includes a journey following 623 through Rossall. A break from the tram fleet follows next with a look at the incredible August flooding. After the floods come the Centenary cars-all eight which includes a lineside journey with 642. Twin-cars mostly filmed racing through Rossall are next and after them the three Ex-Towing cars showing 680 in its first season back in service. A break from the action for a night time derailment involving 647 follows next. A 15 minute sequence on Balloon cars come after 647 followed by the Jubilee, Illuminated and Vintage cars. The final sequence to music shows trams at night, filmed during the Illuminations and includes footage of a rare journey by the Illuminated Train to Fleetwood.

The tape was filmed during the Summer, Autumn and Winter of 1992 and shows the trams at work in all conditions. Locations for filming vary from the Promenade at Pleasure Beach and Tower right through to the open fields of Rossall and Broadwater - a true picture of the Blackpool Tramway in the 1990s.

Tramtrax Magazine and Video
(Running Time 90 minutes)

GROUDLE GLEN RAILWAY -

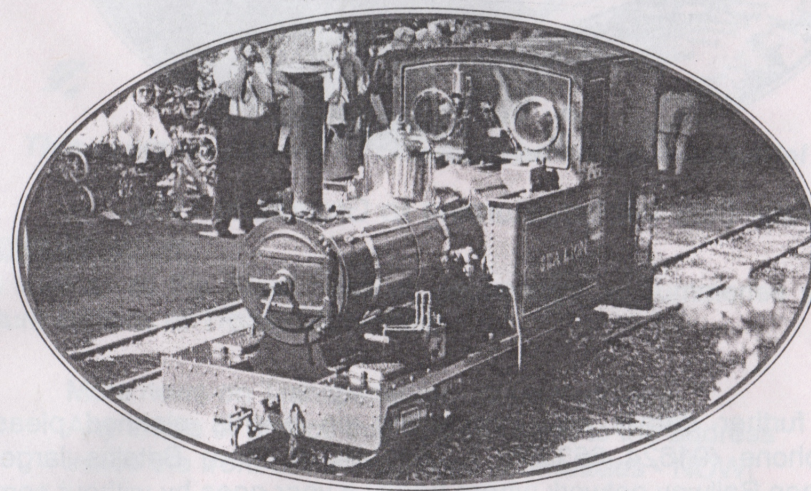
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

By Gary C Conn



Where the \$*%! is Groudle Glen I hear you say! Well beautiful Groudle Glen lies just to the north of Onchan on the Isle of Man. It was created by the Victorians as a pleasure park complete with waterwheel (remember now!) A 2ft gauge railway line linked the glen with the clifftop zoo. After falling into disuse, the line has now been lovingly restored by enthusiasts and extended to its original length, the last section re-opening in 1992.

Built in 1896, the line climbs from the seclusion of the wooded glen before bursting onto the clifftops with magnificent views out to sea. Services are normally hauled by the original steam loco 'Sea Lion' which is supplemented on occasion by diesel loco.

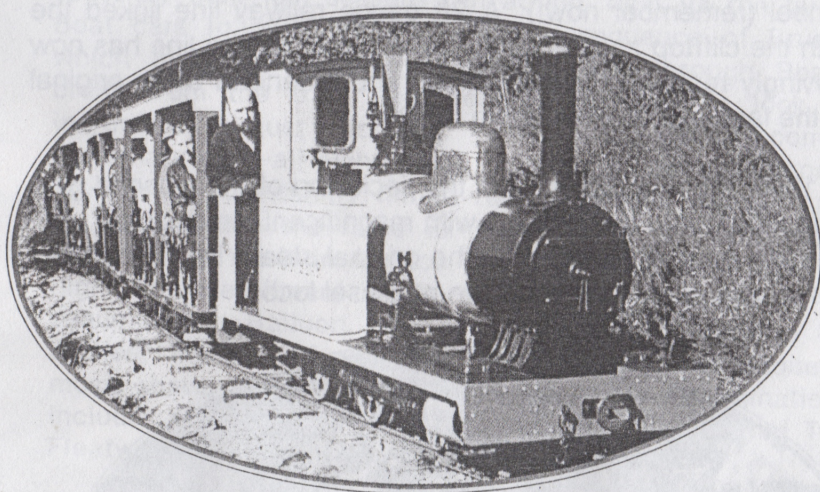


Sea Lion at Groudle Glen Railway

Until the end of July 'Sea Lion' will be joined by her original sister locomotive 'Polar Bear' (courtesy of Amberly Chalk Pits Museum and Express).

The Railway operates Mondays, Sundays and Bank Holidays until September and most Wednesdays in July and August. For its Centenary Year, the railway will also operate Wednesday 17 to Wednesday 25 July inclusive.

Groudle Glen can be reached by car or by travelling on the Manx Electric Railway followed by a short walk through the pretty glen.



Polar Bear will be returning to Groudle in 1996

For further details and information on events planned please telephone (01624 663366). The Isle of Man, Britains largest Vintage Railway network where hardly a year goes by without some sort of transport celebration.



This caurs no moving till I fin oot who's turnt ma haunle!

COMING SOON

As well as all the usual news of happenings at Summerlee your future editions of *Trolley* will feature:

More news on Transperience - West Yorkshire
Any article or photos that you can send to the address
inside the front cover - we need your articles - NOW!

and much, much more!