

## WATTRAIN NEWSLETTER No 1

Hello to all our readers. It is now 12 months since the successful World Congress in Brisbane, Australia and much has happened, not least of which being that we have changed our name to WATTRAIN, The World Association of Tourist Trams and Trains.

I am happy to be able to announce that WATTRAIN has now been officially created as a Company Limited by Guarantee, currently based in London at 5 Great College St London SW 1.

As this is the first newsletter since formation, I am using the issue number 1 and the rest will follow on.

The WATTRAIN team is listed below, along with contact emails.

PRESIDENT	David Morgan	<a href="mailto:david.morgan@rlb-law.com">david.morgan@rlb-law.com</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	Quique Diaz	<a href="mailto:quitren@gmail.com">quitren@gmail.com</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	Chris le Marshall	<a href="mailto:lingage@inet.net.au">lingage@inet.net.au</a>
MANAGING DIRECTOR	Ian Smith	<a href="mailto:i.b.s@btinternet.com">i.b.s@btinternet.com</a>
FINANCE OFFICER	Ian Leigh	<a href="mailto:ian.leigh4@btinternet.com">ian.leigh4@btinternet.com</a>
MEMBERSHIP SEC	Andrea Hett	<a href="mailto:andrealett@tiscali.co.uk">andrealett@tiscali.co.uk</a>

There will be other appointments during the coming months and these will be reported as they happen. During the next few issues of the newsletter, I will be publishing a brief introduction to each of our team members to give you some information about those who will be working on your behalf. As I am sure our President and Vice Presidents are well known to you all, I will start with a few words about myself and the next issue will have an introduction to our Finance Officer, Ian Leigh.

I was born on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1954 and am thus 56 years old. My journey to WATTRAIN started in 1960, when I met up with Dr Fred Youell, who was rebuilding the historic Middleton Railway at the bottom of our street. I invited him back to the house to wash his hands and from that moment [at age 6!], I was a confirmed steam enthusiast.

I was a member of the Middleton Railway for many years, becoming a Driver, Guard, and for a while, Chairman. Leaving Middleton some 3 years ago, I became a Committee Member of Vintage Carriages Trust and am still very much involved there. I have been involved with the Heritage Railway Association since 1990 and joined the Board some

10 years ago. One of my main roles within HRA is being Chairman of the HRA Awards Committee which meets once a year to consider who should receive HRA's highest awards each year.

I attended the first World Congress in Argentina back in 2006 and also the 2009 Congress in Australia, from which WATTRAIN has been created. Having known David Morgan for a good few years, I agreed to take a major role in the formation of WATTRAIN because, like him, I could see the potential of having a world wide body to speak on behalf of heritage rail and tramways in the coming years, particularly as the influence of such matters as Global Warming and Economics will grow as the years pass by. The ability of an organization to speak on behalf of ALL heritage railways & tramways is not to be under-estimated and only by developing a voice which will be heard and hopefully listened to, will our movement continue to develop in the years to come.

## **BUSINESS PLAN**

This is attached to the newsletter for all to keep. It contains some Key Stages and you will see that we have already managed to keep to our promises!

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Now that WATTRAIN has its own Bank Account, we will shortly be in a position to accept membership to the new organization. Membership details are as follows.

Membership will be open to all Tourist and Heritage operators in the sector, their state, regional, national and international regional representative bodies, individuals and the corporate sector.

WATTRAIN subscriptions are to be fixed at an affordable rate. Subscriptions will be weighted to reflect the size of the organisation and the nature of the operation.

Membership category and charges are:

**Organisation Membership** - open to all tourist train and tram organisations at a cost of 50 USD annually.

**State and Regional Representative Bodies** - open to all tourist train and tram state and regional representative organisations at a cost of 80 USD annually.

**National Representative Bodies** - open to all tourist train and tram national representative organisations at a cost of 100 USD annually.

**International Regional Representative Bodies** - open to all tourist train and tram international regional representative organisations at a cost of 100 USD annually.

**Affiliate membership** will be open to commercial suppliers and interested bodies (no vote) at a cost of 120 USD annually.

**Associate membership** should be open to individuals interested in the Association (no vote) at a cost of 25 USD annually.

We hope to be in a position to accept members very shortly and you will be informed once the system has been set up and proved to work.

## **NEWS**

Our highest priority is the production of a web site, which is being investigated at present. In the meantime, the Vintage Carriages Trust have kindly agreed to host a very small web site which at least will give us a “presence” on the web and allow us to give out information quickly if required. The host url is <http://www.vintagecarriagestrust.org/>

When the site goes on line, I will inform all readers. We will continue to develop our own website and as soon as it becomes available, we will inform you all.

WATTRAIN will be represented at the International Rail Safety Conference, to be held in Melbourne October 17 to 23, 2011

## **CONGRESS 2012**

The first WATTRAIN CONGRESS will take place in the UK during September/October 2012. At this early stage, full details are not available, but we can say the actual Congress itself will take place during the first week in October, 2012 [2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> October] and we will also be developing “packages” around those dates for delegates to see some of the many heritage projects in the UK. Watch this space, as they say.

Finally, thanks for reading and any queries please get in touch with me on [i.b.s@btinternet.com](mailto:i.b.s@btinternet.com).

Ian Smith  
Managing Director, WATTRAIN