



## Waybill No 2 Reefsteamers Newsletter August 2009

### **Welcome**

I trust everyone enjoyed the 17 pages of last months first regular newsletter produced by Lee Gates. As this was the first communication in some time Lee produced a very full and comprehensive document which gave a complete update of what is happening at Reefsteamers.

I, Stewart Currie, have now taken over the task of compiling a monthly newsletter to keep all our members up-to-date with the happenings and progress with Reefsteamers so you may feel part of the Reefsteamers family. Like any volunteer organisation we rely on volunteers to give of their time to assist in doing tasks that are necessary to enable the organisation to achieve its goals, and in our case is the preservation and running of those magnificent steam engines that once provided the transport infrastructure of S Africa.



**12AR 1535 on Shongololo Duty 19 August 2009**

Reefsteamers is a section 21 (not for profit) company and at the last AGM the following were elected as Board Members

Chairman – Elize Lubbe.  
Vice Chairman – Shaun Ackerman.  
Engineering – Andrew King  
Safety – Coen Pretorius  
Financial – Diana Sanderson  
Logistics – Aidan McCarthy  
Marketing – Leslie Smith  
Secretary – Lee Gates.

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## **From our Chairman**

Dear Reefsteamers members,

2009 is now well underway and I hope that those of you who managed to have a winter break were able to spend some quality time with loved ones.

At the AGM in April, our financial year-end results indicated the end of a good year. We have continued to grow our revenue.

However, true growth in respect of customer/corporate trains is disappointing. Substantial growth is imperative to sustain the recent hike in interest rates and the tight economy factor which have put additional pressure on the bottom line of our business. We operate in a very sluggish economic environment but I have no doubt that even with the uncertain and mixed economic situation, the continued commitment and enthusiasm of the board and our members, we will well be in control and ahead of most of our objectives throughout the remainder of 2009.

The next quarter starting in August promises to hold many challenges as Reefsteamers is fortunate to have one of the most successful and committed Marketing Directors in the heritage railway business. Reefsteamers has proved that we can meet challenges by focusing on our objectives that drive our business.

You will ask what our objectives are and I am sure you will agree on:

Growth, Customer Service, Cost Containment and Staff.

The few weaknesses we as a club are currently experiencing are being attended to and are well on the way to recovery. Management are constantly reviewing and strengthening the club's position in an endeavour to make our club one of the most successful organizations.

In-house news:

Flip Reimers passed away in March after a long illness and is sadly missed by all. Coen Pretorius and Les Smith have both undergone unexpected surgery and I am delighted to announce that both of them recovered and that they are back on their posts.

Shaun Ackerman, Lee Gates and Diana Sanderson had an unforeseen car accident but sustained no injuries.

Edward Carr has resigned to take up a position in Pretoria where he recently relocated to. We wish him well in his new position.

I would also like to wish all members who celebrated their birthdays in the last few months a very happy birthday and all the best for the year ahead.

### Appreciation:

I want to thank the board, staff and members of Reefsteamers for their valued support , fine efforts and aim to assist Reefsteamers to continue in growing . Our team have always had the ability to make things happen and the achievements and commitment of each member attained this are testimony to that. In addition, a solid foundation has been laid for the future. We, Reefsteamers owe our gratitude to each member and passenger who make it happen. I would also like to thank SIA, and in particular Wilfred Mole for his support and dedication towards our club, our sponsors and the board members for their dedication and loyalty in supporting me as the Chairman and I am looking forward in communicating with you on a regular basis through our newsletter.

Steam greetings!

Elize Lubbe (Chairman)

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### Donations

The Reefsteamers Board and members thanks our regular international member and driver Philipp Maurer for the R13 000 donation he made to Reefsteamers for the repairs to the 12AR.

*Editors note: Like any volunteer organisation we are always in need of funds if any one would like to donate money or goods we would be most grateful. Thank you Philipp.*

A mobile office was donated by Alan Grace with the donation facilitated by Wilfred Mole. The plan is use it for a technical office and to house the library. Thanks also to Coen for the donation towards the move and to Aidan and Diana for all your efforts in getting it to site and to Andrew for the help in getting it off the truck and into position.



**The Donated Office Container in Position**

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## From the Board

Freebees for members

The rules are as follows:

- Members and their **immediate** family may travel at no charge on any Reefsteamers train once per quarter. (Immediate family does not include your Boss at work for example)
- Permission to ride on our train as a "Freebee" must be obtained from the Marketing Manager of Reefsteamers **only**. (that is Les Smith)
- The names of all the persons wishing to make use of the "Freebee" rule must be given to the Marketing Manager, who will, after approval, issue an RFS reservation number. The names of all "Freebee" passengers will be recorded on the passenger list drawn up by the Marketing Manager.
- "Freebee" passengers may board at the Germiston steam depot, **provided** that they have signed in at security. Tickets for all "Freebee" passengers will be given to the train Manager at either Maraisburg or Boksburg East station, whichever is applicable. Kindly ensure that you obtain your tickets from the train Manager.
- "Freebee" tickets are only applicable on our own (Reefsteamers) public trains to Magaliesburg.
- The "Freebee" rule does not apply to any other charter train, regardless of who the third party is. This includes SANRASM, Angel/Nelson Tours etc.
- The power van is for the use of staff who are on duty on any applicable given train, and are not for the use of any member (Freebee or otherwise) who are not on duty on that day.

By order.

The Board of Directors.

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## From Shaun Ackerman, Vice Chairman

The Reefsteamers board have reached the point where fixed and operational costs need to be monitored very closely and kept to an absolute minimum and the reality of this is that we need to make some sacrifices. One of the sacrifices is the strict rostering of ALL train and locomotive crew for the special trips we run, in particular the long distance trips like the Cherry Festival and possible enthusiast tours.

In order for Reefsteamers to keep the operational costs on these trips to a minimum the Reefsteamers board are forced to implement a very strict policy with regard to rostering of the train or locomotive crew. Some of the crew on board of these specials may be contractors and these people are paid as professionals to perform their functions but this is automatically worked into the costs by our logistics manager. This may include catering staff and cleaning staff.

We are preparing the crew names for the Cherry Festival special in November and The Geoff Cooke tour in May of 2010. Crew names for the Cherry Festival trip have already been pre - selected though. The board of Reefsteamers uses a simple selection process to achieve this. The activity of members at the depot and on the day trains is a key factor in deciding on this and we select only the necessary members who have an active attendance rate. Preference is given to multi-skilled members who can do various types of duties. Non active members are welcome to make bookings on any of the trips though!

The board of Reefsteamers thus urges ALL members to please get involved actively at the depot or on the trains as we really need your help to keep the wheels in motion! If you are interested to assist with anything, please feel free to contact me on

[vicechairman@reefsteamers.co.za](mailto:vicechairman@reefsteamers.co.za) or +2782 363 8584 or our secretary Lee Gates on [clubsecretary@reefsteamers.co.za](mailto:clubsecretary@reefsteamers.co.za) 083 630-6618 – SMS only

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Shaun Ackerman, Vice Chairman

**Depot Report**

The most pressing problem at the depot is the continual bursting of the water pipes. The steel water pipes were replaced a couple years ago by Transnet however the contractor used inferior plastic piping. Since that time we have been plagued by continual leaking of the pipes which results in additional cost to Reefsteamers as we pay for the water as per the meter at the boundary of the site. This is causing a significant cost to the society to the degree that although representations have been made to Transnet to replace these pipes as present there is no action from them. So it may be necessary to undertake the work ourselves. This of course will put an unbudgeted strain on our finances.

**Motive Power Report**

Work is proceeding on the return to steam of our 25NC 3472. The boiler tubes are in and swaged in place, as well a leaking flexible stay has been replaced. The welding of the tubes in the firebox will only take place after the boiler has been passed by the boiler inspector. The chimney and blast pipe petticoat have holes in them (normal wear and tear) and need replacing (we are fortunate to have spares).

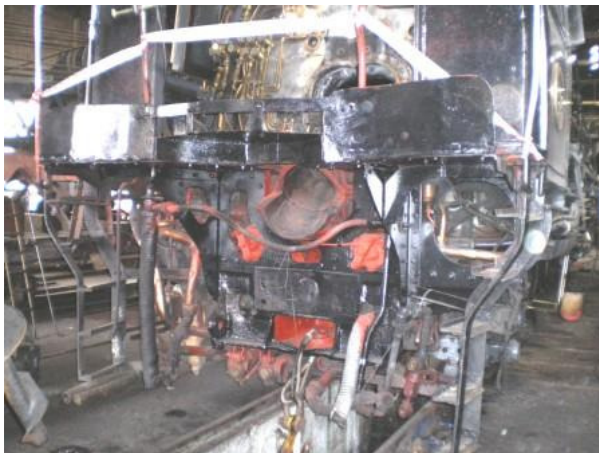
The tender to locomotive cushion needs to be shimmed up to prevent undue sideways strain which could, in the worst case cause a derailment.



**The Holey Petticoat of 3472.**



**The Holey Chimney of 3472**



**A Lot of bits are Underneath the Cab Floor**



**The Cab from Ground Level**

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## **Rolling Stock Report**

On behalf of the Reefsteamers Board, I would like to thank all of those who participated in the recent Coach Lifting Project. This procedure was legally required to be able to renew the five-year general roadworthy certificate for the rail vehicles, including the water tanker that we regularly use on the Magaliesburg train trips.

For those that don't know, this involved the systematic checking and servicing of the running gear, the draft gear, the brakes and the axle boxes of each coach. Each approximately 40 ton vehicle had to be jacked up alternatively at either end to check the pivots for the bogies.

We initially had a slow start, hence a few mild rebukes and pleas for members to please get involved – as this project was not optional. It was deemed not desirable to use the regular fitters and engineering people as they already had much work to do on the locomotives. However, the member turnout stabilized and the job was finished on time. It was noteworthy how much faster, efficient and more confident the coach servicing team became – learning new skills and putting them to use. Perhaps it wasn't a particularly exciting or glamorous project – but you'll be surprised how unexciting and tedious some of the locomotive work can be.

We aren't quite finished yet, as we still need to service three more sleepers, a water tanker and the coal grab wagon, before they can run on the Cherry Festival 2009 trip. Andrew King wants to see these get finished over the next month.

So, a big 'thank you' is due to all that joined us crazies grubbing around in the mud-flaked under-side of those coaches and well done too, for taking the effort to learn and use new skills, and thus helping the over-stretched engineering team by getting this vital project done.

Lee Gates (On behalf of the Reefsteamers Board).

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## **Library**

Your editor has now taken the role of the club librarian and has started with the task of indexing the numerous drawings that Reefsteamers has inherited from various sources. Some of the drawings hark back to the Cape Government Railways. This will take a month or two and then we will be calling for books and railwayana to be donated to our reference library.

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## **Trips**

I just want to congratulate you guys on a job well done yesterday. It was the first time that I've ever been on a train and what better way to do it with a steam locomotive in the front! The trip to Magalies and back was amazing and we enjoyed every moment of it. Please keep up the good work; we will definitely make a booking in the near future again.

Best Regards,

Kobus Olivier (M.Eng (Mech))

Thermal Hydraulic Design Engineer

Hi Les,

I would like to personally thank you for such a fantastic day!

The Private Compartment was such a bonus and the boys loved playing on the top bunk and thankfully even got to sleep while us Mom's and Dad's had a very yummy toasted sandwich from the kitchen.

I have highly recommended the experience to many friends who were all very green with envy when they heard all about our very memorable day!

Thank you for a fantastic day and one that our boys will remember for many, many years to come!

Warm regards,

Greg and Susan Heger

Since the start of the spring/summer trip season on the 1<sup>st</sup> August we have run 3 trains to Magaliesburg all most successful. On the Trips on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August we had over 400 people on each trip and all went off with no problems. Our sole certified engine 12AR 1535 operated faultlessly and handled the loads with ease.

On the trip of the 10<sup>th</sup> August the family members of our regular volunteer and machinist James Thompson hired our lounge car to celebrate James 65 birthday and retirement from his employer. A very nice gesture to a popular person.

#### Future Trips

The Aardklop festival train scheduled for the weekend of the 3rd & 4th of October has been removed. A Reefsteamers day trip to Magaliesburg has been added for Saturday the 3rd of October 2009.

A Reefsteamers day trip to Magaliesburg has been added for Sunday the 4th of October 2009. A private charter for the Holy Rosary School has been added for Sunday the 11th of October 2009.

A private charter for Resomed has been added for **Friday** the 27th of November 2009.

A private charter for the Crescent Haven orphanage has been added for Sunday the 13th of December 2009.

The Bookings for the Cherry Festival are closed as the trip is fully booked.

#### September Trips

Saturday the 5th of September 2009. Reefsteamer's trip.

Saturday the 19th of September 2009. Reefsteamer's private charter for the Boksburg correctional services.

Thursday the 24th of September. SANRASM trip.

Saturday the 26th of September 2009. Angel/Nelson Tours trip.

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#### Odds & Ends

A photo shoot for FHM has taken place which used four coaches and the cold 12AR on static display against which to pose their three MALE models.

The Fashion Shoot should come out in the fashion insert in this month's FHM magazine – if it is published. I also submitted a write up for Reefsteamers which will appear in the magazine itself as a free bit of publicity in return for the very good rates we gave for the photo shoot.

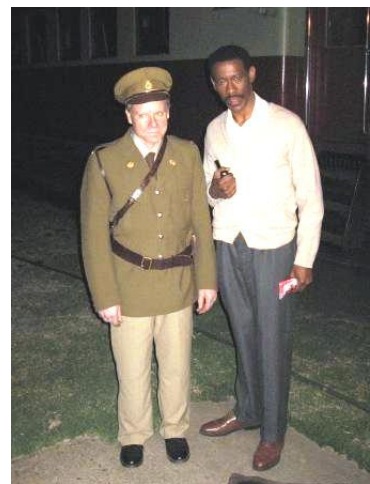
Lee Gates

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Dear Elize

Thank-you so so much for helping us out at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour with the production. It was extremely cold and your father waited so patiently as we tried to finish in the icy cold last night. The train worked well and even Andrew got to play a cop and did a wonderful performance. Please thank your board for me and let them know how much we appreciated your hospitality and kindness. I asked my accountant to process your invoice yesterday, trust it has gone through.

Kind regards  
Carolyn Carew  
Born Free Media



Police Constable Andrew King

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## Appeals

Downsizing? Have lots of “stuff” that you don’t know what to do with? Think about Reefsteamers. We always are looking for hosepipes, garden tools, workshop tools etc. Think about bringing it along to the depot, we can always make use of it.

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## Contact Details

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**Sakkie Filling 1535's tender before the Run 19 August 2009**