



Waybill No11

Reefsteamers Newsletter

AUGUST 2010

Welcome

Greetings to all our members and new members. The second and third quarters of 2010 have been a tumultuous and difficult time for your new Board.

From the Editor

On taking over as our newly appointed financial director Andre Van Dyk compiled a proper budget for the first time in a number of years and the perilous financial position of the club was unveiled not only did we have no funds in our bank account, income was exceeding expenditure as well as we have significant debts. There was a very strong possibility that the club would have to close.

But your new Board resolved to do everything humanly possible to save the club and allow it to continue operating into the future.

Very stressful and hard decisions have been made to reduce expenditure and maximise income.

To this effect we have looked very hard at everything that is costing us money and not earning a profit for us.

On the cost side we are looking at security, paid staff, bar and kitchen cars on our Magaliesburg trains, water costs from burst pipes, electricity costs and more.

On the debt side we are in communication with the businesses we owe money to. Principally for coal and Transnet for the YQs (the document that allows us to run a train), plus a number of loans that members have made to keep Reefsteamers afloat.

To increase revenue we are investigating stronger marketing of our trains. Trains to new destinations (although Transnet severely restricts us due to their "no steam on mainlines" policy).

Let me state categorically that your new Board is totally determined that Reefsteamers will survive and get through this.

But we need all our members to be committed and supportive. We have to get back to being a volunteer organisation to preserve and run trains and to do that we need you.

We need you to be active members, come to the depot there is always plenty of work to be done come on the trains as coach controllers, speak to your friends get them to book on our trains. Do you know of a business that can donate goods to Reefsteamers we need everything you can imagine, dog food, cleaning materials, tools, welding rods the list is endless.

We need you to be active otherwise steam in Johannesburg will die!

Your new Board consists of

Lex Wehmeyer	Chairman
Andre Van Dyk	Financials
Dennis Edger	Secretary/Logistics
Stewart Currie	Engineering

Coen Pretorius Safety
Co-opted
Andrew King
Les Smith
Shaun Ackerman

For a business with a turnover in excess of R2 million a year this is a big strain for the volunteers on the board. If you are willing to help in any of the board's administrative tasks please please come forward.

Communication from our Chairman

Dear Reefsteamers member,

I would like to commend a very hardcore group of Reefsteamers directors and members for the way in which they have stepped forward to try to get to the bottom of what has turned out to be a corporate governance crisis of some significance. We will not mention individuals by name because they are stepping forward all the time.

However the new Reefsteamers is now at the information gathering stage.

We are aware that there have been many breaches of the Reefsteamers Constitution. It is our opinion that the organisation drifted away from its core set of principles of being a volunteer organisation bound by common desire to maintain a significant part of South Africa's Railway Heritage.

By drifting away from its core values, Reefsteamers began to unravel because hard earned money generated from train operations began to dissipate into non-productive areas.

All of us who are involved in this turn around process are committed to ensuring that all monies paid out incorrectly (in breach of the Constitution) are recovered. There are long suffering creditors who have supplied coal and other services to Reefsteamers who trusted the membership body implicitly. They deserve to be paid because the services they provided were critical to Reefsteamers ongoing operations.

May we address a personal appeal to you? If you are aware of monies paid out for any reason that might trouble you could you please provide us with the details so we can incorporate it into the reconciliation. If you are aware of any breach of Reefsteamers Constitution by any member, either inadvertently or otherwise, please let us have details so we can do a proper follow-up.

The great benefit of using professional auditors etc. is that they work purely to the book. This is not about people; it is about a collective return to a high level of fiscal discipline.

This first stage simply seeks co-operation. The next stage is the more detailed forensic one which will be expensive but which may not even become necessary if we receive the close co-operation of everyone who has been involved with Reefsteamers for the past 5-years or so.

Whatever your response to this request would be, we would be delighted to hear from you because Reefsteamers is after all nothing more than what its members enable it to ultimately become.

Regards,
Lex Wehmeyer
Chairman - Reefsteamers Association"

Access Road

Those of you who have been recently will surely have notice that the access road is now nearly as good as a Gauteng freeway. A major improvement over the old rutted track.

How did this happen?

By what I have been promoting above. Our new member Allan Lawton saw the problem spoke to a company he does business with and a day or two later a large yellow piece of construction equipment appeared, ran up the road with it blade on the ground and 2 hours later we have a road that you editor's small car can traverse without damage.

It was as easy as that!

Just ask for help and you will be amazed how helpful people will be.

What can you do for Reefsteamers?

Many thanks to Allan the club is most grateful to you for organising this.



You may be surprised to see our chief engineer, Andrew King associating with rail technology of the 21st century rather than 19th century. But he does and here is a photo of him with the Gautrain at Sandton Station.

Depot Report

The big activity at the Depot last month was the open day. The last one, I am told, was held 5 years ago. This was decided on by your new board as an event to raise public awareness in Reefsteamers and hopefully bring in a bit of money.

In both instances it was a roaring success.

We had a terrific turnout of our members to shepherd the public around the depot and put them on the two trains that ran to Boksburg East. We had more people than were expected and they all had a great time. It was particularly nice to see so many small children bought by their parents, and we made a nice profit of over R 25,000 after all expenses were paid.

For me it was wonderful to see 3 locomotives, in steam, at the same place, in 2010.

A Bit of History

I can confirm that R15 rolled on 22nd June 1990 and that she was in fact 4079 before being bought and overhauled by REGM, I also relieved her of her boiler plate and this number 10766 concurs with John Middleton's industrial locomotives book of 1990's, that she is in fact 4079. After being rebuilt I presume by Dunn's at Witbank, she was renumbered R1



GMAM 4079 on its side at Randfontein Estates Gold Mine 1990



Sandstone Estates GMAM 4079 on a Rovos Rail Train.

Just to encourage you that if there's a will there's a way. Can you imagine when 4079 was lying on its side 20 years ago it would be the beautiful pristine engine it is today and all we need is R2,500 to have the boiler certified.

Can you raise the funds for us? Can you donate the money?

Come on get involved.

Library

I am still waiting for the flood of donation I was expecting. Nothing Yet!
Come on there must be rail books etc that you no longer want
Please donate.

Trips

The Cherry Festival train is fully booked but we do need volunteers to assist in running of the train bar, kitchen, cleaning, watering the train en route etc.

Are you willing to get involved?

Here are the trip details

- The train will be brought into Boksburg East station at 10H00 on Thursday the 18th of November 2010.
- Passengers can then board at their leisure until 11H30. Our train will then depart at 12 Noon with electric traction as far as Bethlehem station.
- Lunch will not be available on the train on the afternoon of the 18th. Please have an early "Brunch" at home before boarding, or bring some "Pad kos" with you.
- Safe parking will be provided for those passengers leaving their cars at Boksburg East station.
- The bar will be open for business on the afternoon of the 18th for those thirsty travellers who wish to partake of the fruit of the vine.
- Bedding is supplied. Please bring your own towels, an umbrella in case it rains as well as a small torch if you have one. Please do not forget your medication if you suffer from any sort of chronic ailment.
- Supper will be served on the train on the evening of the 18th in three separate sittings. You will be informed as to which sitting you have been allocated. First sitting will be from 18H00 to 19H00, Second sitting 19H00 to 20H00 and third sitting from 20H00 to 21h00. The cost of this meal is included in your ticket price.
- The train will arrive at Bethlehem at approximately 20H40, where it will be staged (parked) for the night.
- We then leave for Ficksburg behind steam traction for the most interesting and scenic part of the journey at 09H15 on Friday morning the 19th.
- Breakfast will be served on the train on Friday morning the 19th of November 2010, the cost thereof which is included in the price of your ticket. Three sittings will be held once again for this meal. First 06H00 to 07H00, Second 07H00 to 08H00 and Third 08H00 to 09H00. The train has been timed to leave at 09H15 so that all our passengers will be fed and will be able to enjoy the magnificent scenery for the remainder of the journey.
- The train will arrive at Ficksburg station at approximately 11H45 on Friday morning the 19th.
- The train will be staged (parked) at Ficksburg station until our departure at 03H00 on Sunday morning. The Cherry festival show grounds and the town itself are within walking distance from the station. Kindly remember to close all the windows in your Compartment/Coupe as well as the sliding door before vacating your Compartment/Coupe. Although Security Guards are employed on the train, kindly do not leave any valuables when vacating your Compartment or Coupe, as Reefsteamers cannot be held responsible for any losses whatsoever.
- Lunch and supper on Friday the 19th will not be available on the train. Passengers can arrange for their own meals at either the festival show grounds or at any restaurant in Ficksburg town itself.
- Breakfast will be served on the train on Saturday morning the 20th of November 2010. The cost of this meal is also included in the price of your ticket.
- Passengers are then free to spend the rest of the day at their leisure, either at the festival, or on a conducted walking tour of Ficksburg town itself.
- Lunch and dinner on Saturday the 20th is for the passenger's own account, and can be had at either the festival itself, or in the town.

- The train will then depart on its return journey to Boksburg East at 03H00 on Sunday morning the 21st.
- Breakfast and lunch will be served on Sunday the 21st, the cost of which is included in the price of your train ticket.
- The train will arrive at Boksburg East on the Sunday at approximately 16H00.

Possibilities

We should seriously consider running the breakfast / sundowner train, over a weekend, even if we have a train to Magalies. The Springs route is perfect for this.

Can we get a date for a trial run and advertise on the East Rand. We need a strong marketer / convener to arrange this.

From our Chairman

Can you Help?

Our Trips for the Rest of the Year

SATURDAY 28 AUGUST	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS COUNTRY MUSIC SPECIAL	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
FRIDAY 24 SEPTEMBER	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS ANNUAL TRIP TO THE CHERRY FESTIVAL	BOKSBURG EAST	FICKSBURG
SATURDAY 27 NOVEMBER	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
SATURDAY 11 DECEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG
THURSDAY 16	SANRASM	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG

DECEMBER			
SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER	REEFSTEAMERS	MARAISBURG	MAGALIESBURG

The Great Train Race

We have been approached by the Rotary club of Middleburg to provide coaches (at very short notice) for the Great Train Race between Witbank and Middleburg.

You will recall in previous years that this has been a steam hauled train supplied by the Friends of the Rail.

The steam ban on main lines stopped this and this year the railways were supposed to supply the rolling stock. However with 2 weeks to go they withdrew their offer. So Reefsteamers were approached. If our proposal is accepted we will need your help in running the train though we will not be required to provide haulage we do need people on the train so the passengers are safe and our coaches are secure.

The timings are as below.

Can you help

The basic running times are as follows:

- Friday 20 August 2010. Depart from Germiston depot at 14H00 as empty coaching stock to Witbank. We will need to fire up a loco to get our day sitter train under the wires; as electric traction is far cheaper than diesel. We will need a Train Manager and a Safety Officer to accompany the train for the duration.
- Arrival time at Witbank is scheduled for 16H00. The train will be stabled near the old steam loco depot for the night. Rotary will arrange for security to look after the train. The TFR train crew as well as our own will be accommodated for the night in Witbank at their cost.
- Departure from Witbank will be at 04H45 on Saturday morning 21 August 2010 as empty coaching stock to Middelburg.
- Arrival at Middelburg is scheduled for 05H45 where we will pick up the Middelburg passengers and participants in the race.
- Departure from Middelburg will be at 06H15 with passengers on board. Expected arrival time at Witbank is at 07H15.
- The actual road race to Middelburg starts at 08H00 with the train also leaving at 08H00 with a full load of passengers for Middelburg.
- The train should arrive at a point just outside Middelburg where there is a rail over road bridge at approximately 09H00. The train will stop here in section for about 10 minutes for photography purposes.
- The train will be timed to be opposite the "Robertson Landgoed" at approximately 09H20 to "accompany" the first runners to the finish line.
- The train will stop at the "Train Race Grounds" at approximately 09H30, where all the passengers will disembark. Half an Hour is allowed for this purpose. Departure from this point is therefore at 10H00.
- The train will then run as empty coaching stock to Middelburg station itself which is only 10 minutes away from the "Race" grounds. Arrival at Middelburg station will be at 10H10 where the train will be staged until the return trip which commences at 12h20.
- The train will arrive at the "Train Race Grounds" at 12H30, where the passengers for Witbank will board. Departure from the "Race Grounds" is scheduled for 13H00.
- Arrival time at Witbank will be at 14H00 where all the passengers will disembark. Departure back to Germiston as "Empty Coaching Stock" will be at 15H00 with arrival back at the depot in Germiston at 17H00.
- Crowd control and passenger safety is the responsibility of Rotary and their sponsors "Kohler Auto".

We just need to find volunteers for Train Manager and Safety Officer Positions.

From the Public

Hi Les,

I just want to thank you and your team for the wonderful day yesterday (father's day trip 20th June).

It was a surprise for my husband and he really really enjoyed the trip never mind my two sons they all had such a ball.

Also, we even got our own carriage which was such a special treat for us we really felt special and the whole day was so excellent.

Thanks so much, it was great and I will happily recommend your wonderful business to all our friends and family

Kind regards

Kerry

Hi

My friend and I would love to do the Magaliesburg ride (with our kids, of course).

Please can you advise if the engine that is used is a proper steam one (that uses coal).

Also, when would your next trip to Magaliesburg be and what is the cost per child (under 16)?

Thanking you in advance

Kind regards

Gila Bender

Where did our advertising go wrong? Ed

From Our Friends

Dear Lex,

After reading articles related to Reefsteamers current situation it is my deepest desire that you get to the bottom of all the problems and try to rectify them.

In my eyes Reefsteamers are the flagship of Steam Preservation in South Africa - the organisation with the most locomotives in its care, the organisation with the most well-kept and clean locomotives as well as some of the only operating Classes of SAR Steam left in South Africa.

It is my thought that it is paramount that Reefsteamers survive and go from strength to strength because the Steam Preservation Movement would be far less without Reefsteamers.

I cannot offer much in the way of funds since my agenda for SAR Steam Preservation will require everything I have but I shall donate something in the near future and I offer you encouragement and the truth that you as an organisation are the pride of South African Steam Heritage.

I do hope that the "New and Improved" Reefsteamers will really rise above these challenging times and emerge victorious.

My Best Wishes to You...

With Kindest Regards

Bryn Morgan

South African Railways Steam Preservation Association (SARSPA)

New Members

We would like to welcome our new members and we hope that you will be active members and support the club in whatever way you are able.

Alan Lawton

Deon Walker

George Hoddinott

August Compion

Imile Wehmeyer
Nico Coetzwer
David Benn
Stephen Dawe
Wilfred Mole
David Shepard
Adrian Stephanus Strydom
Lawrence Posniak
Colin Hall
Rodney Glaysheer (long time member rejoined)

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Just to end, some of the happy faces seen around the depot