

Pullman Car Services

COUPE NEWS

The Quality of Service is Remembered Long After The Price is Forgotten

JUNE 2003

No:4

Editorial:

Welcome to Coupe News No:4.
Your free newsletter of Pullman related news and material.

To those who have forwarded material included within this edition, thank you for sharing your information with fellow readers.
All I ask of you for the time I spend in production, is for you to forward on, either e-mail or printing a copy, to any one you may know who will be interested.

Information is for sharing - not gathering dust.....

If you have any material for inclusion in No.5, please forward by 29th June.
Coupe News No.5 will be published on July 1st.

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Preservation News:

Kieth & Dufftown Railway May 2003.

CAR No.87 & CAR No.91, on loan from the North Norfolk Railway, the two cars were reported in use as static Dining facility.

VSO-E Ghost Fleet Stewarts Lane May 2003.

Cars MONA, 85 & 92 were noted under cover at Stewarts Lane.

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway May 2003 – Report by N.Venus Middlesbrough.

During a recent visit to Oxenhome on the KWVR, I noted a Pullman car in a state of restoration, the name "PRINEA" was noted on the body side.

As I continued into the building I encountered Pullman Car "Mary" complete with roof board "The White Rose" - absolutely beautiful.

(Editors Note: For the purposes of identification PRINEA, is in fact CAR No.83, and MARY, CAR No.84).

Look Back at Pullman:

1953.

June 2nd, Coronation Day.

Brighton Belle Units allocated 2 sets for Brighton –Victoria charter, the third set Covering the normal Brighton belle service*.

June 14th, 5 Bel set '3052' Royal Train duty, Windsor – Portsmouth. ECS back to London*.

June 15th, 'Spithead Review' 5 Bel set '3052' Royal train duty, Waterloo – Portsmouth. Also undertook two trips to Windsor*.

June 16th, 5 Bel set '3052' Royal Train duty, Portsmouth – Windsor*.

June 27th, Merchant navy 35010 'Blue Star' noted hauling the down "Devon Belle"#.

Information Sources.

(*). Railways South East Winter 1989/90 Vol 2 No.1.

(#). Steam World No.5 August 1981.

Pantry Item:

Saltburn Line User Group
"THE SALTburn HIGHLANDER"
Saltburn — Fort William — Mallaig
July 4—6th 2003

Sorry but this railtour has been sold out for some time.

But, the Pullman interest can be seen line side from Saltburn to Mallaig. The charter will operate with the remaining 1966 Mk2 Pullman cars.

Further details for those of you who live in the North East of England and also Scotland who may want to see this unique Pullman rake in operational service again after a period of inactivity.

Attendants Service:

Your attendant has been requested to serve requests to you.

If you can answer the plea for help, please reply to me, and I will forward on/or reply via this service next month.

Table 1. (DL)

Doug Lindsay's plea of April brought forward the following responses with regard to Windsor.

Some thirty years ago, about 1973, I visited the Windsor Safari Park as was the custom in those days when Safari Parks were a typical 'day out' in the 70s. I clearly remember that near the reception area there was a Pullman Car in use as a Buffet/Catering outlet. I did not record which Car it was or indeed visit it for refreshment.

Chris Leigh replies:-

Regarding Windsor Safari Park. I lived just up the road from there between 1973-7 and we went to the park several times. I'm sure I would remember if I'd seen a Pullman car there - and I don't. Refreshments were served in the big old Victorian house in the middle of the complex. There was a Pullman at Thorpe Park, however, although I don't think it ever came into public use. It was used for corporate hospitality up to the time that Madame Tussaud's took over the Park. It was a Brighton Belle car - Gwen or Mona if I remember correctly - and subsequently went north to a pub, I believe.

Peter Hall replies:-

Regarding Doug's outstanding query about the Belle Car at Windsor. I have studied the matter and can only put 283 in the frame. Perhaps Doug's memory has become a bit blurred other time over time and it was Chertsey that he visited!

S/No:283 MONA. Eastley End Restaurant, Cold Harbour Lane, Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey.
Brighton Belle Inn, Winsford, Cheshire.
VSO-E.

P3. 06/2003.

My summary of Belle Car movements after leaving Brighton is as follows:-

- 279 - The Black Bull, Moulton, North Yorkshire
- 280 - South Eastern Steam Centre, Ashford - Carnforth - VSOE
- 281 - The Horseless Carriage, Chingford - Colne Valley Railway - VSOE
- 282 - CIL Finsbury Park, London
- 283 - Eastley End Restaurant, Cold Harbour Lane, Thorpe, Chertsey, Surrey - Brighton Belle Inn, Winsford, Cheshire - VSOE
- 284 - Turner (Private Residence), Westleton, Suffolk - VSOE
- 285 - Stored Mistley/Manningtree - The Nags Head, Mickleover, Derbyshire - Severn Valley Railway - VSOE
- 286 - Stored Mistley/Manningtree - Carnforth - VSOE
- 287 - Stored Mistley/Manningtree - North Norfolk Railway - Kieth & Dufftown Railway
- 288 - Stored Brighton (for Trumans) - Colne Valley Railway - Swanage Railway - VSOE
- 289 - Little Mill Inn, Rowarth, Derbyshire (originally in Cheshire)
- 290 - Stored Brighton (Preston Park) - Wolverton Works - Nene Valley Railway - Padiham Power Station - Carnforth - East Lancashire Railway (Scrapped 1995)
- 291 - Stored Mistley/Manningtree - Brighton (Preston Park) - VSOE
- 292 - Stored Mistley/Manningtree - Brighton (Preston Park) - VSOE

Perhaps it would be worthwhile asking if any readers know of any other locations that the Cars have been kept at. Possibly also with a note of which locations you do not have a photograph of the Cars in the archive. Also any dates of movement that are known could be added.

Table 2 – 4 Remain outstanding requests awaiting a response from you?

Table 2. (JT)

I am building (with a team of professional modelers) a 4mm, fine scale model of Hitchin station in 1959. I intend to have at least two of the all Pullman trains, probably The Master Cutler and either The Queen of Scots or The Yorkshire Pullman. Helpful though the various Pullman books are, none that I have found give the precise train formations. I want to arrange my Pullmans exactly right. Can you help?

No information received to date.

Table 3. (RK)

I am preparing to build a Kent model and would like some Kentish Belle style Pullmans. I am interested in the identity of car names & numbers in the formation. Any information on train formation, locomotive haulage and even date. Can any reader help with formation lists?

No information received to date.

Table 4. (AF)

I would ask if anyone has any B&W or colour interior photographs of the Pullman Composite Cars of the Brighton line. My aim is to have a faithful record of all the decorative schemes used in each of the 23 cars. Any help would be most appreciated and any costs paid.

No information received to date.

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Attendants Service:

Table 5. (CW)

Colin Wheeler of Smethwick the historian of the Birmingham Railway Carriage & Wagon Co. Has requested the help of YOU, to assist with his information stand. Colin attends exhibitions in the Birmingham area highlighting the history, craftsmanship that this famous works was known for all over the world. Colin is looking for good quality photos of any Pullman car built by BRC&W Co. He is interested in both internal and external views. The loan of negatives would be acceptable.

Table 6. (PG&TB).

Have you any photos of the Northern Belle vehicles, broadsides of each vehicle if possible to assist in the building of this train by conversion of Mk1 and 2 coaches. Any information with regard to the bogies beneath the Mk1 vehicles would also be most welcome.

We have both contacted Fox Transfers with a request with regard to transfers for the converted models. Alas at this moment in time Fox do not have any transfers within the range on offer, but they are interested in producing these transfers for the model market. But again photos are needed so can you help.

Middlesbrough Model Railway Exhibition May 3/4th 2003.

The Pullman Society information stand was invited to attend the annual exhibition. The theme for the event was Tri-ang – Hornby Pullman cars from 1958 – 2003. Models of each Pullman car produced during this period were on display and a history fact sheet available free of charge. My thanks to both Simon Kohler of Hornby, and Pat Hammond for ensuring the information within the fact sheet was correct.

On the sales stand front, I noted the following prices for second hand Pullman car models.

R228 Tri-ang Parlour car (unboxed)	£9.
R223 Hornby Parlour car (boxed)	£15.
R233 Hornby Parlour Brake (boxed)	£10.
R230 Hornby Golden Arrow Parlour (boxed)	£20.

A chat with one sales outlet with regard the new Hornby Pullmans, confirmed that demand has out stripped supply from Hornby.

P5. 06/2003.

Tail Lamp:

Coupe news is only as good as the information received and published within.
So why not share your news/material/information with fellow Pullman connoisseurs.

They say you should never go back, and try to rekindle the memories you hold of a specific place, or time in your life. Well as you will all be aware we are in fact doing this all time in reading, and researching matters Pullman.

I originate from Portsmouth, Hampshire. But have for just a mere 33 years lived in what was North Yorkshire, then Teesside and then Cleveland and at this moment in time, just Thornaby. Whilst at the Middlesbrough Model Railway exhibition, I purchased a video tape "Up Pompey", it has nothing to do with the newly promoted team of Fratton Park fame.

Just a video cab ride that includes Southampton Central – Portsmouth – Guildford and Reading. 143 minutes of memories of my train spotting days between 1960 and 1967.
Also my time as booking boy at Portcreek Junction and Portsmouth Harbour signal cabins.

Yes, the areas have changed, for the better, well that depends on how you view progress. We can't stop progress, and the railway scene is no exception to this.
The one thing I did note from this video, and can confirm the same for my own area I live in, the famous 'Train Spotter' is becoming a rare species.
No longer do I see the huddle of bodies at the platform end, with camera and note books.
Where have they gone?

When I undertake my Pullman Talks I now constantly hear that dwindling numbers are affecting the survival of the groups. Already in my area the local Deltic Preservation Society group has terminated area meetings because of falling numbers.
Other railway society's are becoming worried that the future seems uncertain as the younger element are not coming forward to take up the challenge of restoration and operation of equipment.
The model railway scene, I am advised is also fearing for the future with regards to exhibitions held locally, the life blood of local clubs is ebbing away as again the membership begin to fall.
So as long as we all look back, an interest will be held in Pullmans, but what of Pullman interest in the future, will we be an extinct species in 25 years.

Time to go back to the video, just passing Cosham Junction, Portcreek here I come.

T.Bye
1st June 2003

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