

# COTMA IATM REPORT – AUGUST 2008

COTMA continues to be a member of the **International Association of Transport Museums**. This provides an e-mail link on the IATM website [www.iatm.org](http://www.iatm.org) that leads to the COTMA website and thence to the sites of individual COTMA affiliate museums.

**The last IATM Conference was held in York, UK**, in association with the UK National Railway Museum, and chaired by its Director, Andrew Scott. He has had a long-standing involvement with the National Tramway Museum at Crich and was instrumental in supporting its status as a Recognised Museum. The Conference was held from **9-17 June 2007**. Topics covered were

- The role of volunteers
- Operating in a political environment
- The sustainability of museums in the longer term
- Generating income
- Partnerships between museums and with related bodies.

Andrew Scott  
Director  
UK National  
Railway  
Museum



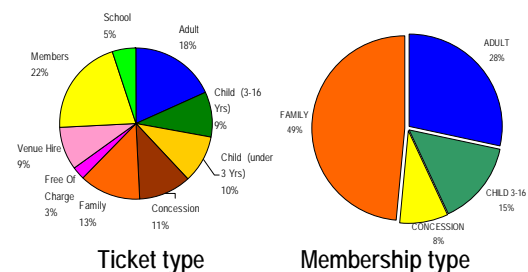
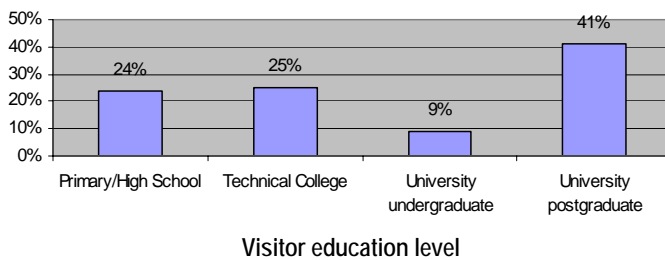
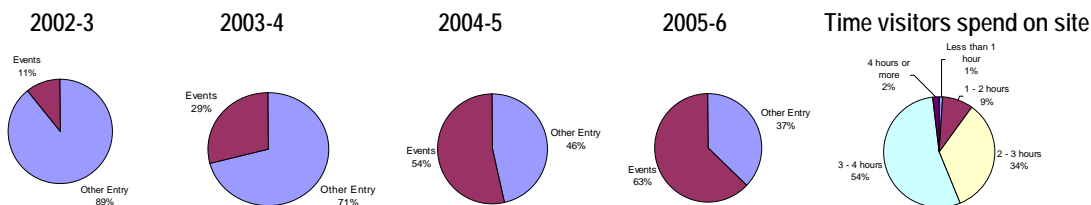
The conference was attended by several from Australia and New Zealand, including Andrew Moritz, Director of the Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich; Jeremy Hubbard, Director of MOTAT, Auckland; Sara Jane Brazil who was manager of the Thirlmere Rail Museum upgrade project, and John Radcliffe on behalf of COTMA. The Conference took the usual format of sessions with presentations interspersed with visits to various museums.

The redevelopment plans for the **National Railway Museum**, York, and its 263 railed vehicles (70 loaned out) were outlined by Stephen Richards. New proposals cover a York Railway College, the Institute of Railway Studies and a search engine for the Archives. The NRM contributes £30m to the York economy. Guenter Dinhl discussed railways as **UNESCO**

**World Heritage sites**. Several papers discussed **partnership arrangements between museums and community organisations**. Stephen Middleton (aged 30) described his personal railway carriage restoration, considered to be excellent. He outlined four necessities – conservation, restoration, safe-keeping and use. The restored carriage will be managed by the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway**.

**Winstan Bond** presented a paper “Achieving sustainability for independent tramway museums” – essentially the same paper presented on his behalf at the 2006 COTMA Conference. A four-person presentation described planning to build a completely new museum incorporating the present **Glasgow Museum of Transport**. The defined audiences were those aged < 5; families; schools 5-14 with no exams; teenagers (a difficult audience); and the sensory impaired. Andrew Moritz described the development of the **Ipswich Workshops Rail Museum** with \$20m funding including \$5m from QR. (It has 16 exhibitions, but most of its revenue now comes from four events, viz Friends of Thomas, Circus Train, Wizards and Witches Express and the Ipswich Model Railway Show. These events are primarily focussed on those < 8 and those > 55.) Ipswich has excellent visitor demographic information (below).

Winstan  
Bond  
presenting



**Several volunteers** described what drove their commitment to museums, often derived from “hands-on” childhood enthusiasms (“imprinting”). Memories of “heritage and place” were important. Other papers were given on aspects of railway carriage conservation, later inspected during the tours.

Detailed visits were paid to the **National Railway Museum**, the **Yorkshire Air Museum**, museums in the **City of Hull**, the **Captain Cook Museum** at Whitby, the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** at Grosmont including dinner in Pullman dining cars; the **National Media Museum** at Bradford, and the **Ingrow Rail Centre** which links separate rail entities - the **Vintage Carriage Trust**, a Society restoring the locomotive “**Bahamas**” and the **Keighley and Worth Valley Railway**. A particularly interesting aspect of the Vintage Carriage Trust is that it has established a second-hand repository of used magazines, journals and books and accumulates sets from deceased estates across the UK for sale to younger members or to fill gaps in collections. It is recognised by most societies as filling this unique role.

Following the Conference, I visited Crich to obtain photographs and information that might be useful in the conversion of the SPER C class car 33 back to its double-deck conformation.

The 2009 IATM Conference will be at Dresden and Nurnberg, Sun. June 14 – Fri. June 19 2009 –see website.

John Radcliffe – COTMA IATM Delegate

18 August 2008

## VIGNETTES OF THE 2007 IATM CONFERENCE TOURS

### NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM - YORK



Sunset, NRM York

### CITY OF HULL MUSEUM



Kitson Steam Tram, Hull

### INGROW



Workshop, Bahamas



Andrew Scott showing NRM workshop



Hull Horse Tram



Magazine store, Vintage Carriage Trust



Stored items open to public inspection – York

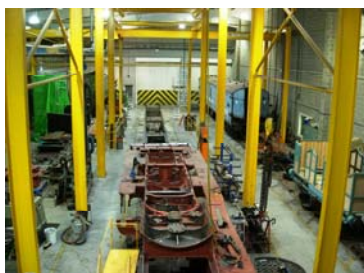


TMS-owned Hull 132 on loan to Hull Museum

### CRICH



J Shawcross – Chesterfield 7



Flying Scotsman under £1m restoration, York

### YORK CITY MUSEUM



Fire extinguisher practice