



Writing For Steaming

Articles/Features

Right now I can hear you thinking I can't write for a magazine. Honest you can, it's not difficult. The trick is to have something to write about and, most important this, remember you are not writing for your English teacher. Say what you have you say as simply as possible, in short sentences, in the way that you'd want to read it yourself. If you keep the idea of a chatty letter to a good friend in mind you won't go far wrong. It's not a job, it shouldn't be hard work.

But if you want some hints - here you are!

Mull over your ideas first trying to sort out in your mind what you want to say. Starting with a blank screen/sheet of paper without pondering first is the surest way to write nothing. If it helps make a few notes under the '5 Ws' - Who? Where? Why? When? What? And sometimes indeed How? If you've covered all those you've probably left nothing out!

Then just write it, as quickly as you can, without too much effort and without trying to add flowery language and the sorts of things that English teachers seem to want. Try to sum up the main bones of the story in the first paragraph - say fifty words, then go on to fill out the piece with the details that you want to include.

Finished? Go back through making sure you've included everything. If you're happy - send it in. I'll check it for obvious errors tidy it and send it back for your approval.

OK. Happy? Good. Oh yes and to the tricky matter of size. In wordage the right length is the right length. We are not at school with the requirement for so many words. Size does not matter. Don't use ten words when five will do.... But please help me by using some.

Pictures

Photographs for inclusion are welcome and can be submitted in various formats. Working subjects are especially useful as are rear and side views. Do not crop images before sending them please. Please send as many details as you can with pictures and also why you took the shot if it is appropriate.

Steaming Around

Steaming Around is kept afloat by a sterling group of contributors but news items are welcome from all. Club magazines and marked up rally programmes are exceptionally useful. If sending either an indication of the content of particular interest is useful - maybe debuting

engines or significant displays. A note of the attendance, the weather and the 'feel' of an event are also welcome. This can be sent in the form of bullet points.

Any snippets of interest are welcome particularly reports of smaller events, trips by road with engines, steam parties and the like.

While we can't pay for this material it isn't intended that anybody is left out of pocket for things like postage so if expenses are a problem get in touch. Pictures for this section are also welcome see the notes above. Just one thing please doesn't send me information about ownership changes or storage locations without the permission of those concerned unless the equipment has been exhibited under the new owner's name or publicised elsewhere.

Rally organisers are welcome to send me advance information about their events especially any specials bearing in mind that the deadlines for such items will be the 10th of the month prior to publication i.e. 10th March for April, 10th June for July, 10th September for October, 10th December for January.

Steaming Along

Our new correspondent B J 'Bazzy' Thump is keen to include members' on the road steam engine experiences, reports of journeys undertaken and the like. Date, itinerary, technical details etc can be sent as bullet points together with overall comments and he can work from these. Please include the crew details and any support staff and pictures if possible.

Younger Members and SAC

If you are thinking of writing something for Steaming why not talk to your teachers and see if the work could count towards marks at school maybe in English GCSE or A Level or other courses? I can always supply copies of published material and confirmation that it is your work.

How to Submit Copy and Pictures

Articles should if at all possible be typed, ideally with the line spacing set at 1.5, but handwritten material is equally welcome. If handwritten please put any important details unusual spellings etc in block capitals. Material can be sent as hard copy through the Royal Mail or electronically. Sorry no faxes. For short items the text can be included in the body of the email. For longer items please send as an attachment in Word 97-2003 file (.doc) or rtf format.

Please headline the copy with a title that pleases you and use that title both as the file name *and* for any pictures emailed. If you are sending images add the captions at the end of the copy numbered from 1 onwards. See below for detailed information about pictures.

Pictures for publication are welcome, but although every care is taken I cannot be responsible for prints which are sent and returned at members' risk. For slides ring me before sending.

Unless they are accompanying an article prints sent through the mail should be accompanied by the details on a sheet of paper - modern scanners can read through some prints so please don't write loads on the reverse. Digital images should be sent as an email attachment with the caption in the body of the email.

In the case of multiple prints illustrating an article a number relating to the captions is sufficient - lightly pencilled on the reverse. For multiple Digital Images please make the filename the same as the copy name with a numbered suffix; for example Grandma's Rollers 1, Grandma's Rollers 2 etc. with the numbers relating to the captions.

Both copy and pix are ideally sent by email to steaming@ntet.co.uk. If you have to send hard copy 10 Sultan Road Emsworth Hants PO10 7PP is the address.

Please be aware that contributions may be held over for future issues and also may be cut or revised for space reasons. In the case of queries and uncertainties I will send you a proof to check. Letters for publication are welcome but again they may be revised and shortened.

Copyright

Contributions will be acknowledged and in the case of articles their use confirmed. Pictures may be held over, sometimes for several issues. Copyright remains with the contributor but articles are accepted on a first serial rights basis with the additional right to one future re-publication in the same form for NTET uses only. Unless you inform us to the contrary it is assumed that both articles and pictures have not been offered or accepted elsewhere. This does not apply to Press Releases and Obituaries.