

2023 Report of the 7th Division Bulletin Board Editor

The Bulletin Board, the 7th Division's newsletter, is published five times a year, with issues released at the start of January, March, May, September and November. The issues are distributed electronically in PDF format, with copies placed on the Division website and an email notice sent to all Division members letting them know the newsletter is online and awaiting download. There are two versions of the newsletter: a high-resolution version that most members download and a low-resolution version that is available for members with low-speed Internet connections. Aside from the resolution of images and graphics, both versions have the same content. Members without Internet access can request a mailed paper copy. Currently, only one member receives this.

During the last year we have seen a full return to normal Division activities and Bulletin Board contents. There has been an increase in the number of events, leading to an increase in the amount of space devoted to publicising upcoming events or reporting on past events.

During 2023 the Bulletin Board's largest amount of content was related to information and reports on upcoming and past events (about 40% of total space), with information on Division news and programs (thank you to Victor for a lot of this content) taking up about 16%. This year the pages devoted to articles on layouts and modelling projects dropped from about 22% to 7%. I will be trying in the coming year to increase the proportion of articles on these subjects, as well as others such as book reviews, product reports and similar topics.

During the first half of this year we saw a continuation of the lack of obituaries we had last year, but in the last two issues we unfortunately returned to normal with five obituaries (7% of 2023 pages). I guess the good news couldn't last!

This last year the page count per issue has averaged 13.4 pages, up slightly from 2022. Given my target size is 12 pages, I'm happy with that.

Overall, I feel the Bulletin Board has published relevant Division news and railway modelling content during the year in a manner consistent with the high standards set by previous editors. With luck and a bit of work, I believe we can continue to do that.

Rob England
Bulletin Board Editor