

Richard Hope

Railway journalist who campaigned against rail closures and helped save the Talylllyn Railway

An electrical engineer by training, Hope joined the *Railway Gazette* in 1964, beginning an association with the title that would last half a century. He was its editor from 1970 to 1991 – when he was appointed OBE for services to railway journalism – then its consulting editor, also contributing extensively to its sister newsletter, *Rail Business Intelligence*.

Officers questioned staff at their homes and tapped

Approached by *The Sunday Times*, British Rail's chairman Richard Marsh said the paper was one of a number of hypothetical studies, and "there are another dozen copies in the cupboard here". But he read the Riot Act to the Department of the Environment, saying the resulting headlines were immensely damaging to BR. As every copy of the paper was numbered, he demanded that the Secretary of State, Peter Walker, call in the police.

Dawson had moved on from the Railways Directorate when he stumbled across the document. Finding to his

Six months after the Attorney General told Parliament that no one would be prosecuted, the Transport Minister announced that the cuts rumoured "following the escape of a regrettably mobile document" were no longer seen as a solution.

collision on a level crossing, then in October 1984 he was on a commuter train out of Euston when it collided with a freight train at Wembley Central, killing three passengers and injuring 17 plus one of the drivers.

Richard Hope was born in Sheffield on January 13 1934, the son of Group Captain

After his father was killed in action over France in August 1941, Richard and his brother were evacuated to Canada; his interest in railways started in Ottawa aged eight. He returned to England in 1944, completing his schooling at Eastbourne College.

In 1951 he started an apprenticeship with GEC in Birmingham, interrupted by National Service with the RAF. His mother remarried in 1953, to Lt-Col John Rivett-Carnac, Chief Constable of Huntingdonshire.

During his career with the *Railway Gazette*, he reported on developments around the world. When he visited Mozambique during the country's civil war, his train was stopped and searched by armed rebels looking for "foreigners". They did not find him, as he was in the cab of the locomotive.

His pride was the Talyllyn, the world's first railway to be rescued and run by enthusiasts. Hope first encountered it in 1955 and became an active volunteer, travelling from his home at Berkhamsted. He was secretary of the Talyllyn Railway Preservation Society for more than 30 years, and finally its president.

In 1962 Richard Hope married Audrey Rogers, who died in 2016. He is survived by their son and daughter.

*Richard Hope, born
January 13 1934, died
October 14 2019*

Alberto, died in 2007 aged 93. Her daughter and second husband survive her.

*Alicia Alonso, born
December 21 1920, died
October 17 2019*

Chess

Pragg

By Malcolm Pe

Rameshbabu Praggan crowned world under-14 last week at the event in Mumbai. I am pleased to see his visa application permitted and he will be welcoming him to the Chess Classic FIDE Open. The 14-year-old Indian prodigy is the world junior under-14 champion, who won the Delhi, where he was one of the early leaders, although he was fortunate to draw against the English representative in round three.

Pragg is already an accomplished positional player. He seems comfortable when fighting for initiative.

R. Praggnanandhaa -
1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2
e5 5.e4 Be7 6.d3 0-0 7.N
8.Nd5 Nxd5 9.exd5 Nd4
Bg5 11.a4 b6 12.f4 exf4 1
14.Bxf4 Bxf4 15.Rxf4 Nf
Ne7 17.Rf6! Nf5 (17...gxf6
Nxd5 19.c4 wins)



Hope: he reported rail accidents and was caught up in two himself



18.g4 (Missing 18.Rf1)
Nxb3 20.hxg3 Bxb3 21...
intending Qxb6 and mate. Black has no alternative.
21...Re8 22.Rxb6 Rxb6
has to give up his bishop for
the threatened Qc3.
19.gxf5 Kg7 (White has the
position. However, 20.Qf4 Kh7 21.
Rg5 23.Rh3 follows. Black's pieces remain
20.Ng3 Kh7 21.Kh1 Rb8 23.Rel Rxb3 24.
25.Re4 Re7 26.Rg5 (Black has been forced to
passivity and some of the end) 27...Bb7?
29.Qf4 Qf8 30.Kg3 32.Rh4 Kg7 33.Rh4
cannot afford to v 34.g4 Bd7 35.Kf3
37.g5! fxb5 38.f6+ 39.Qg7 35.Rh5 Ke7 36.
Bd7 38.Kf4 a6 39.Qg7 1-0 41.Rb8