

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to apply for membership of the Italian Railways Society as under:

	ONE YEAR		TWO YEARS	
UK	£17.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	£32.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
REST OF WORLD	£25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	£48.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tick the appropriate box please.

I enclose a crossed cheque for _____ payable to the Italian Railways Society

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE

COUNTRY

EMAIL ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

PLEASE TICK THE BOX IF YOU WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ABOUT THE *ITRENI* AND *TUTTO TRENO* MAGAZINE CIRCULATION CIRCUITS

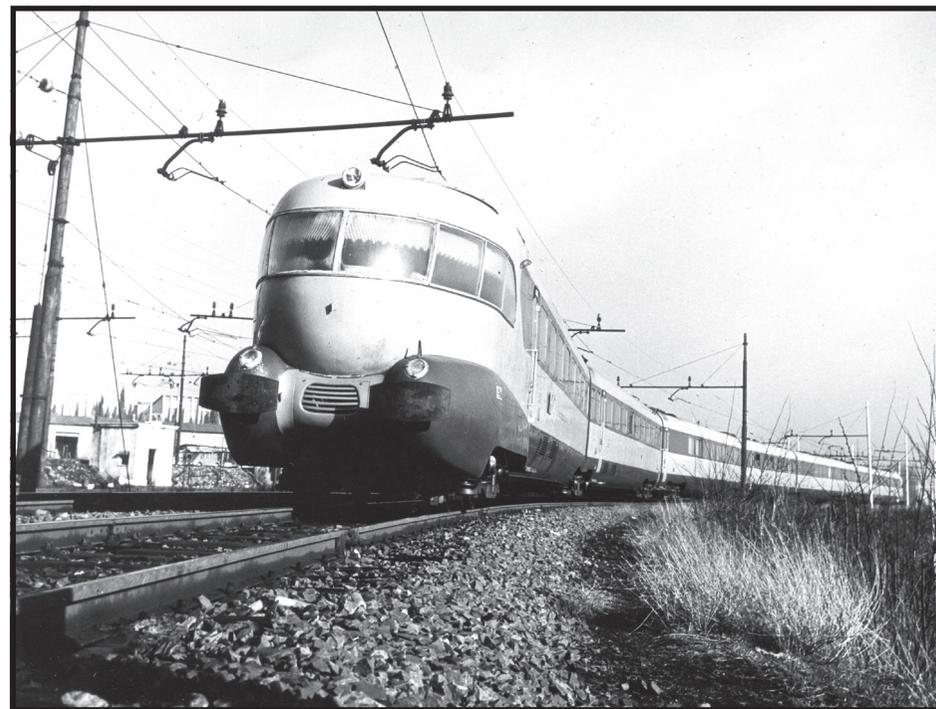
NOW SEND THIS FORM TO OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

**JOE ROMANO, 1A CLYDE ROAD, WOOD GREEN,
LONDON, N22 4AD, GB**

IMPORTANT: DATA PROTECTION ACT.

The data protection act requires the society to notify its members that names and addresses are held on computerised records and are only used to prepare address labels for society communications, and to assist the treasurer in preparing accounts. The information is not made available to any other organisation. If you object to your name, address, telephone number or any other personal information being so recorded, please inform the society in writing.

ITALIAN RAILWAYS SOCIETY



MEMBERSHIP PROSPECTUS

www.italianrailways.co.uk

The Italian Railways Society was formed in 1987, by a small number of like-minded individuals wanting to know and understand more about Italy...its wine, its food, its wonderful landscapes, and also (and in reality most importantly) its railways. We are a non-profit-making society, with no formal constitution, interested in all aspects of Italian railways, railway models, and other types of public transport such as trams, buses and lake steamers.

“The friendly society helping you to gain more from your hobby”

What do I get for my money?

- Binari. Our quarterly, full colour magazine is sent out to all members with news of the latest developments and news on all aspects of the Italian railway system, as well as historical and modelling articles, book reviews and readers letters. Many have commented on the professional production and presentation of Binari which has led to it becoming the premier English language “channel” for sharing information, news and views on Italian transport.
- Meets. We organise a twice yearly “get together” - usually January and June at the Headquarters of the Model Railway Club in Keen House, Calshot Street, Kings Cross, London. A thoroughly enjoyable informal get together with illustrated talks, the latest Italian railway models, and our renowned sales stand, it rivals the Via Veneto in Rome as the must visit place to chat informally about things railway! We inevitably and willingly follow it with an Italian inspired “ScoffFest” at a nearby Italian restaurant across the road.
- Italian Magazine Subscriptions. Membership of the Society offers the opportunity of subscribing to “rolling subscriptions” for the two principal monthly Italian Railway Magazines, I Treni and Tutto Treno. This enables the reader to have a leisurely glance at the edition, then passing it on to other members in the chain enabling a cost effective “overview” of the current model and prototype scene, even if your Italian is not to university standard or indeed any standard. It’s also an excellent opportunity to list those items you next want to order from our Sales Officer...

Talking of which . . . Society Sales

Recently a large amount of information in the form of books, DVDs, and photographs has been made available to the enthusiast of Italian railways.

Italy’s two main railway and transport publishing houses, Deugi Editrice, publishers of the monthly magazine Tutto Treno, and Editrice trasporti su Rotaie, publishers of the monthly magazine I Treni have published a wealth of railway publications. Italy is world renowned for the quality of its printing and you will be surprised and delighted by the standard of their publications. These range through all kinds of material from historical to contemporary and of course the specialised texts books on an incredible variety of topics and subjects. Very often these are in the form of photographic compendiums with minimum descriptive text, a sometimes useful format to the non-Italian speaking enthusiast. Many volumes are also published in the ever more popular and cost effective “Bookazine” format. We can supply these at a sensible price. The Italian Railways Society either stock or are able to obtain anything devoted to Italian railway or general transport subjects. Just pop along to our stand, or contact our friendly sales officer Steve Hobbs at:

steve.hobbs@landsend.co.uk

We are usually able to organise collections at either one of the exhibitions we attend, or one of our twice-yearly get-togethers, especially useful and cost effective for those heavier purchases!

Non members are also welcome to use our sales service, perhaps then we can persuade you to join!

Exhibition Stand and Layouts The Society has a constantly increasing number of layouts as well as a high quality exhibition stand and diorama, manned by a friendly group, which currently attends most European themed shows, and some general events. Please feel free to ask us to attend your shows. We would be pleased to complete your membership form with you over a cappuccino!

Yahoo Group – Binari. A yahoo group is available to members, without further cost. Particularly useful for “flash” information, travel alerts, special events, society social functions, social chat, or uploading photos of your latest trip or modelling project, as well as suggestions for specialist railway and transport websites, both multi lingual and wholly in Italian.

The Society Library and Archives are available for the use of members, including access to the renowned “P.M. Kalla – Bishop collection” of historic Italian railway photographs. A current library list is available to members from our librarian Paul Daley.

Why should I be interested in Italian Railways?

The Napoli - Portici line, opened in 1839 with British locomotives, civil engineers and signalling practices, which influenced Italian railways throughout the 19th. Century, as did various French, German, Swiss and Austrian practices, but very soon Italian railways developed their own unique characteristics.

The major railways were nationalised in 1905 as the Ferrovie dello Stato or F.S., being at the forefront since then in technological advances. The Direttissime were Europe’s first purpose built electrified high speed lines in the 1930s, and new ones are still being built as well as older ones being upgraded. Doubling and quadrupling of existing tracks and major tunnelling operations are underway in the north towards Switzerland and France. “Pendolino” tilting trains were developed in Italy by Fiat Ferroviaria, now Alstom, and have been in operation since the 1970s. The tilting technology has subsequently been exported all over continental Europe as well as the UK.

Italy is the only European country with head to head competition on its high speed networks, with NTV’s sleek AGV units competing with Trenitalia ETR 500s on the Alta Velocità routes from Torino in the North to Salerno near Naples in the South.

Hidden railway gems in Italy include narrow gauge lines with rack working in Calabria, many independent or “franchised” railway networks, ranging from the Ferrovie Nord Milano network to the north of Milan (an intensive, almost “Swiss-like” commuter standard gauge network) right down to the single track Circumetnea narrow gauge single line railway winding its way around the fascinating, in places almost lunar like landscape, around the Mount Etna volcano in Sicily.

Slow in starting, the preservation and heritage train scene is also developing in Italy with electric, diesel and steam specials in operation on both Trenitalia (FS) and Independent lines. The recently formed “Fondazione FS”, has been a recent major boost to the Italian railway heritage scene, by bringing the small but active preservation groups scattered the length and breadth of Italy under one roof (or should that be “one engine shed?”) Learn more about the Fondazione FS at: <http://www.fondazionefs.it>

