

# 90mph freight on line

A 90mph intermodal freight service is to be introduced between London and Scotland via the West Coast main line.

English Welsh and Scottish Railway announced the move at the Rail Freight Group Scottish conference.

The upgrade from 75mph will allow more goods to be transferred from road to rail according to Graham Laycock, network strategy manager of EWS.

The 90mph service is also said to open up the potential for Irish parcels via Stranraer to be sent by rail instead of road.

Also in Scotland, W H Malcolm's rail freight terminal at Grangemouth has been so successful that the number of trains has been increased from four to 12 a week.

In England, Combined Transport Ltd introduced a daily freight shuttle in June between Manchester and Purfleet, Essex, for the short sea crossing to Rotterdam and Zeebrugge.

Work has also started on a £5million rail terminal for Jaguar's plant at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham. When it is finished all Jaguar cars for export will go by rail.



**Derailment detectors, pictured above, are being fitted to Switzerland's fleet of oil and chemical tanker wagons. The device measures vibrations on the chassis and initiates an emergency stop if all is not well. Switzerland is a pioneer in using the device and it is hoping to persuade other European railways to follow suit. It accuses other railways of dragging their feet in fitting the device and choosing to wait for a satellite-based system. "It will take far too long for this system to reach maturity," said expert Marcel Ott. "We are currently working with SBB Cargo to convince foreign rail operators of the benefits of our system and to encourage them not to hold back." In the past few months, Britain has seen a series of serious freight train derailments.**

Incoming components will also be rail-borne. The plant should cut 45 million lorry miles over 10 years, according to Railtrack. The project is being managed by Birse Construction which is

working on other rail-head distribution sites in Britain. In Liverpool, a group of would-be rail freight customers have joined forces to sign a contract to buy wagons. The Liverpool Rail development group has been

impressed by trial trains to Felixstowe, Suffolk.

In Switzerland, SBB Cargo has launched a new swap body freight system called Domino which will complement the trainload and wagonload service SBB Cargo already offers to customers.

Railfuture freight committee's next meeting is on 28 September at Leicester. (Contact: Eric Layfield. Email: eric@layfield7eb.freewire.co.uk)

**Lottery winners**  
The monthly lottery for May had to be cancelled but the winners for June were:

Geoffrey Heathcock, Cambridge £40, W Measure, Leytonstone £25, Colin Rayner, Enfield £15, H Maughan, Leighton Buzzard £10, Diane Simpson, Cannock £5, J Rice, Ormskirk £5.

You can join the lottery by sending a cheque for £12 (made payable to Railfuture) to Edgar Locke, 3 Langton Court, Worthing BN14 7BZ.

**Kate returns**  
Railfuture's national executive has welcomed the return of Kate Tudor-Pole to help our marketing and promotions. She takes over from Jen Glavovic who has moved to a new job.

At its meeting on 13 July, the executive heard that volunteer Laurence Fryer is continuing work on the society's new membership system.

John Davison is refining the Railfuture email group to make it "committee friendly".

The national executive is hoping to produce an internal bulletin or update to keep more active campaigners and user groups informed. Volunteer Robert Stevens, joint editor of *Railwatch*, is expected to take a key role.

Richard Pout has organised a meeting with the Commission for Integrated Transport.

## Railwatch

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## New members always welcome

Membership: £17.50 per year. Pensioners, students and unemployed £8.50. User groups, community and parish councils £17.50 or £25 to include 10 copies of *Railwatch* plus other relevant publications. Other local authorities and companies £35. Families £2 extra per member, after £17.50.

New members and membership queries: Railfuture, 13 Arnhill Road, Gretton, Corby NN17 3DN  
medieval@leisurelearning.co.uk

## RAIL USERS CONFERENCE

5 OCTOBER 2002

SPONSORED BY VIRGIN TRAINS

Keynote "Making It Happen" address by:

Mr Chris Green, Chief Executive, Virgin Trains

Mr Anthony Smith, National Director, Rail Passengers Council

Dr Mike Caton, President Railfuture.

Choice of afternoon workshops.

Admission by advance booking to:

John Lee, Railfuture Administration Officer

The Birches, Eye Lane, East Rudham, Norfolk PE31 8RH

Cost £10 (includes tea/coffee).

Lunch £8 (must also be pre-booked)

Registration and coffee 10.30. Conference opens 11.00 prompt.

Venue: The Scientific Societies Lecture Theatre,

New Burlington Place, W1.

Access from Regent Street, near Oxford Circus.

We expect this conference to sell out,

so book immediately to avoid disappointment.

Further information at: <http://www.railwatch.org.uk/events.html>  
or [info@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:info@railfuture.org.uk)