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Railfuture

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Membership

£21 per year
Family: Plus £2 for each extra person. Pensioners, students and unemployed: £14
User groups, community and parish councils: Please apply for rates
All membership enquiries to: David Harby, 6 Carral Close, Lincoln LN5 9BD
membership@railfuture.org.uk

Policy

Mike Crowhurst, 33 Station Court, Aberford Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2QQ
Tel 0113 286 4844

Elections

The board is elected annually and nomination forms can be obtained from the Returning Officer, PO Box 7690, Hinckley LE10 9WJ. You can also download a form from www.railfuture.org.uk

Page one picture

With only four months to go, St Pancras International station in London looks from the air as if it is ready for business.

Midland Mainline trains are already operating out of the station and in November, Eurostars will run, followed in a few years by Olympic Javelin trains now being built by Hitachi.

It's taken years of campaigning and billions of pounds of investment by both government and industry to get this far.

Now the opportunities for European high-speed travel are beginning to dawn on the British public.

New thinking: Page 10
New era: Page 17

Railfuture annual draw

The Railfuture 2007 draw tickets are enclosed with this edition of *Railwatch*. The cash prizes will be £500, £200, £100, £50, £20 and eight of £10.

Please support Railfuture by buying the draw tickets for yourself as well as selling them to your friends and family.

Additional tickets can be obtained from Chris Precey, 63 Brascote Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 0YE.

Please accept our apologies if you are one of the few who have asked not to receive them – as excluding them substantially increases mailing costs.

Archivist needed

Railfuture is looking for a volunteer to look after Railfuture's historical material. If you are interested or want to volunteer your services in any other way please contact vice-chairman Jerry Alderson. email: jerry.alderson@virgin.net

Railfuture lottery winners

December: I Appleyard, J Barfield, T Beharrell.

January: Mrs E R Holland, D A Stocks, R Goring.

February: M Edgell, DGG Hoare, F R Strutt.

March: J Barfield, C J Harley, J W Taylor.

April: N Bramhall, Miss P Salkeld, W Stoneham.

No 10 petitions

Railwatch 111 urged Railfuture members to sign up to petitions on the No 10 website.

Unfortunately some of the petitions had been removed by the time *Railwatch* was published. We apologise if any members were inconvenienced.

LOCAL ACTION

Railfuture has regional groups which are involved in local issues and come together to support Railfuture on national campaigns. Here we give news of local action in the Railfuture regions.



London and South East

AGM

A postal ballot saw Keith Dyall elected branch chairman, Roger Blake vice-chairman, Eric Wright (a professional railwayman) secretary, and Trevor Jones treasurer. The results were announced at the AGM on 16 April which also agreed to a process of publishing motions before AGMs, in an attempt to try to involve more members in decision-making. Keith reported that Network Rail may decide to build a flyover at Hitchin, for which the branch had campaigned for years.

Thameslink

A consultation document is also about to be published on the latest version of the Thameslink expansion programme.

Electrification

Keith identified other campaigning priorities including the need to stress the importance of electrifying the Barking-Gospel Oak line and reopening the station at Lea Bridge now that ONE is providing more services into Stratford.

Chiltern campaign

Graham Larkbey reports that Chiltern is now stopping trains at Sudbury Hill Harrow on Bank Holidays for the first time for years (though not advertising the fact at the station). He added: "Though this indicates acceptance there IS a leisure market there, they still refuse to stop there on Saturdays and Sundays. The campaign will continue with the aim of getting this piece of nonsense changed in December."

Success

Campaigners have succeeded in persuading Silverlink to step up the Gospel Oak-Barking line service to half-hourly all evening on Saturdays. It is rare for an outgoing operator to respond to requests for service improvements like that.

Coastway by Dick Tyler tyler@bexhill27.fsnet.co.uk

Possible infrastructure improvements at Gatwick which are included in Network Rail's Business Plan for 2007 may also affect future Coastway services.

Work will begin in March 2009 to provide a new concourse, additional lifts and platform widening. It will take two years.

Work to provide extra capacity for the Brighton line will also go ahead at Haywards Heath, East Croydon and Victoria.

Capacity problems on the Brighton line are also part of the reason for Network Rail announcing improvements for the Uckfield line, according to Brian Hart, chairman of the Wealden Line campaign. Platform extensions, double tracking, line-speed increases and electrification are all up for consideration. Also, for the first time, NR have mentioned looking into reinstating the Uckfield-Lewes line, a longtime campaign aim for Railfuture.

Branch news contact: Laurence Fryer. Email: lfryer@bigfoot.com