

# WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No 2: JULY2012

## Annual General Meeting

Our AGM took place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May and you can download the minutes by following the link on the News page of the website. The elected Officers for 2012 are:- Chairman - Monica Edmonds, who will be shadowed by Paul Brady (also representing Amberley) for a few months with a view to Paul taking on the role, Secretary - Moira Tracey (also representing Crawley), and Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Trevor Tupper (also representing stations on the West Coastway *other than* Chichester, Bosham and Bognor). The committee members elected are Roger Leat (Bognor Regis), Jake Clausen (Littlehaven); Valerie Webb (Pulborough), Jane Cobb (Horsham), Peter Bulling (Barnham), Roger Keyworth (Chichester), Michael Cover (Bosham) and Kevin Gordon (Website). We are still looking for new Committee members to represent Arundel, Billingshurst, Ifield, Littlehampton, Angmering and Worthing. If you are interested, please let me know.

## New Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern Franchise

Your Committee is going to be heavily involved in the preliminaries leading up to the issue of the invitation to tender which will be issued by Department for Transport (DfT) to the 5 shortlisted bidders for the Franchise due to start in September 2013. We will be working with Passenger Focus and Rail Future as well as consulting other local Rail User groups. We have already met DfT for a briefing meeting on shaping the Franchise and we will be writing to them with our priorities for the new Franchise within the next few weeks. We will then the 5 bidders to discuss their proposals for the Franchise and to let them know our priorities. We need your help to establish the priorities for West Sussex rail users and the best way you can do this is by completing the short questionnaire which is on our website at <http://survey.wsrua.org.uk> . **We urge you to look at the questionnaire and then to complete it on line.** The questionnaire is also included in this Newsletter so that you can see what we are asking for before you look at the website. If, for any reason, you are unable to access and complete the on-line version, please complete the manual form and return it to me by 31<sup>st</sup> July. Additional comments are welcome with the form or by e-mail to :- [contact@wsrua.org.uk](mailto:contact@wsrua.org.uk) .

## Refreshment trolleys

With very little notice to both Southern and passengers, Rail Gourmet closed their Bognor depot and withdrew their trolley service from Arun Valley trains during June. They claim that the trolleys on our line have been very unprofitable despite support from Southern. So we are without refreshments on our trains for the first time for over 100 years. We have suggested various options and alternatives to Southern and hopefully we will have this valuable service restored. In the meantime, just a reminder that you can stock up beforehand (or even en-route if you are quick at Horsham!) at the buffets on Chichester, Bognor, Barnham, Pulborough, Horsham, Crawley and Three Bridges stations.

## Fares discounts

Southern has extended the discounts for on-line bookings. The discount for advance tickets has been reduced to 25% but for other off-peak tickets it has been increased to 12%. These offers now cease on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. As tickets can be bought up to 3 months in advance, this means that those who can plan ahead can take advantage of these discounts for travel up to mid-October.

## Membership and E-mail address

I enclose a renewal form for those members who have not paid their membership subscription for 2012.

Trevor Tupper  
Membership Secretary

## **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS**

### **YOUR PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW FRANCHISE**

**TELL US WHAT YOUR PRIORITIES ARE by choosing up to three of the following:**

**Please select between 1 and 3 answers**

- Later trains along the Arun Valley and West Coastway from London and/or Chichester
- More reliable services (services less prone to disruption and breakdown)
- More frequent services
- Simpler, more understandable fare structure
- Better concessions for school pupils/students
- An end to station skipping
- Improved information on board train when there is disruption
- Improved information at stations when there is disruption
- More outlets at stations e.g. shops, coffee bars
- Ticket machines that are easy to read and give all fare options
- Less overcrowding on trains at peak time
- Integrated train and bus travel to/from Arun Valley stations
- More parking spaces at stations
- Direct trains to/from London Bridge
- A Sunday service to London via Dorking and Sutton
- Better provision of services for special events (e.g. London Marathon)