

# WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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## RMT 2 day strike Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 September and other strike news

Southern has been advised by the RMT Union that its conductor members will strike from 00.01 on Wednesday 7 September until 23.59 on Thursday 8 September. This will have a significant effect on Southern services on the whole of the days affected, with no service on many routes and only a limited service between approximately 07.30 and 18.00 on others.

It is expected that no Southern trains will operate in either direction on several routes including: Clapham Junction to Milton Keynes via Kensington Olympia; **Dorking to Horsham; Preston Park to Hove; Chichester to Portsmouth Harbour and Southampton Central; Redhill to Tonbridge.** Earlswood, Salfords and Faygate stations will not be served. **Three Bridges to Chichester via Horsham; Three Bridges to Victoria via Gatwick and Redhill; Brighton to Bognor via Littlehampton;** and Brighton to Eastbourne via Lewes.

A timetable of these services is provided on the Southern website at <http://www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/strike/>. These trains are expected to be extremely busy and Southern cannot guarantee there will be space for you to travel. Southern strongly advise you to travel outside peak times where possible. They also advise you to avoid planning to travel on the last trains of the day - if you are unable to board services they will not be able to arrange alternative transport. Please note that the last trains of the day on the above routes are at approximately 18.00; or even earlier where your journey requires a change at either Three Bridges or Brighton.

The timetables are similar to those for previous strike days and show that there will be a train every 30 minutes along the Arun Valley from Three Bridges to Chichester calling at all stations and starting around 0630 and ending around 1800. These trains connect with a Southern service running between Three Bridges and Victoria as well as with Thameslink services that are not affected by the dispute. Along the West Coastway there will be a train every 30 minutes between Brighton and Bognor via Littlehampton. This connects with the Chichester to Three Bridges trains at Barnham. There will be no direct trains between Littlehampton and Victoria via Hove, so a change of train at Brighton will be necessary for those travelling from stations between Littlehampton and Hove. I have tried to simplify the Arun Valley timetable with its onward connections into the table on the next page and I hope you will find it helpful. But remember to keep your eye on the website in case there are last minute changes.

A bit of good news is that the threatened RMT strike of station staff on 7 September on the changes to ticket office hours has been postponed. Also the threat of an ASLEF strike of drivers has receded. Your Association is trying its best in these troubled times. We have talked to Southern several times and tried, without success, to engage the RMT. I wrote to Nick Herbert MP last month setting out our view of the dispute which now seems to be between the RMT and the Government (the Department for Transport). Nick copied our letter to all the other West Sussex MPs and several have responded agreeing our view. I then wrote to the Secretary of State, Chris Grayling asking for the DfT. who control the Management Contract that is the GTR Franchise, to assist in settling this dispute. So far there has been no response. We will continue to do what we can.

## Annual General Meeting

This is to give formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be at 10am on Saturday 29 October **in the Studio of the Capitol Theatre, North Road, Horsham, RH12 1RG.** The Capitol is a few minutes' walk from the main entrance of Horsham Station in the direction of the town centre. Refreshments will be available for purchase from the Capitol's own kiosk.

As in 2015, we have had to postpone the AGM from June. The primary reason has been the continuing industrial action and the uncertainty of whether services would be running on the day of the meeting. Added to this have been the changes in the Committee and the non-availability of the Capitol at Horsham during September and early October. We have also reverted to a Saturday morning meeting after comments last year from those unable to attend the weekday evening meeting. The Saturday date may also be "safer" option for those travelling back south after the meeting if the current industrial action continues or if the late night engineering work is resumed.

This year our guest speaker will be Alex Foulds, Southern's Passenger Services Director. Mr Foulds will address us after the formal business of the AGM has been completed and there be ample time for you to ask questions on Southern's recent performance and their plans for the future.

The formal business of the AGM will be the Chairman's report, approving the accounts already circulated and the election of the Committee. The current Officers are Chairman, Roger Keyworth representing Chichester, Secretary and Treasurer, Trevor Tupper (also representing stations on the West Coastway *other than* Chichester), Valerie Webb (Pulborough), Michael Gill (Arundel), James Marchant (Billingshurst) and Kevin Gordon (Website). Some of our stations are now unrepresented and we are seeking asking members to represent Barnham, Horsham and Crawley.

**Arun Valley timetable for 7 and 8 September**

Chichester				0653	0723		1723	1753	
<i>Bognor Regis</i>	<i>b</i>		0620	0650	0720		1720	1750	
Barnham			0631	0701	0731	and	1731	1801	
Ford			0635	0705	0735	then	1735	1805	
Arundel			0641	0711	0741	every	1741	1811	
Amberley			0646	0716	0746		1746	1816	
Pulborough			0652	0722	0752	30	1752	1822	
Billingshurst			0658	0728	0758	minutes	1758	1828	
C. Hospital			0705	0735	0805	until	1805	1835	
Horsham		0641	0710	0740	0810		1810	1840	
Littlehaven		0644	0713	0743	0813		1813	1843	
Ifield		0650	0720	0750	0820		1820	1850	
Crawley		0653	0723	0753	0823		1823	1853	
Three Bridges	Arrive	0701	0731	0801	0831		1831	1901	
		t	t	t	t		t	t	
Three Bridges	Depart	0708	0738	0808	0837		1838	1905	
Gatwick Apt		0712	0742	0812	0841		1842	1909	
Redhill		0721	0751	0821	0850		1851		
E Croydon		0733	0806	0834	0901		1902	1924	
Clapham Junc		0747	0817	0848	0911		1912		
Victoria		0755	0824	0855	0918		1920	1951g	
<i>London Bridge</i>	<i>e</i>	0817	0839	0917	0935		1935		
<i>Blackfriars</i>	<i>t or e</i>	0820	0849	0909	0937		1951	1951	

Victoria			0630	0709	0739		1703	1735	1809
Clapham Junc				0715	0745		1709	1741	1815
<i>Blackfriars</i>	<i>t or e</i>		0633		0728		1658	1720	1740
<i>London Bridge</i>	<i>e</i>			0712	0728		1659	1732	1759
E Croydon			0702	0727	0757		1720	1752	1827
Redhill				0739	0809		1732	1808	1839
Gatwick Apt			0717	0747	0817		1740	1817	1847
Three Bridges	Arrive		0721	0752	0822		1745	1822	1852
			t	t	t		t	t	t
Three Bridges	Depart		0726	0756	0826		1756	1826	1856
Crawley			0730	0800	0830	and	1800	1830	1900
Ifield			0732	0802	0832	then	1802	1832	1902
Littlehaven			0739	0809	0839	every	1809	1839	1909
Horsham		0713	0743	0813	0843		1813	1843	1912
C. Hospital		0717	0747	0817	0847	30	1817	1847	
Billingshurst		0723	0753	0823	0853	minutes	1823	1853	
Pulborough		0729	0759	0829	0859	until	1829	1859	
Amberley		0735	0805	0835	0905		1835	1905	
Arundel		0741	0811	0841	0911		1841	1911	
Ford		0747	0817	0847	0917		1847	1917	
Barnham		0852	0822	0852	0922		1852	1921	
<i>Bognor Regis</i>	<i>b</i>	0802	0832	0902	0932		1902		
Chichester		0800	0830	0900	0930		1900		

b – change Barnham; e – change East Croydon; t – change Three Bridges; g – change at Gatwick

The **West Coastway** timetable is an all stations service starting from Bognor at 0650, Barnham 0705, Littlehampton 0718, Worthing 0738 arriving Brighton 0804. The service is repeated every 30 minutes with the last train from Bognor at 1750 arriving Brighton 1904. In the opposite direction the first train is 0716 from Brighton arriving Bognor at 0832. The last one is 1746 from Brighton arriving Bognor at 1902 with a following 1816 to Littlehampton only.

Trevor Tupper  
Secretary