

Milton Keynes and Bletchley Rail User Group
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 4 October 2005

Present: Louise Green, Philip Lawton, Andrew Fisher, Sean Hickey, Alan Francis, Robert Webb, Peter J Smith, Stuart Nightingale, Annamaria Izzard (Duty Station Manager MKC), Paul Bryan (Group Station Manager MKC)

Apologies: Andrew Couldrake, Robert Prosser

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
2. Louise Green reported that the minutes of the AGM were not complete as she had not been able to obtain a list of attendees. However, the minutes had been circulated and the necessary amendments will be made to the file copy.

3. The election of officers took place as follows:

Chair – Nicky Simpson
Vice Chair – Robert Prosser
Secretary – Louise Green
Treasurer – Andrew Fisher

4. Outstanding Issues from AGM

4.1 Sunday Blockade – Paul Bryan circulated a summary of weekend engineering work and confirmed that he will try and get information on similar work on the North Bound services. He asked if Silver Link could have an email address for the MKBRUG and Nicky Simpson agreed to arrange this.

4.2 The Silver Link representatives were asked when normal Sunday services are likely to resume. Annamaria Izzard replied that the re-modelling of MKC will be complete by 2008 but she was not aware of an earlier return to a normal Sunday timetable. She agreed to talk to Julian Drury about this. Philip Lawton suggested that people wishing to travel from Milton Keynes and Bletchley on a Sunday be bussed to Bedford or Aylesbury, which should make the journey much quicker. Annamaria agreed this was an excellent idea and will talk to Julian Drury.

4.3 Robert Webb reported the continuing problem with the gap in services from London to Bletchley between 16.24 and 17.05. He asked if another service could be added. The Silver Link staff acknowledged the imbalance at Bletchley and agreed to speak to Julian Drury.

4.4 The Committee reported that parking at the station is still incredibly difficult and the drop-off zone does not work efficiently. The Silver Link representatives confirmed that parking is an issue both now and for future developments.

4.5 The Committee reported that many of the 321s' windows have broken seals and are clouded with condensation. Annamaria Izzard noted this point.

4.6 Communication is still a problem and is particularly so between the various operating companies. Silver Link agreed to look at this.

4.7 It was reported that it is not possible to hear announcements at Bletchley due to the high ambient noise levels. Silver Link noted this and will investigate the problem.

4.8 It was suggested that the group lobby the DfT regarding peak services and the huge reduction in fast trains, and a DfT representative should be invited to the meetings. The Committee agreed this was a useful idea and Nicky Simpson will try to make contact with them.

5. Extension Days – Nicky Simpson asked if it would be possible to have the option of days added to season tickets rather than cash back. Silver Link noted this request but stated that they would need to liaise with Virgin regarding North bound customers.

6. Void Days – It was reported that void days are still outstanding in a number of cases. Silver Link noted this and confirmed they will investigate. They informed the Committee that the process of refunds is contracted out to a private company.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 A bank account should be opened. This will be arranged by Andrew Fisher.

7.2 It was agreed that all meetings should be open.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1 November 2005 at 19.30 at MK Chamber of Commerce