

Milton Keynes and Bletchley Rail User Group

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 5 September 2006

Present: Louise Green, Alan Francis, Andrew Fisher, Sean Hickey, Paul Bryan (Silverlink Trains), Stuart Nightingale, Andrew Couldranke

Apologies: Robert Prosser, Peter J smith, Steve Leyland (Virgin Trains)

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Andrew Fisher noted that his name had been typed as "Alan Fisher" in Point 2 of the minutes. Louise Green will amend the minutes. There were no other amendments.

Alan Francis went through the minutes of the previous meeting and noted the following:

- The issue with lost property has been resolved.
- The difficulties regarding refunds is probably due to incorrect information being stored on the database. Paul Bryan believes that all refunds due have been paid but urged rail users to collect a form for lost days from the booking office, if they were unsure.
- Paul Bryan will take up the issue of trains being left in the sidings all day during hot weather, with their doors and windows closed. **Action: PB**
- Louise Green pointed out that we are still awaiting the display of a poster, a draft of which was emailed to Silverlink in May. Paul Bryan agreed to email Louise on this matter. **Action: PB**
- Alan Francis confirmed that a letter had been sent on behalf of the MKBRUG regarding the West Midlands Franchise. A response had been received from Tony Francis which stated that the service will remain as it is until 2008/9 and that any improvements are likely to be in the form of longer trains and not more trains. He suggested that the group lobby service providers.
- Alan Francis informed the meeting that the new study on the East/West Rail Link had still not been published, even though it was due in July.

2. Update from Silverlink Train Services

Paul Bryan reported that the figures for the previous two months, up until 19 August 2006 were as follows:

Charter Position – 96.2% arriving on time compared with 89% in the previous period.

All Day Performance – 93.2% compared with 83.5% in the previous period.

Moving Annual Average – 90.4%.

Stuart Nightingale pointed out that the slack time in the timetable made the figures look good. Alan Francis asked why there was so much slack in the North bound services when there were not the difficulties experienced by South bound services at Ledburn. Paul Bryan admitted that it was probably to help performance figures.

Paul Bryan informed the meeting that the Franchise had been extended until Oct/Nov 2007. Short-listed bidders will be announced at the end of September with the final announcement being made in the Summer.

The new lift installation work at MKC has begun on Platform 5. Paul Bryan hopes that stair lifts will also be installed for the duration of the lift work and that these will be paid for by Network Rail. Full information on this work has been broadcast on local radio and placed on the web.

3. Update from Virgin Train Services

There was no one present from Virgin Train Services. However, Andrew Couldrake noted that the 06.55 from MKC to London has been very reliable during the past few weeks.

4. AGM

The Committee discussed plans for the AGM. It was decided to invite guest speakers. Alan Francis will write to Tony Francis and Louise Green will contact the MPs. Paul Bryan offered the use of a training room which is situated at MKC station. He also offered to provide tea and coffee. The date for the AGM was fixed for 28 October 2006 at 10am. **Action: AF/LG**

5. Group Admin'

Sean Hickey will arrange for the Group's money to be paid into the "599 The Creative Centre" account and for a set of accounts to be made available at the AGM. **Action: SH**

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3 October 2006