The Railway Herald

www.railwayherald.co.uk

Issue 109 - 16 November 07
ISSN 1751-8091

Contents

Goodbye from me .. and goodbye from him as franchises bow out! **Page 3**

New names and new liveries for Britain's rail network **Page 4**

Eurostar's St Pancras move complete and farewell to Waterloo International **Page 7**

National Express embarks on major brand awareness programme. **Page 9**

Railtour Listings **Page 11**
Weekly Pictorial **Page 12**
Events Diary **Page 14**

Front Cover

The first Class 220 set to carry the new Arriva CrossCountry livery, No. 220017, approaches Elford, near Tamworth, on 12th November with the 09.59 service to Newcastle. **Don Gatehouse**

Rear Cover

On 13th November, Class 66/5 No. 66547 heads the 07.00 Portbury - Rugeley Power Station coal service through Woofferton, Shropshire. **Roger Cutts**

Publication

The Railway Herald is due to be published every Friday and is available on e-mail subscription or from our website at www.railwayherald.co.uk

Submissions

We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at editor@railwayherald.co.uk

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. Currently there is no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

Website

Our website contains all the back issues of the magazine together with a host of new features which will be online soon!

www.railwayherald.co.uk

National Rail Timetable

The entire UK National Rail Timetable is now available as a PDF download from the Network Rail website.

Produced in the same fashion as the printed version and ordered by table number, the current timetable is available by clicking here.

The railway by-laws and information for enthusiasts are also available online from the Network Rail website, by clicking here.

Newsdesk

▲ ***After spending several weeks under repair at Springs Branch Depot, Class 37/4 No. 37422 Cardiff Canton is now back in action, caught by the camera passing Acton Bridge with the Dowlow-Warrington Arpley Enterprise 'trip' working on 13th November.*** **Andrew Appleton**

▼ ***One of the two Class 158s temporarily transferred from South West Trains to East Midlands Trains (although retaining their SWT branding), No. 158890 stands at Sheffield on 12th November, awaiting departure with the 19.52 Liverpool - Nottingham service.*** **Simon Cutts**

Editorial Team:

Richard Tuplin	Editor	editor@railwayherald.co.uk
Brian Morrison	Contributing Editor	brian.morrison@railwayherald.co.uk
John Whitehouse	Railtour Editor	john.whitehouse@railwayherald.co.uk

Editorial Address:

The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY

Telephone: 0844 870 0735 - *please note the new number!* **E-mail:** editor@railwayherald.co.uk

Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England)

Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

© Copyright Railway Herald Ltd 2006-2007

▲ *The scene at Coventry, shortly before 01.00 on 11th November. Class 350/1 No. 350128 is pictured shortly after arrival with the final Central Trains working ever, the 00.10 Birmingham New Street - Coventry service, complete with commemorative headboard.* **Daniel Meras**

Its goodbye from me ... and goodbye from him! Central Trains, Midland Mainline, Silverlink and Virgin Cross-Country all bow out

In a move that is one of the biggest shake-ups of the UK railway network since the advent of Privatisation, the franchise changes that came into force in the early hours of 11th November have brought new operating names, new colours and in some cases confusion over who now works which services!

Bidding farewell were four of the franchises that dated back to the original Privatisation process, Central Trains, Midland Mainline, Silverlink and Virgin Cross-Country.

Most of the companies made an effort to commemorate the final trains, with Silverlink services on the North London Line reportedly displaying 'Special' in the destination blind, while Virgin Cross-Country and Central Trains made a little more of the event, with the last trains for the franchise displaying some form of farewell message.

Virgin's 19.24 Manchester Piccadilly - Southampton service, which arrived shortly after midnight at its destination, was formed of a debranded Class 220 No. 220010 (previously *Ribble Voyager*, but denamed at Central Rivers during October) and displayed 'Last Virgin XC Scheduled Service' on the digital displays alongside the passenger entry doors and 'End of an era. RIP' on the rear unit destination display.

Central Trains made slightly more of an effort with their last train, the 00.10 Birmingham New Street - Coventry service being worked by Siemens Class 350/1 No. 350128 complete with a 'Central Farewell' headboard.

While the names may have gone, not all the changes brought about by the franchise alterations are effective immediately. Although the Arriva Cross-Country franchise no longer serves the North West, the withdrawal of those services and their conversion into Birmingham to Edinburgh/Glasgow Virgin West Coast Trains does not come into effect until the December timetable change, trains currently being worked by both Arriva and Virgin crews over the route. Likewise, the TransPennine Express takeover of the Manchester to Edinburgh/Glasgow service from Cross-Country is also effective from December.

▶ ***The 'end of an era' for Virgin Cross-Country as the last service of the franchise, the 19.24 Manchester Piccadilly - Southampton calls at Reading.***

▼ ***The farewell message on the side display of No. 220010 at Reading on the evening of 10th November.***
Both: Duncan Pflaeger

▶ A 17 metre, 25 tonne footbridge was craned into place at Bootle Oriel Road station overnight on 8th/9th November, without any disruption to Merseyrail services. The bridge is an integral part of the £4.25 million transformation of the station, which includes state-of-the-art CCTV cameras, a new shelter on the Southport-bound platform to match the new one already on the Liverpool side. Work is also underway on the subway between Oriel Road and Canal Street. The work is due to be completed by April 2008.

▶ It is understood that the Royal Bank of Scotland is considering bids from four companies for Angel Trains, the figure likely to be over £3 billion! Three of the four concerns are USA-based insurer and sponsor of Manchester United FC, AIG, bidding in conjunction with Deutsche Bank; infrastructure investors, Babcock & Brown, and the Australian Bank, Macquarie. The fourth is not yet known.

▶ The Kilmarnock-based Hunslet-Barclay works that went into administration in October following a cashflow crisis, has been sold out of administration for £2.1million. The new owners are engineering group FKI on behalf of its railway's subsidiary Brush Traction. Hunslet-Barclay was formed way back in 1814 as the engineering works of Andrew Barclay & Sons, a company that at the time manufactured mill shafts and gas lamps, its first locomotives being built in 1859. It was acquired by the Hunslet group in 1972, and later became part of the Waagner Biro group of Austria.

▶ On 15th November. detectives from the British Transport Police (BTP) arrested two Network Rail employees in connection with the Grayrigg derailment of 23rd February. The men, from the Tebay area, were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter. Both have been released on police bail pending further enquiries. Another man from Preston, arrested in July in connection with the incident, remains on police bail,. The three arrests relate to the death of 84 year old Margaret Masson, who died following the incident.

▶ Following an agreement reached with Transport for London, new operator London Midland has announced that Oyster Pay As You Go cards can be used on its services between London Euston and Watford Junction and all intermediate stations with immediate effect.

New liveries from new operators

The dawn of 11th November found three new operators on the national rail system, although in the main, it was the same staff who were still 'on-the-ground' with the operations.

Arriva Cross-Country, East Midlands Trains and London Midland were the three new franchise operators to enter the field, together with the launch of the London Overground system, now part of Transport for London.

The redevelopment, expansion and withdrawal of the franchises has been one of the biggest changes of the rail map in recent years, with routes and rolling stock transferring between operators.

Arriva Cross-Country (AXC) has taken over the old Virgin Cross-Country network, all of the Voyagers (except those remaining with Virgin West Coast) having now been debranded and de-named. The network has altered in two key elements, firstly from the December timetable change, no AXC trains operate north of Manchester Piccadilly on the West Coast, although Glasgow does remain, being served by the company via the East Coast Main Line. Secondly, the abolition of Central Trains has resulted in the Cardiff to Birmingham and Nottingham, plus Birmingham to Stansted Airport routes transferring to the AXC network. For the first time since the withdrawal of the HST sets, this now gives the Cross-Country network a mixed traction fleet, with Class 170s being used on the latter services, alongside the Voyagers on the core network.

The Midlands have been the most affected losing the familiar 'Central Trains' branding in favour of two companies. In the West Midlands, services are now operated by

▼ *The attractive new colour scheme which has been adopted for the Class 220 and 221 Arriva Voyager fleets. Here, Class 220 No. 220017 arrives at Bristol Temple Meads on 12th November.* **Chris Perkins**

▲ *A useful addition to the East Midlands Trains Class 222 'Meridian' livery is the provision of the set number on the nose-end. No. 222017 arrives at Nottingham for a press special on 12th November.* **Brian Morrison**

▲ *As shown in last week's* **Railway Herald**, *Class 170/5 No. 170504 has now had its vinyls applied showing the rest of the attractive livery. Having been used on Birmingham New Street - Hereford via Worcester services on the launch day, No. 170504 is pictured at Coseley station on 16th November with the 13.57 Birmingham new Street to Shrewsbury service with debranded Class 170/5 No. 170512 on the rear.*

▼ *Displaying its new London Midland colour scheme, Class 350/1 No. 350102 calls at Canley on 14th November, forming a Birmingham New Street - Northampton service. At present only two of the Class 350s carry the new livery.*
Both: Wilf Smith

HST powercars unveiled for Arriva

Arriva Cross Country has now confirmed the powercar numbers for its fleet of five HST sets to be used on the South West/ North East corridor.

The vehicles concerned are ex-Midland Mainline Class 43s Nos. 43007, 43166, 43178 and 43184, all of which were moved from Neville Hill to Wabtec Rail at Doncaster by GNER on 12th November, plus Nos. 43085 and 43104. The final four vehicles are Nos. 43101 and 43103, both currently located at Brush Traction, plus Nos. 43121 and 43157 which are presently at Wabtec Rail. Over the past few months, the latter two have been used in connection with the testing of refurbished GNER trailer vehicles. All of the power cars have now been allocated to the EHPC pool.

The trailers for the sets are currently located at Long Marston and will be put through works for refurbishment prior to entering traffic.

Govia's London Midland, which has also taken over the Silverlink routes to Northampton and London Euston, while in the East Midlands, the Stagecoach Group's East Midlands Trains (EMT) now operates the ex-Central services under the 'Connect' branding.

EMT is the net result of the combination of the East Midlands Central services with the Midland Mainline franchise, the latter of which will come under the 'Mainline' branding.

On the official launch day, 12th November, each company (with the exception of London Overground) had at least one train displaying the corporate colours of its new operator.

EMT has confirmed that the business will follow similar lines to that of South West Trains, keeping white as the base colour for the 'Meridian', HST, Class 158 and 170 fleets operating the 'Mainline' long-distance services, and using blue as a base colour for the shorter commuter and local trains. In essence, this policy means that the old Central Trains and Midland Mainline operations will retain their own branding, but within the company's own style.

To assist with promoting the style branding, East Midlands Trains has gained several Class 153 DMUs, some from store at Eastleigh,

The Livery Guide

A full round-up of which units now carry the new liveries. *RH* will endeavour to report additions to this list as time progresses.

Arriva Cross-Country
220017

East Midlands Trains
(Orange, Red, White & Blue)
222017

(Blue, Yellow and Red)
153355, 153374

London Midland
170504*, 350102, 350106

* - Carries London Midland City branding.

◀ ***Displaying the new East Midlands Trains 'Connect' colour scheme, Class 153 No. 153374 is shown on depot at Nottingham Eastcroft on 13th November.*** **Jack Needham**

others having been transferred from 'one' Railway, with two of the vehicles, Nos. 153355 and 153374 have both gained the EMT blue colours. Additionally, two Class 158s Nos. 158883 and 158890 have been drafted into the franchise from South West Trains (retaining the white colour scheme with SWT branding) on a short term loan. The two sets are due to be returned to SWT in December.

Without doubt, the brightest of the new colour schemes is that of East Midlands Trains, which for the Class 222s employs the standard orange, red, white and blue colours, while a pleasant change is the provision of a proper livery to the Siemens built Class 350 'Desiro's. Until now this fleet has been shared between Central Trains and Silverlink and as such has only carried a base grey and blue band colour scheme, without any company decals. London Midland's Class 170 fleet carries the same livery variation, with the addition of the word 'City' after the London Midland branding.

London Overground was also launched on 12th November at West Hampstead station, with the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, unveiling a ceremonial 'Overground' roundal on the platform. The graphic will start to appear across trains and infrastructure in the coming months, although Transport for London (TfL) has confirmed that with the advent of new rolling stock, the present Class 313s on the North London Line (the previous NLL Silverlink service having been taken over by TfL's Overground Network) will retain their debranded Silverlink colours and will not be repainted, although they are expected to be carrying the new 'Roundel' logo within the next few weeks.

Of note is the slight alteration to the EMT 'Meridian' livery since the launch day. The yellow area on the front of the Class 222 was found to be short of the legal requirement in terms of area covered, and has since been increased.

▼ ***A close-up of the new livery and modern 'X' graphic used on the Arriva Cross Country Class 220, seen at Bristol Temple Meads on 12th November.*** **Chris Perkins**

Eurostar transfer to St. Pancras complete, but what future for Waterloo International?

Following a 15-hour overnight move from its former London terminal at Waterloo International, which is now closed, Eurostar began services from St Pancras International to and from Paris and Brussels as planned on 12th November.

The first departure left at 11.01, after a ceremony with Eurostar Chief Executive, Richard Brown, and Friends of the Earth Executive Director, Tony Juniper, naming Class 373 units Nos. (37)3001 *Tread Lightly* and (37)3002 *Voyage Vert* (Travel Green in French), the former is the title of Eurostar's initiative to reduce its environmental impact. The naming marked Eurostar becoming the world's first train operator to offer carbon neutral journeys at no extra cost to travellers.

On board *Tread Lightly* for the journey on the High Speed 1 route were 400 members of the public, invited to travel in recognition of their efforts to reduce environmental impacts at a national level or in their local communities.

The city centre-to-city centre journeys between London and Brussels now take just 1hr 51mins non-stop, London-Paris 2hrs 15mins, and London-Lille just 1hr 20mins. Guillaume Pepy, Chairman of Eurostar, said: "Exactly 13 years after our launch, Eurostar today begins a new chapter – linking Paris and Brussels with London at high speed all the way from the Channel Tunnel to London and welcoming travellers at St Pancras International, one of the most beautiful stations in the world. This is a major step towards achieving Eurostar's ambitions of bringing European capital cities ever closer together."

Tony Juniper, executive director of Friends of the Earth, said: "Eurostar shows that short-haul rail travel is not only better for the environment than flying, but that it can also be quicker, easier and more comfortable as well."

Services from Eurostar's second new station, Ebbsfleet International in North Kent, will begin on 19th November. Journey times will be 10 minutes shorter than from St Pancras.

The big question now is the timescale required for enabling the now disused International platforms at London Waterloo to be used for local commuter services. The terminal at Waterloo and the platforms are now owned by the Department for Transport, which says it is committed to providing domestic services from them, although this will involve trackwork and signalling alterations, together with re-configuration options before they can be opened.

When the International terminal opened back in 1994, Waterloo lost two platforms and with passenger figures of over 100 million every year, the addition of five extra platforms to the current station would be greatly welcomed by the industry and rail users alike.

▼ *The last rites at Waterloo International on 11th November. Unit Nos. (37)3008/3007 await departure with the last-ever Eurostar from Waterloo, the 18.12 to Brussells (left) while Nos. (37)3003/3004 prepare for departure to Paris at 18.09. To commemorate the end, powercar No. (37)3007 was adorned with a special 'Waterloo Sunset 1994-2007' sticker.* **Geoff Morris**

▲ *The busy scene at St. Pancras on the opening day.* **Ken Brunt**

▼ *Eurostar Chief Executive, Richard Brown, and Friends of the Earth Executive Director, Tony Juniper.* **Eurostar**

▼ *Three Eurostar's line up at St Pancras International. From left to right are (37)3019/20, (37)3021/22 and (37)3232/31, the centre train forming the 11.06 service to Brussels. On the far right is (37)3001/02 which formed a special VIP service to Paris, departing at 11.02 from St Pancras, after the powercars on the train were named.* **Ken Brunt**

▶ Northern Rail is offering anyone with a West Yorkshire MetroCard or Metro Concessionary Permit the opportunity to take advantage of great discounts to travel on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line, one of England's most scenic railway journeys. From Leeds, Bradford Forster Square or any intermediate Metro station on the Airedale Line to anywhere on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line, the special offer day return ticket costs just £7. The offer runs from 12th November until 15th February 2008 inclusive and is valid anytime Monday to Friday.

▶ It appears that at least two of the European Passenger Services Class 37/6 locomotives, Nos. 37601 and 37603 have been transferred to Direct Rail Services, following the movement of Eurostar onto High Speed 1 and the closure of North Pole depot.

▶ Several GNER powercars are now being observed in traffic minus the branding, while No. 43051 has gained additional decals. The vehicle has been given advertising vinyls for the new Tutankhamun Exhibition at the O2, previously the Millenium Dome, in Greenwich. The exhibition runs from 15th November until 30th August next year. Full details are on http://www.visitlondon.com

Bombardier completes First ScotRail Class 156 refresh programme six weeks early

The project to refurbish 20 Angel Trains-owned Class 156 DMUs at Bombardier in Derby has been completed six weeks early.

The final unit, No. 156485, was handed over to Angel and First Scotrail at Litchurch Lane on 15th November. The work originally covered an external repaint, new lighting diffusers, new luggage racks and new interior trim at a cost of £1.2 million. A further £2.7 million of funding from Transport Scotland allowed each unit to return to Derby for an internal repaint, new seating and carpets and fitting of RVAR compliant disabled spaces.

▲▶ ***The final unit at Derby and the refurbished interior.***

The Railway Herald

Digital advertising provides immediacy and feedback unlike any other.

- Did you know that *Railway Herald* can actually tell advertisers how many people have 'clicked' onto an advert for more information on the product or event?
- Did you know that artwork can be changed up until 17.00 on the day **BEFORE** publication?
- Did you know that over 25,000 people a week could be reading your advert?

No? - then you need to talk to our team now about how we could help your product or event succeed. A space like this costs from as little as **£50** per week and we can be flexible with **YOUR** campaign.

Call us now on 0870 28 56041 or click on this advert to email us for further information.

RailManager ISSN 1749-5261
ON LINE
About the industry: for the industry

www.keepingtrack.co.uk/railmanager

Time for a *different* kind of number?

Metronet collapses after PPP Arbiter refuses most of costs claim
It's business as usual at LUL, promises Mayor
RMT threatens action if Metronet jobs are lost
Tories call for probe by National Audit Office
John Laing to sell Chiltern Railways and its stake in London Overground
Watchdog urges government to consider terminating First Great Western
Work on EARL to be suspended during review
Eurostar's full high speed timetable won't arrive until December
TfL gets new rail powers outside London area
Virtuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote
Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London 's newest tube station

Rail Manager OnLine is published every week for the railway industry. First for franchise news, politics and business. RMOL informs the people who keep the wheels rolling – and subscriptions are free.

RailManager ON LINE

Click here for the latest edition.

'one' Railway to vanish as national express begins major rebranding exercise

A communal family brand that is easily identified by the general public as standing for punctuality, ease of use and high quality of service, is the aim for National Express as the company begins a major rebranding exercise.

In a press briefing with Chief Executive, Richard Bowker, the new-look colour scheme, which will be applied across all the group's UK operations, be it bus, coach or rail, was unveiled, along with news of the group's activities.

From 9th December, National Express take over the East Coast Main Line franchise from Sea Container's Great North Eastern Railway company, and having lost Central Trains and Midland Mainline, the group is taking the opportunity to establish the National Express brand and image across its rail franchises, where previously each rail operation was encouraged to develop its own independent brand.

As Richard Bowker explained, the company brand is far more than just a colour scheme; "A brand is not a livery or logo. It's what you do, what you represent, how consistently you do it and how you relate to your customers that relate to the brand." he said

As part of the exercise, the company was determined to keep with the well known image of a red, white and blue colour scheme while adding a new graphic called 'connect', which is a collection of grey parallel but diagonal lines, intended to symbolise the connections between cities, between people and between modes of transport.

One of the key announcements during the briefing was the unveiling of the new livery style that will be first applied to the HST and Mk4/Class 91 sets on the East Coast Main Line from early December, although Richard Bowker admits that the number one priority with the ECML franchise is to improve punctuality and deal with the branding and image coming second.

Having said that, National Express intend to modify the GNER colour scheme within days of taking over the franchise so that there is a common theme to all the trains. This interim solution will see the orange bodyside stripe on the GNER sets replaced with a white stripe of the same height, containing the new national express logo at one end and the words 'East Coast' at the other.

▲ *Class 90 No. 90012 arrives at Ipswich with a service to Liverpool Street. From February next year, these trains will lose the multi-coloured 'one' livery in favour of the stylish but simpler National Express colours.* **Brian Morrison**

Over the course of the next two years however, all of the sets will be re-liveried into the new dark grey, light grey and white colour scheme as depicted below.

When asked why the existing GNER brand is not being retained, Mr Bowker commented that although the brand was well known within the industry and by those people that use the rail service, there was a lack of knowledge of GNER outside its regular users.

The biggest announcement however concerned 'one' Railway, which operates local and regional services from London Liverpool Street to a variety of places including Cambridge, Norwich, Lowestoft and Clacton.

Having taken over the franchise from First Group and developed the 'one' Great Eastern and 'one' Anglia brands, the decision has now been taken to drop the 'one' name completely from February 2008, the company taking on the new company branding and image to become National Express East Anglia. Over a period of several months, all of the DMU, EMU and locomotive-hauled stock, as well as the company's Class 90s will be re-liveried, adopting the same colour scheme as 'East Coast', but obviously with the 'East Anglia' name.

Presently, the Liverpool Street to Stansted Airport service, operated by a dedicated fleet of Class 317/8 EMUs, has its own identity within the 'one' railway brand and it is pleasing to note that this will remain. On these sets the National Express logo will be amended to Stansted Express, keeping the brand image within the National Express family but allowing it to continue on its own lines.

A decision that is yet to be taken concerns the company's other rail operation, c2c that runs services from Fenchurch Street to Shoeburyness and Tilbury. Although there is the desire for all three rail operations to adopt the new image, National Express do accept that the c2c branding is well known within the local community and holds remarkable value among its passengers in terms of punctuality and customer service. As a result, a decision on the future identity and livery of c2c has yet to be made.

Other major changes to be introduced include the creation of a common website covering all rail franchises, allowing information on travel times and prices to be easier to find and understand, following the company's new slogan ... 'making travel easier.'

▼ *A computer modified image of the new colour scheme on a Mk4 vehicle.* **Both: National Express**

▼ *A computer graphic of the new livery on East Coast HSTs.*

▶ Steam Dreams has joined with specialist overseas railtour operator GW Travel to promote a seven-day tour of the Canadian Rockies from Vancouver to Calgary. The tour departs on 27th September next year and will be steam-hauled throughout by restored 'Hudson' No. 2816 *Empress*. It will travel via the Crowsnest Pass, the Fraser and Thompson River canyons and the mile-long 314ft high Lethbridge trestle bridge. Also included are private trips to the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel and the historic Kamloops Railway. Tickets for this Canadian trip are priced at £1,995 per person, excluding flights, plus a £500 per person supplement for travel in the train's 'Dome' car. For further details go to www.steamdreams.co.uk or telephone 01483 209888.

'The Cambrian' to run to Pwllheli in 2008

As reported last week the West Coast Railway Company has confirmed that there will be a Cambrian Coast operation next year during the high season, and more importantly on Wednesday's and Friday's the train will be extended from Porthmadog through to Pwllheli.

Another crucial alteration is that in 2008 the return service will arrive back into Machynlleth some two hours earlier than this year which should open up a whole host of travel options.

The departure time at Machynlleth remains as for 2007 at 10.05, and then picking up at Tywyn at 10.33 and Barmouth at 11.02 for an arrival at Porthmadog at 11.49. Then, Wednesdays and Fridays only the train departs Porthmadog at 12.19 to arrive at Pwllheli at 12.40. This presents the opportunity to spend nearly three hours in Porthmadog or around an hour and a half in Pwllheli. Departure from Pwllheli on the designated days is at 14.15, arriving at Porthmadog at 14.45 for a 14.55 departure, setting down at Barmouth (15.50), Tywyn (16.22) and finally at Machynlleth at 17.00.

The earlier return time at Machynlleth does provide potentially more rail connections with Birmingham New Street in the evening, although not necessarily in the morning. However, the earlier finish will have attractions for those on holiday in the area as it will enable them to both travel on the train and enjoy a full evenings entertainment afterwards. Also, it provides more flexibility to those who wish to drive to and from Machynlleth to travel on the train as a simple day out.

There is a variety of fares available, with an adult Machynlleth to Porthmadog (Pwllheli) return being £28.00 (£33.00) and a child for the same itinerary being £20.50 (£23.50). It is possible to book from intermediate stations as well as between Porthmadog and Pwllheli only.

2008 will be an interesting year for these trains, which, incidentally, will now be called simply 'The Cambrian'. This year, the decision to run the trains was made just weeks prior to their intended start date, meaning that loadings in the early weeks suffered considerably. However, once the operation became known, loadings increased significantly with trains running in the latter days of the 2007 operation with very good passenger figures. Given the lead time for the 2008 operation, West Coast has ample opportunity to market the trains in good time to, hopefully, make the year a highly successful one and secure the future operation of regular high-season Cambrian steam-hauled trains for the future.

For further information or to book tickets telephone 01524 737751 or 01524 737753 or go to www.wcrc.co.uk

'Western' to Wales and Hoovers to Scotland!

The first seeds of Pathfinder's early 2008 programme have been sown, with a partnership with the Irish Traction Group and the Diesel Traction Group providing the highlight involving Class 52 No. D1015 *Western Champion* throughout from Ealing Broadway via Oxford, Birmingham and Crewe to Holyhead.

The outward run is on the direct route via Chester, but on the return the train diverts to Warrington and then Manchester via Chat Moss to regain its outward route at Stafford via Stockport, Macclesfield and Stoke-on-Trent.

Also in the pipeline, but presently provisional, is a Worcester to Edinburgh outing with a pair of Class 50's on 22 March, which is planned to run via the west and east midlands and the ECML. Other outline trips include a circular over the Central Wales Line on 2nd February with 'interesting traction', a pair of Class 37's from Cheshire to Peterborough and Essex freight and passenger lines on 9th February followed by a wander around South Wales (including the Barry Railway) on 1st March from Watford Junction. Later, on 15th March the company heads for the Blyth and Tyne from London. However, a variety of reasons have caused the postponement of the 'Ramsden Renegade' on 24th November, which was due to feature a pair of Mainline Class 31s from Cardiff to Barrow-in-Furness. The train has been re-dated to 14th June next year.

▼ ***While working the 'Tees-Don Express' charter to Barrow Hill, LNER 'K1' No. 62005 and 'K4' No. 61994* The Great Marquess *power through Kilnhurst on 9th November. This LNER Mogul pairing has been together frquently in recent weeks with appearances at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway's LNER Festival and a double-headed run out of Whitby to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the last railtour over the Whitby-Grosmont-Pickering-Malton line in 1967. Following their appearance at the Barrow Hill event, the North Eastern Locomotive Preservation Group's 'K1' No. 62005 was due to return to Carnforth for minor repairs and a repaint.*** **Bob Gibson**

In weather conditions typical of a November morning, Class 47/4s No. 47828 **Joe Strumner** *and 47813* **John Peel** *pass Sandy on 17th November with the 06.41 Morpeth - King's Cross charter.* **Paul Townsend**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on steam, diesel and electric railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

17th November

Railway Touring Company	60019	London Victoria-Chichester-Portsmouth Harbour (break/rev)-Fareham-Southampton-Salisbury-Reading-Guildford-London Victoria	
Railway Touring Company	60009	Cleethorpes-Scunthorpe-Sheffield-Stockport-Altrincham-Chester & rtn	
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley Warwick Road-Nuneaton-Nottingham-Lincoln and return	
VSOE	35028	'VSOE Luncheon': London Victoria-Guildford-London Victoria	

22nd November

Hertfordshire (Pullman)	2xRiveria Cl47	Stevenage-Potters Bar-Finsbury Park-Oxford and return	

24th November

Hertfordshire (Pullman)	2xRiveria Cl47	London Paddington-Slough-Reading-Ludlow and return	
Kingfisher Railtours	tbc	(Coventry-)-Willesden-Folkestone Harbour	**Postponed**
Past Time Rail	6201	(London Euston-Coventry-Stafford-)Preston-Shap-Carlisle and rtn	
Past Time Rail	tbc	Taunton-Bristol TM-Bristol Pky-Cheltenham Spa-York and return	
Pathfinder Tours	2 x Cl31	Cardiff Central-Barrow Docks and return.	**Postponed**
Railway Touring Company	60019	London Victoria-Guildford-Reading-Bath-Bristol TM and return	
Steam Dreams	60009 & 50049	(London KX-Peterborough-York) (break/rev) York-London KX	
Steamy Affairs	2xCR Cl47	Ashford-Headcorn-Paddock Wood-Tonbridge-Sevenoaks-Orpington-Bromley South-Kensington Olympia-York and return	
Vintage Trains	Cl.50	Tyseley-Stratford upon Avon-London and return	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley Warwick Road-Wolverhampton-Stafford-Chester and return.	

29th November

Hertfordshire (Pullman)	tbc	London KX-Potters Bar-Stevenage-York and return	

1st December

Heartland Rail	CR Class 47	Bristol TM-Bristol Parkway-Cheltenham Spa-Ashchurch-York & rtn	
Kingfisher Railtours	EWS Class 67	Redhill-Guildford-Clapham Junction-York and return	**Cancelled**
Kingfisher Railtours	34067	(Coventry-Bicester Nth-High Wycombe-Ealing Broadway)-Willesden area-Folkestone Harbour-Canterbury West and return	
NENTA Traintours	tbc	Norwich-Stowmkt-Bury St. Edmonds-Ely-York-Keighley-Skipton and rtn	
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS Cl 37	Swindon-Bristol Parkway-Severn Tunnel Jct-Pontypool & New Inn-Abergavenny-Hereford-Ludlow-Craven Arms-Shrewsbury-Carnforth-Bentham-Skipton-Keighley-Leeds (break/ rev) & return	
Railway Touring Company	60019	London KX-Stevenage-Peterborough-York and return	

Key to tour listings:

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
MM Merrymaker from Hertfordshire Rail Tours
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
BLUE Provisional excursion

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Check with the operator before travelling any distance.

Useful Weblinks

- Online railtour listings
- Tour operators contact details
- Current fire-risk status info
- Email the railtours editor

The Week Ahead

There can be only one question for next weekend; will No. 60019 *Bittern* finally make it back onto a mainline revenue-earning train on 24th November, or not?

With its 17th November charter to Portsmouth Harbour amended, with *Bittern* covering for the non-availability of *Tangmere* and the entire train then cancelled as the 'A4' was still not ready, the Railway Touring Company is desperate to ensure that its 24th November charter to Bristol and Bath, scheduled for No. 60019 throughout from London Victoria, goes ahead as planned.

The problem if *Bittern* is not ready, is that there is little cover available. The most likely fall-backs are both in action: No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* is deputising for the also un-ready No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* between Preston and Carlisle, via Shap each way, for Past Time, while No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* covers the York-King's Cross leg of a tour which has No. 50049 *Defiance* outwards for Steam Dreams.

With No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* now undergoing winter maintenance, while *Tangmere* remains at Carnforth being re-tubed and No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* still under repair, there is no other Class 7 or 8 availability other than No. 35028 *Clan Line*, which presently has a full diary looking after the British Pullman. No wonder one railtour promoter said this week: "Help, we need more engines!"

Meanwhile, the ever-ready Tyseley 'Hall' No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* continues to provide sterling service to Vintage Trains, following on from a trip to Lincoln this weekend it heads a Tyseley Warwick Road to Chester charter, working via Walsall and Crewe, on 24th November.

Hertfordshire has two tours in three days, commencing on 22nd November with a working from Stevenage to Oxford, via the North London Line, followed on 24th November from London Paddington to Ludlow.

Meanwhile, also on 24th November, Past Time Rail has a 'York Flyer' excursion from Taunton, most probably with a Class 67 at the helm, while Steamy Affairs again questions the company name with a pair of Cotswold Class 47s working from Ashford also to York.

▲ *After its recent repair and repaint by DRS, the latest member of the company's Class 47 fleet, No. 47790 works past Healey Mills Yard with a York Works-Reading West Yard RHTT wagon move on 14th November. Healey Mills was the home of this loco for around three years from early 2004 when it was 'switched off' by EWS.* **Ian Tunstall**

▼ *Still carrying the Channel Tunnel circular decals on the side, ex-European Passenger Services Class 37/6s Nos. 37601 and 37603 have apparently been transferred to DRS operation. Here the grey-liveried pair power past Brantham with the 09.20 Stowmarket - Gidea Park RHTT on 16th November.* **John Day**

Manningtree Interlude

▲ *On hire from EWS, Class 90 No. 90018 approaches Manningtree over a flooded River Stour on 9th November, powering the 09.00 'one' express from Norwich to London Liverpool Street.*

▶ *The 09.20 RHTT working from Stowmarket to Shenfield (run extended to Gidea Park) crosses the River Stour viaduct near Manningtree on 9th November, headed by DRS Class 20s Nos. 20315 & 20313*

▼ *The 22.00 Freightliner service that departed from Coatbridge to Felixstowe the previous evening, passes the saem location on the 9th November, powered by Class 86/6s Nos. 86604 & 86607 with Class 90 No. 90044 in tow.*

All: Brian Morrison

Diary

The editor welcomes details of forthcoming events, talks, slide shows, conferences, model railway exhibitions and club meetings for inclusion within this section.

Details should be sent via email to ***editor@railwayherald.co.uk*** and should include a brief outline of the event, including the speakers name if appropriate, date, time and location, together with contact details (either telephone, web or email). *Railway Herald* cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or events which are amended, cancelled or postponed. Information, such as advance programmes and club meeting line-ups can also be sent through the post to the editorial address.

16th November 2007

Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "BR Branch Lines" by Dave Soggee Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

Scarborough Railway Society
Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. '20th Century Steam' Film Evening by Ian Wolstencroft. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome

17th November 2007

East Lancashire Railway
Diesel Running Day - Class 24 No. D5054 in operation

17th-18th November 2007

Bassetlaw (North Notts) Railway Society
Town Hall, Market Square, Retford. Model Railway Exhibition. Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 10.00-16.00. At least 12 layouts 'N' to 'O' gauge, incl Oldham King Street (O), Bassetfield (OO), Barnaby Junction (009) and Westwood (TT) plus 8 trade stands and video show. Adults £3, Seniors £2, Child £1.

Bluebell Railway
1920s Weekend

Locomotion
Cab It Weekend

18th November 2007

Cholsey & Wallingford Railway
Diesel Running Day

The Model Railway Club
Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London. N1 9DA. "Infrastructure work out on the main line" an illustrated talk by John Stretton.

19th November 2007

RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road (opposite railway station entrance).
"BR in the 1980s" by Bob Casselden. Start 7.45pm.

RCTS (Coventry)
Hylands Hotel, Warwick Road. "Travels with the New Measurement Train" by Andrew Royal. Start 7.30pm.

RCTS (Northampton)
Dunston Conservative Club, Meeting Lane, Main Road, Dunston. "Quiz Night" Start 7.30pm.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. "The South Western since Privatisation" by Brian Denton. Start 7.30pm.

Stafford Railway Society
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. "Member's Slide Competition", judged by Mark Brayford. Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

20th November 2007

North Wales Railway Circle
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office. "Talk on the Ashover Light Railway, Derbyshire." Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

Peak Rail Association (Chesterfield Branch)
Upstairs function room, New Inn, 229 Mansfield Road, Hasland. "The Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway" slide evening by Mick Hayes. Start 7.30pm. Admission free.

RCTS (Cambridge)
Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Community Primary School, Galfrid Road. "BR Steam Miscellany" by David Barham. Start 7.30pm.

RCTS (Scunthorpe)
Kinsley Labour Club, Cole Street, Scunthorpe. "Steaming through Britain" by Graham Briggs. Start 7.30pm.

21st November 2007

RCTS (Eastleigh)/S&D Trust
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. "Working on the Somerset & Dorest in BR Days" by Keith Barrett. Start 7.45pm.

22nd November 2007

RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Military Port No1 & The Faslane Military Railway" by Mike Walshaw. Start 7.30pm. £1.50 donation.

23rd November 2007

Cambridge University Railway Club
Andrew Room, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. 'The Silk Railway' a talk by Stuart Baker. Starts 8.30pm for 9pm, Non-members welcome.

24th November 2007

East Lancashire Railway
Diesel Running Day - Class 40 No. D335 in operation

Dartmoor Railway
Class 47 operating weekend, with services working over the full 13 miles of line between Okehampton and Coleford Junction.

Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
The International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Brentwood..

24th-25th November 2007

Swanage Railway
1940s Weekend.

26th November 2007

RCTS (Sheffield)
St. Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. "O Winson Link & North & Western" by Bob Gellately. Start 7.30pm.

27th November 2007

RCTS (Nottingham)
Nottingham Mechanics. "BR in the Early 1960s" by Hugh Gould. Start 7.30pm.

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Cole Green Lane, Ludwick Green. "Bringing B1 61264 back to Life" by Mike Coley. Start 7.30pm.

28th November 2007

RCTS (Chichester)
Council Meeting Room 1, County Hall, West Street, Chichester "Steam in Camera" by Graham Stacey. Start 7.30pm.

29th November 2007

RCTS (Preston)
Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. "Steam in the 1960s" by Hugh Ballantyne - non-members welcome. Start 7.30pm.

30th November 2007

Scarborough Railway Society
Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Society Members Digital Evening. Starts 19.30.

2nd December 2007

D. J. Fairs Ltd
Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

3rd December 2007

Stafford Railway Society
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Aven, Stafford. "Peak Forest to Limerick via Teeside" by John Catterson. Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

4th December 2007

Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton. Contact: 0117 987 3244. "Narrow Gauge Super Power in the Mountains of Germany : The Harzer Schmalspurbahnen" talk by David Brabner, Robert Heron and Dave Winter. Starts 19.30 for 19.45.

North Wales Railway Circle
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office. British Transport Police Safety and illustrated talk on "The Railways of New Zealand" by Bill Rogerston. Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

5th December 2007

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'Railways North and West of Stirling' by Mike Jodeluk. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 for further details.

6th December 2007

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'Members Slide Evening'. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

7th December 2007

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Rly (Birmingham Area Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield. Evening Slide show by Phil Darlaston. Starts 19.30.

10th December 2007

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Mainline Steam in 2007' DVD/ Stereo large screen presentation by Karl Jauncey & Dave Richards of PSOV. Sales Stand. Starts 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

12th December 2007

Bromsgrove Railway Club
St. Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'Club AGM, Members Slides, Photographic Competition and more!' Arrive 19.15 for 19.45 start. New members welcome

14th December 2007

Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Manchester and the Llandudno & Colwyn Bay Tramway Then and Now' by Keith Chadbourne. Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

16th December 2007

D. J. Fairs Ltd
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-16.00. Adults £5, Children £2.

17th December 2007
Stafford Railway Society
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. "Member's Christmas Special", Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

18th December 2007
North Wales Railway Circle
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office. "Christmas Party and Members slides, digital and video pictures." Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

Peak Rail Association (Chesterfield Branch)
Upstairs function room, New Inn, 229 Mansfield Road, Hasland. "Pre-grouping railtour of Britain in Colour" by Ken Grainger. Start 7.30pm. Admission free, donations encouraged.

21st December 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "Mainly narrow gauge in East Germany", memories of former DDR, plus wine and mince pies. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

27th December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
Donnington Park Exhibition Centre. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
Diesel Running Day.

29th December 2007
Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
The International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Brentwood.

29th-30th December 2007
Churnet Valley Railway
'Winter Warmer' event.

30th December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
East of England Showground, Peterborough. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Child £1.

Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
The Charter Hall (part of Colchester Leisure World), Cowdray Avenue, Colchester

31st December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster.. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

1st January 2008
Didcot Railway Centre
Didcot New Year Steamday.

Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
George Stephenson Exhibition Hall, The Showground, Newark

5th January 2008
Kidderminster Rly Museum
Railway Photograph Fair

8th January 2008
Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. Contact: 0117 987 3244. "A Broad Gauge Journey - Part 1" talk by Brian Arman. Starts 19.30.

9th January 2008
Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'Railway Travels in Retirement' by Fred Landery. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 for further details.

10th January 2008
Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'Pulling & Pushing' by Jim Summers. Illustrated talk on railway freight operations during the 1960s. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for details.

11th January 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Wester & Wessex Wanderings' by Tony Icke Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

14th January 2008
York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Midland & Great Northern Railway & North Norfolk Railway' by David Harris. Starts 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

18th January 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "Just in front of the good Doctor, Operation 8" by Blake Paterson. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

19th January 2008
Churnet Valley Railway
'Burns Night' event.

24th January 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Tales of an International Railway Journalist" by Chris Jackson. Start 7.30pm. Donation of £1.50 is requested

6th February 2008
Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'An abc of BR Steam' colour slideshow by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 for further details.

7th February 2008
Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'From Wick to Penzance in the last 30 years' by Bob Cleary. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

8th February 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Welsh Highland Revival' by George Jones Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

11th February 2008
York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'My 1960s and steam operation in Serbia & Bosnia in 2007 after the Jugoslavian War' slide show by Robin Patrick. Starts 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

15th February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "More treasures from the Dave Mills collection" by Roger Whitehead. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

21st February 2008
Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Perth)
Museum & Art Gallery, George Street, Perth. 'Changing face of Railways in the UK Post Privatisation by the Two Ronnies (Ashton). Starts 7.30pm, contact Alex R. Forsyth on 01738 622187 for further details.

28th February 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "40 Years of the Bluebell Railway" by Roger Price. Start 7.30pm. Donation of £1.50 is requested

Internet Links
Click on the name of the group or society to visit their website.
- Bassetlaw (Nth Notts) Rly Society
- Great Western Society (Bristol)
- Locomotive Club of Great Britain
- Manchester Model Railway Society
- Marlow & District Railway Society
- North Wales Railway Circle
- RCTS
- Stafford Railway Society

▼ ***The Toton-Crewe Departmental working on 12th November was unusually allocated a pair of Class 67 locomotives. Here, the unusual sight of Nos. 67016 & 67023 pass Elford Loop at the head of the HOBC ballast wagons.***
Don Gatehouse

Freightliner
66547