

TravelWatch- **ISLE OF MAN**

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Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man Passengers

INFORMATION BULLETIN 14 - April 2009

TravelWatch Meetings:

- Our **public meeting / AGM** on 28th March at the Villa Marina was well attended and included discussion on Air matters, the Bus Review and the new arrangements at Liverpool Landing Stage. The existing Officers and Committee were all re-elected
- A **Supporters' meeting** was held on 27th April . These evening meetings provide an opportunity to exchange views on travel matters in an informal atmosphere.

Air travel:

- Flybe are introducing flights to Blackpool and Belfast – these will be flown by franchise partner Loganair (who also operate the Glasgow and Edinburgh flights from the Island) whose baggage allowances and credit card charges are more generous than those of Flybe.
- Paul Moncaster and Bernard Arrowsmith held a useful meeting with Andrea Heyes of Flybe on 24th March

Bus travel:

- We met Dave Kinrade, Head of Buses, and MHK Graham Cregeen – who has special responsibility for buses - on 5th February to be updated on the progress of the Bus Review
- We visited Banks Circus Depot on 2nd April to view one of the new Bus fleet now starting to work on the Island.

Sea Travel:

- The new passenger terminal at **Liverpool** is now in operation – foot passengers now check-in on the landing stage with access via the new bridge adjacent to the car marshalling area. Arriving passengers disembark over the car pontoon, and after collecting their baggage come up the “old” pedestrian bridge, where a baggage conveyor has been installed.
- At **Belfast** the Steam Packet terminal has moved to Albert Quay. We understand this is well signposted.
- Members of **Mobilise** (the merged Disabled Drivers Association and Disabled Drivers Motoring Club) benefit from a 30% discount- this vehicle offer can only be booked through **Mobilise**. Tel 01508 489449 <http://www.dda.org.uk>
- Free foot passenger travel is available for one person accompanying someone who is **registered blind**.
- We are advised that IOMSPC policy covering **weather and technical diversions** is more generous than their terms and conditions require i.e. if technical they lay on foot passenger transfers if a different port - but not if weather related.
- When making a **Sail and Rail booking**, particularly if made off-off-Island, passengers should ensure that they receive, in addition to their ticket, a Steam Packet booking reference for their required sailing(s). It should be noted that connections between ships and trains are not guaranteed.

Passenger Information Sheets:

- A new Passenger Information sheet covering the purchase of **UK rail tickets** has been published.
- The **Liverpool** sheet has been updated to reflect the changes at the Pier Head.
- New sheets for **Belfast and Dublin** have been issued and will be on our website shortly.

Copies of all our Passenger Information Sheets can be downloaded from http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/html/useful_information.html and are also available in Local Libraries and at the Welcome Centre in the Sea Terminal

Website:

- The USEFUL INFORMATION section of our website www.travelwatch-isleofman.org has recently been updated and re-arranged to make access to a wide range of travel information easier.

We welcome feedback from anyone using Isle of Man services – particularly when changes affecting passengers are noted.

Membership:

- TravelWatch is keen to recruit more members. We have prepared A4 posters about our work suitable for display on noticeboards. If you would like a poster to display please let us know.
- Membership Application forms can be downloaded from http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/membership_for_website.pdf
- Do please encourage your friends and colleagues to join us – donations of £ 10 (or more) are most welcome. Subscriptions are our main source of income.

Contacting TravelWatch ISLE OF MAN:

- http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/html/contact_us.html
- or by post:

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