

# TravelWatch- **ISLE OF MAN**

**Arrey Troaitt – Ellan Vannin**

**Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man Passengers**

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## **Bulletin 34 - September 2015**

- We have succeeded in persuading **Easyjet** to provide a speaker for our Autumn Meeting. However, to achieve this, we have decided to arrange the meeting on a weekday evening at the end of November and at a new and less expensive venue. This has the advantage of trialling a different meeting time and place as well as providing the travelling public with an opportunity to hear from Easyjet and to ask Questions.

The meeting is now confirmed for **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November** (ie the originally advertised date) at the Manx Legion, Market Hill, Douglas starting at 19.30. Our speaker will be **Jennifer Groves, UK Route Manager of Easyjet**. We will also deal briefly with some other issues and aim to finish by 21.00.

- There are further significant changes to the air timetables for the coming winter. Timings of flights to and from Manchester have been improved; something TW raised with Flybe earlier in the year. An additional Liverpool Service is provided in the morning, which we welcome. Timings for Stansted and Birmingham are changed, and are less favourable than the existing timings, a matter we regret.
- TW have also requested punctuality and reliability statistics from the Airport to enable the public to compare airline performance. We are disappointed that these are not yet available.
- TW followed up the serious travel disruption experienced during Easter 2015 and received some assurances indicating that some of the lessons had been taken aboard by the operators.
- In July, TW issued a widely reported media statement welcoming the Infrastructure Minister's Tynwald announcement to hold a public consultation on the future of ferry services. TW has made suggestions about issues which should be addressed in the consultation questionnaire, and is concerned at the delay in issuing the questionnaire.
- The agreement for the Steam Packet's use of Liverpool Landing Stage ceases at end of 2016. TW understand there is a real danger of the Liverpool landing stage not being available for Steam Packet sailings at Liverpool from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. TW has written to the Infrastructure Minister expressing concerns and seeking information as to how the Government intends to address this imminent and vital issue.
- TW has also written to the Infrastructure Minister to seek assurances about safeguarding vehicle access to and within Douglas Port, as the Parade Street Car Park site has been advertised for sale, and the Central Douglas Masterplan suggests a multi-storey car park above the vehicle marshalling area.

- The Committee are considering options for the timing and date of the Spring public meeting in 2016. We will want to evaluate how well the autumn evening meeting is supported before finalising arrangements but we are hoping to organise the Spring meeting in the second half of April 2016.
- As reported to the last AGM, the committee have taken forward the organisational changes so that TravelWatch will be registered as a limited Company and Charity. This work is almost complete. The next step will be to invite existing paid up TW members to become members of the new organisation.
- Meetings have been held between TW and the Ports Director on Sea and Air issues.
- Members of the Committee have been building links with the Isle of Man College to see if there may be valuable opportunities for some research work into passenger issues.
- The 2016 General Election for the Keys will represent an opportunity for TravelWatch to brief the public about passenger issues to raise with those seeking to be elected.
- All Members and supporters are reminded that we are urgently seeking some additional help with the work of TravelWatch, especially someone to contribute to managing our website and someone to act as membership secretary. Volunteers – or suggestions about possible volunteers – would be grateful received by your Chairman.

Brendan O’Friel

Chairman

(v4 15.10.15)