

TravelWatch- **ISLE OF MAN**

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www.travelwatch-isleofman.org

Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man Passengers

INFORMATION BULLETIN 13 - January 2009

Public and Supporter Meetings:

- Our next **Public Meeting & AGM** will be held at the Villa Marina on Saturday 28th March. 10.00 – 13.00. Please put the date in your diaries – details of speakers will be advised nearer the time.
- A Supporter Meeting was held on 12th January and the next one is planned for late Spring. These evening meetings provide an opportunity to share views on travel topics in an informal atmosphere.

Passenger Information Sheets:

Passenger Information sheets are available in Public Libraries, at the Welcome Centre in the Sea Terminal, and on our website http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/html/useful_information.html

We try and keep these as up to date as possible and feedback from members and supporters is always welcome. Recent issues and revisions cover:

- **Liverpool** – where there have been changes to the bus link between Lime Street Station and the Pier Head. Citylink Bus C2 now stops on Lime Street in front of the station and can best be reached by turning right off the platforms and using the Lord Nelson Street exit as the front entrance to the station is closed due to on-going demolition and building work. There are also improved services from Liverpool South Parkway station (for those using Liverpool Airport) to Birmingham, Manchester and the East Midlands.
- **Blackpool – Heysham** – this is a new sheet giving details of public transport links from Blackpool Airport and Heysham Port (where there is now only one train a day but it operates via Lancaster to/from Leeds).
- **UK rail services**, particularly on the West Coast main Line, changed considerably in December, with some changes being deferred to end January. This has produced faster services but in some cases intermediate stops, particularly south of Stafford, have been sacrificed. Again our Passenger Information Sheet gives more details.

Operator and Government Contacts:

- Following the acceptance by Tynwald of the Select Committee report on the **Steam Packet Company**, TravelWatch will be monitoring the progress of the various recommendations. Recent announcements from the Steam Packet Company indicate that they plan to introduce the new fastcraft *Manannan* into service on 1st May and that they will be moving to the old Stena Line terminal at Albert Quay in Belfast. It also appears that Spring/Autumn midweek services to Liverpool will be afternoon only and evening back to the Island.
- TravelWatch met with the Airport Director in December to discuss **air travel issues** including the opaque and divergent taxes and charges levied by individual airlines – arising partly from different incentives offered on different routes/airports. We were also advised that there would be no change to car park pricing when the new extension is opened. The new Aer Arann services to London City started on 19 January.
- The **Bus Review** is now well under way and TravelWatch will continue to contribute as further opportunities arise.

Membership :

We are keen to increase our membership. A4 posters, suitable for use on noticeboards are available - Please contact us via http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/html/contact_us.html or phone 01624 833636. Membership Application forms can be downloaded from: http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/membership_for_website.pdf Existing members will shortly be receiving an invitation to re-new their subscriptions.