

BEDFORD COMMUTERS ASSOCIATION

BCA COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 31 August 2004

Present: Arthur Taylor Christine Fellner
Chris Fox Dan Levene
Jim Allwood
Apologies: Mark Spurgeon

1. Minutes of Meeting on 28 June 2004

These were accepted.

2. Matters arising

The new screen beyond the barrier will have to wait for Network Rail's 2006/7 budget.

3. Correspondence

- Allison Swift had complained about problems with parking and being pursued by debt collectors for a fine she had already paid (as was someone else). AT would speak to Ginny Chart.
- Martin Walter wants to meet user groups to discuss planning for the future of Thameslink (ie new franchise). It was agreed that AT should express willingness.
- There had been a further report from the TL2K consortium
- There was a change in TL cycling policy during the blockade
- Nick Newton had taken over the Strategic Rail Authority from Richard Bowker
- There would be a Railfuture meeting on Saturday 18 September at 1pm at the Polish Club, Alexandra Road.

4. Treasurer's Report

Today was the last day of the newly-arranged financial year. There was a balance of £519.59 (minus CF's £12.50 for July/August Newsletter printing). New petty cash vouchers were produced for making claims. The Treasurer expressed himself content with the Association's financial position.

5. Communications

DL reported on press and communications, the upcoming Newsletter and the membership drive. We had placed a response in the Times & Citizen about the use of bikes on trains. The Newsletter would reiterate the blockade information, and also point out that it would not be possible to use TL tickets via Bletchley, it was possible to sit in first class on TL trains if they were not shown on the timetable as carrying first class accommodation (!), and the 5% punctuality discount would not run until the end of the blockade.

AT had written to complain of the MML timetable change whereby the 18 00 off St Pancras would not be stopping at Bedford, only at Luton Airport Parkway. They replied that they could not cope with overcrowding, people could change at LAP for

Bedford. This was unanimously thought to be a feeble response, but one that was unlikely to be changed (“timetables already gone to printers”, etc). AT’s view was that this was something people would have to take up for themselves, eg with MPs. DL pointed to the likely effect on surrounding TL services. He also expressed discontent that TL did not produce separate timetables for engineering weekends.

6. Performance

AT reported that the punctuality figures for the quarter to 31 3 04 showed MML with a success rate of 70.1%, TL off-peak with 74% and TL peak with 68.4%. These were all slight improvements on the previous quarter.

7. Blockade

AT, JA and DL had attended a meeting at TL with APTU. It was confirmed that the St Pancras Interim timetable should, according to Network Rail, work. The orange/black information screen from the old station had been installed at the lower level. There will be a one-way system in operation at during peak hours. Attempts will be made to prevent arriving St Pancras passengers cutting through Kings Cross.

The 5% discount would be continued throughout the blockade.

DL said TL were still not doing enough to inform people. Silverlink had taken out full-page ads in the national and local press and had figured in local spoken media.

8. Membership renewal (Bedford 21/22 September, Flitwick 28 September). It was agreed that CFox, JA and CF would do the Tuesday am stint at Bedford, and JA and perhaps JM would do the afternoon. CF and CFox could do Wednesday pm. CFox would drive the necessary materials over to AL at Flitwick, as AT would be away that week.

9. Website

Nothing to report.

10. Thameslink 2000/EWRL

Nothing to report

11. AOB

Warmest thanks were expressed to CFox for his many years of devoted service on the Committee, and saddest regrets that, even though retiring shortly, he inexplicably did not want to continue as a member.

12. Next meeting

Monday 25 October at 7 45 at CF’s