

[Dates for your diary] KATA meetings are on Wednesdays

2nd June 2010, 1st Sept 2010, 1st Dec 2010.

At 15:00 (3pm) in 'Public Bar' Druids Head, Market Place (*not Meerkat!*)

p1,2,3: KATAlist, p3: Bus Stops, p4: Publicity & Fares, p5: Omnibus, p6: Keeping Track

KATAlist – Bus route changes

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(NB: Routes are in numerical order rather than date order, but let me know what is better)

57 = 24hr | 515 = non-TfL service | Full date = future | numerical/date = past

Sat 20/02/10

65 & 71 (Chessington - Kingston - Ealing)

65 night timings moved to equally space with 281 as pointed out by KATA which had meant almost running together, especially Kingston to Surbiton which produced a ½hourly service instead of the new x15mins. As a consequence the 65 extension to Chessington is later as is the 71 to cover the gap.

*No prizes for spotting my mistake at Xmas when I stated that the 71 would again run through New Year's Eve night, forgetting that the 65 does this extension every night!

Sat 17th April 2010

85 & 371 (Kingston - Putney / Richmond)

Both routes extended in service beyond Guildhall to Kingston Hall Road to set-down at the present stand as requested by KATA. (They already depart from KHR at stop 'UK' opposite and by the college). However this was sooner than expected as we were to wait until the 371 was extended to North Sheen Sainsburys, expected 3 years ago, but now perhaps not until 2011, as Sainsbury's drag their feet.

* *Erroneously, the pocket Kingston Spider Map (Jan) already depicted the 85 as setting down in KHR!*

September 2010

110 (Twickenham - Hounslow > West Middx Hospital)

Extension is delayed due to required changes to road layout at W. Middx Hospital. To be via route 117 including St. John's Road, Isleworth. Also introducing earlier and later journeys towards Twickenham to connect with trains there. Same single-deckers (up 4 to 5) and retained by Transdev (AV).

* *There were calls for a rerouteing to serve Whitton High Street/ Station, which is only served by the H22 but this was easier said than done.*

Sat 1st May 2010

111 (Kingston - Heathrow)

Increasing Mon-Fri peaks from x10 to every 8½mins. Plus, additional journeys from Hounslow to Heathrow and to Kingston on Mon-Fri mornings. Plus, at a request from KATA timings in the evenings to be separated from the 216 which currently run together from Kingston to Hampton Stn. Retained by Transdev (AV) with 23 new Scania's (same as route 65), up from 20.

Sat 2nd Oct 2010

131 (Kingston – Tooting)

Contract retained for 5 years by Transdev (AV) with same double-deckers. Extra SDO to Kingston AM and to Tooting PM.

Sun 2nd May 2010

267 (Hammersmith - Fulwell - Hampton Court)

This will terminate at Hampton Court Green on Summer Sundays/BHols instead of crossing the bridge. It was planned to terminate opposite the station at Riverbank stop 'J' as per 451/461, and moreover had the '267' tile installed since the Autumn. Plus the standing 267s would not have been in the way as the other routes don't run on Sundays. We suppose that the 267 will be deleted from the Esher Timetable book (#2) as it no longer serves Surrey?

* *The only route serving the station forecourt is the R68.*

20/02/10 – This saw some minor timing changes which one might have thought would have been delayed till May?

371 (see 85 above)

Sat 2nd Oct 2010

411/641 (Kingston / Teddington School - West Molesey)

TfL contract awarded to Quality Line (EB) with 8 new Optare Versa – longer versions at 11.1mtrs. Currently with Transdev (HH).

Sat 27th March 2010

465 (Kingston - Dorking)

New timetable includes extra running time in peaks so departing 2-3 mins earlier. This comes just 6 months after being taken over by Metrobus in Crawley.

Autumn - In addition, the long running KATA plea for a pair of stops near the Garden Centre at Malden Rushett are now due in Autumn after we referred it to TravelWatch but it took 2 years to persuade TfL.

***Although operating from Crawley Garage (CY) it is controlled by Croydon (C) because Crawley does not have the required TfL radio equipment.**

Mon 22/02/10

467 (Hinchley Wood - Hook - Epsom)

Extended schooldays to/from Hinchley Wood School non-stop via A3.

Arr: 08:06 / dep: 08:21 and PM Fri: arr: 13:19 / dep: 13:45 or

Mon-Thur: arr: 14:19 / dep: 15:10.

However, the PM journeys run to Copt Gilders only. Plus these odd journeys from HW actually serve the two Hook Road stops prior to Hook Library which are not served by the normal service as it travels light from the Ace back to the Library to stand.

Last Xmas

481 (Kingston - West Middx Hospital) [*Not a new timetable*]

The final 2 new stops were installed at Hampton Wick /Bushy Park Gate just three days before Xmas thus completing all 5 new local stops for the 481.

2010?

513 (Kingston - Downside) [*request*]

A journey terminates at Esher at 15.49 on SDO. But upon studying the timetable book it then travels light to Esher High School to depart as a 663 @15:10 to Walton (arr 15.32), after which travels light to Kingston for the last 513 at 16:20. So KATA has asked if the Esher termination could carry on in service for the next 3-4 stops to Esher High School especially as it traverses this straight-road anyway, and would be timed exactly in between the 515. It is being assessed SCC. As a point of trivia this 513 on non school days sits at the 965/775 stop at Sury Basin Sainsburys as it has some 70mins stand time.

Sat 18/01/10

514 (Kingston - Hersham)

Minor timing changes affecting SDO which includes added Double Decker. This route amongst others could be withdrawn by SCC – *see end of section.*

Sat 8th May 2010

515/515A (Kingston - Guildford) [*not a new timetable*]

A pair of stops for Brighton Rd/The Lamb are to be installed. Currently the 515/A is non-stop between Surbiton Sainsburys and Portsmouth Rd/Surrey boundary.

Sun 23rd May 2010?

775 Summer Sundays (Kingston - Brighton - Worthing/Eastbourne)

Expected restart date but unable to get any sense out of Ldn Gen: 8545 6110.

04/01/10

801 SDO (Hinchley Wood - Esher - Kingston)

SCC contract awarded to Edward Thomas (ET) instead of AT Bus.

22 March – 18 April 2010 (*Diversion*)

K2,K3,K4,K5 Owing to road works by Norbiton Station buses diverted via Kingston Hill and serving those stops. K3 does a loop of main hospital stop.

Sat 26th June 2010

R68/R70 (Hampton Court-Kew / Hanworth-Richmond)

Both retained by Abellio London with 10 & 11 new single deckers.

Sat 12th April 2010

S3 (Malden Manor - Sutton Hospital)

Later journeys added from Malden Manor at 20:35 & 21:05 to match the other end. Contract with Quality Line extended by 2years.

Autumn - The rerouteing to serve Tesco at Kimpton Industrial Park off Sutton by-pass means (from our end) turning left (instead of right) into Gander Green Lane, then Kimpton Road, Wealdstone Rd, Tesco Road to Oldfields Road etc.

16/01/10

M&S 1-6 (M&S Brooklands) [*not any old bus service but a non M&S bus service !*]

All six free routes withdrawn largely due to no one knowing about them.

Last year KATA wrote to both M&S and Countryliner asking for info but neither could add much except that buses ran but there weren't any timetables anywhere!

Aug/Sept 2010 [*definitive details maybe known by end of May*]

SCC proposals: **218** Kingston-Shepperton only, **451** to be withdrawn,

461 Kingston-St.Peter's only (2ph), **471** alternate via Rowtown/St.Peter's,

514 to be withdrawn, **515** later journeys, **801** to be withdrawn?

For all London's proper bus timetables go to the marvellous and independent:

<http://www.londonbusroutes.net/routes.htm>

or <http://www.busmap.org/>

BUS STOPS

TfL are set to relocate 32 out RBK's 67 Bus **Countdown** indicators – *see attached documents to assess your complaints back to KATA*, so we can coordinate our response. They will decide by November.

The **514 timetable** mysteriously reappeared at Kingston Hospital stop proper after 3 years of not serving there!

While the **691** timetable was for the opposite direction in Kingsgate Road.

But at **Richmond Bus Station** a temporary tin flag still remains for buses departing the Bus Station, but without any routes or timetables, while the other through stop erroneously includes 'Hammersmith' instead of HAM for the 65 ! (As had been done a Cromwell Road lat year). All are about to be remedied.

The **Crown Court**/Bittoms Car Park lay-by stop has reopened after many weeks wherein it was realigned to take two buses, which is strange because lay-bys are being done away with because buses are trapped by heavy traffic.

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The latest **Petersham diversion** (21-24 Feb) was due to new speed cushions, but produced a pair of route diagrams on stops etc.

Between 21:00 & 05:00 the main 65 ran via Twickenham, but between 21:00 & 01:00 there were also 65 & 371 shuttles running each side of Petersham. Simply they changed from 371 to 65 from Sandy Lane back along main road and vice-versa. Similarly, from Star & Garter Hill the 371 changed to 65 back to Richmond, and vice-versa. After 01:00 the 65 shuttle ran to Ham crossroads then via the 371 at Dukes Ave and completing a clock-wise loop back from Sandy Lane to Kingston. However, the map wrongly showed the (N)65 traversing High Street Kingston towards Chessington!

‘Your Guide to Bus Services from Kingston’ (Feb 2010) was welcome but omitted the new ‘First & Last Buses’ of the 65 & 71 as per 20th. On the map the 85 was shown terminating at Kingston Hall Road which it doesn’t till 24 April. Plus the usual omissions like the K3 Hail & Ride along Manor Rd South at Hinchley Wood as was the K5 Hail & Ride before and after Motspur Park station. On the Route Finder the 111 omitted 24hr. While the index omitted many places served by the 65 south of Kingston.

After countless years it still shows a Ticket Stop in Eden Walk instead of Adam’s Walk, er as listed over the page. And mysteriously only lists 3 out of the 8 agents which is similar to most other TfL guides!

Of the new Quadrant guides issued in January our **SW London Guide** uniquely has a bracketed (N) prefix for the 65 er, except for Claremont Road Surbiton which has the (65) in brackets instead!

Plus the 465 still wrongly shown as serving Penrhyn Road.

SCC are to reissue their **#8/9 Epsom** etc timetable book by 29 March. January saw both **#1 Staines** and **#2 Esher** reissued.

Kingston First (Town Centre Management) have again requested from KATA to proof-read their night bus **Zeddie Guide**. We had to add or amend about 20 items mainly relating to TfL artwork. Not least the depiction of Clapham Park (57) supposedly east of Clapham Junction (N87).

FARES & PASSES update

Freedom Pass no longer at 60 – New Labour ministers and countless MPs, not content with fiddling £thousands from the public purse, have quietly introduced an Act that anyone born after 6th April 1950 now get their Freedom Pass up to 1 & 5 years later aiming towards 65 for all. This includes yours truly (1951) and is yet another attack on ordinary people who have to pay for the collapse of capitalism, so supported by New Labour etc. <http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/freedompass/default.htm>

SHRUG reports that while **PAYG** is also available on National Rail within the London Zones anyone with a Travelcard on an Oyster who wishes to extend their journey beyond their Zones need to load an Oyster Extension Permit as is the need on the Tube. While the additional deducted fare is the same with or without an OEP you are likely to have Penalty Fare issued if an OEP is not loaded at the start of your journey, and then inspected outside your normal zone. TfL reports that only 3% of users are loading a OEP but are not yet issuing Penalty Fares but SWT are ignoring this instruction and issuing them. See ‘tickets’ at railforums.co.uk

Ticket Offices closing – SWT are to slash opening hours at 24 stations including: Barnes, Berrylands, Fulwell, Hampton, Malden Manor, Motspur Park, St. Margarets, Strawberry Hill and Whitton.

SWT claim that Oyster Pay As You Go has reduced the need for tickets but omit to say that you cannot top them up a station ticket machines. So write to SWT and then all correspondence to TravelWatch.

Plus, TfL are to get rid of 500 ticket hall staff – see page 6.

Not fair fares – There are numerous cases of Oystercards being over-charged at SWT Oyster readers, especially at Surbiton Station, so keep watch and phone 08453 309 876 within 28 days. Also don’t forget to touch-out .

Nicked at Vic – A 3-man pickpocket gang, stealing from elderly bus passengers, got 3½ years inside after the Met's Safer Transport Team followed them. One of the sophisticated gang would stand in front of a boarding passenger and drop coins, then a second would bump the victim causing a distraction while a third would pinch the purse from the shopping bag etc. After numerous crimes the STT called in a plain clothes CID squad and waited in Eden Street, and lo & behold the gang soon appeared the same morning. But each clapped eyes on the other and the gang jumped on a 71 to Cromwell Road while police found a car. Luckily, CCTV caught the gang switching to a X26 and the police caught up the bus at the Queen Vic. There the surprised trio, sitting separately, gave up peacefully.

All white, they were a 48yr-old from Stockwell and a 50yr-old and 17 yr-old from Lambeth, with the later getting 18months Youth Detention. Beware however because other pickpockets are busy all over, as one of our elderly members can alas, confirm firsthand.

Bus Death - Following a man's death by an Arriva 159 the court awarded damages to the family of £1.25million and £32,000 per year.

Courting danger - Many would have seen the name Geoff Rixon on bus photos since the 1950s and is still doing so but was injured by a 111 while cycling home through Hampton Court. (BoJo please note this was not a bendy bus, which incidentally have no more bicycle accidents than other buses !) All the best to Geoff.

Shattering News - A side window completely shattered on a X26 recently but held together. Ironically this was as we turned the bend at the junction of Beddington Lane er, near its 'C' Garage. But not perturbed we carried on to Heathrow and learnt it had happened twice before, presumably it had had an accident as evidenced by side markings. But passengers, oblivious to the danger sat in the seat thereafter.

**During the snow Metrobus had to use an 'X26' type on the 465.*

Fairground ride – On an 85 to Kingston the driver, unannounced, terminated the bus at Fairfield Bus Stn (where it does not stop) so that users had then to trek in the rain to Eden Street for a bus to High St. TfL have agreed that that it should have been announced so that users could have seamlessly switched buses in London Road.

Short on info - On a diverted 337 in Putney the blind showed the unusual "SHORT JOURNEY".

Open ended - LOTS reports that the original £3.3m cost to develop a new open platform bus has risen too £11.37 as there are 5 different prototypes being built. Plus, BoJo's obsession with replacing all bendy-buses is costing us £25million.

1938 – The Cobham Bus Museum are currently restoring T504 a bulbous shape 1938 single-decker that once saw service on the 213.

Sun 11 April - Open Day to celebrate Green Line's 80th Anniversary.

And on **Sat 17 July** a green Routemaster is expected to commemorate 50 years of the introduction of RMCs on route 715 by running from Victoria to Guildford.

Leeds above – Leeds City Council have approved a 9mile Trolleybus system, the first in UK for over 40 years.

Tic - ed off - Kingston TIC closed at the end of Feb but the Oyster machine has been moved into the library. Hounslow TIC and Croydon TIC have also shut down.

Phone Zone - BoJo has changed the TfL 020 7222 1234 to a more expensive 0843 222 1234 which can be 20p connection and then 10p per

min, plus removes it from free weekend etc calls for many. The old the 020 7222 1234 can still be used for a while.

Train Fire – On 7th Jan a SWT train caught fire outside Berrylands station so that 300 passengers had to walk to safety along the tracks and through heavy snow. Fire started in a power unit at around 09:15, with services held up for 2 hours, but SWT had not much to say.

The Pit – The ex international platforms at Waterloo, vacated in Nov 2007, are to be used for SWT by Xmas 2011, some 4 years after. The ‘orchestra pit’ containing present platforms 20/21-24 will be filled in. It costs some £3 million a year to keep these platforms idle.

Blue phase – Many would notice the new white-on-blue rail station signs replacing the multi-coloured ones of the respective operator.

This uniformity is welcome as is the inclusion of the zone number, except that New Malden omits this, ie zone 4. It is unclear if these are paid for by TfL or Network Rail.

Striking for safety - There is to be a Network Rail strike for 4 days after Easter (6-9 April) in protest at doing away with 1,500 track inspectors and replacing them with train-fitted cameras, which cannot see other track problems.

Similarly, Tube workers may strike over BoJo getting rid of around 500 ticket office staff which would leave stations unmanned. This is a reverse of an election promise.

All rail workers must be supported in their fight for rail safety.

Jarvis no more – As we go to press Jarvis, the rail ‘maintenance’ firm founded in Hackney in 1850, has gone bust and won’t be missed after their role in the Potters Bar fatalities of 2002. Jarvis you may recall had ‘inspected’ the track the day before. Its chief is Steven ‘shabbies’ Norris a former Tory Transport minister. However, we trust the 2,000 workers will be re-employed by a reputable company.

SWT/NR Timetable (Sun 23 May – Sat 11 Dec 2010) sees no changes to our local lines. But Easter weekend should see major engineering works between New Malden & Kingston with replacement buses.

Out West – On 2nd Oct London Overground learners were driving the 1963 diesel “Western Governor” between Richmond and Stratford. This was on hire by Serco from a company in Eastleigh.

Correction – Last time I wrongly stated that the high-speed Javelin service via Stratford was operated by Southern when it is SouthEastern.

Dawning upon us – Last New Year’s Eve did not include later and free trains on the Kingston Loop etc as this was due to BoJo blocking the funding of about £100,000.

And finally, As the elections approach (6th May) BoJo has been forced to sack his sixth deputy ‘Mayor’ for pinching money, one of whom was sentenced to many hours of Community Service.

Arrogance also manifested itself by a BoJo aid briefing the GLA transport committee wherein he indignantly asked the chair (John Biggs) if he was listening and was duly told that his services were no longer needed that day!

Our SW London GLA member Tony Arbour was suspended from his role on Richmond Council (Hampton Wick Councillor) for a month after revealing that his council spent £100,000 for a field in Broom Road it could have bought for £1 just eight years earlier.

Such is the shape of things to come should there be a Tory Government. And despite Cameron’s promise not to build a third catastrophic runway at Heathrow there are some Tories like Hesseltine that are pushing for it.

Meanwhile, Richmond Park constituency, (north of Kingston rail line) is being fought by Tory ‘non-dom’ Zac Goldsmith who was reportedly kicked out of Eton for illegal substances.

> Next KATalog web update will hopefully be by late-August <