

❄ **Kingston Area Travellers' Association** ❄

www.e-voice.org.uk/kata/ email: katalog281@blueyonder.co.uk

For your diary KATA meetings are on Wednesdays:-

6th March, 3rd July, 6th November 2013

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

[Apologies for cancelling the last meeting which was due to three of us with hospital appointments]



~ ~ ~ INDEX ~ ~ ~

- p1: **Fares & Passes**
- p2: **KATAList - bus route changes**
- p3: **Publicity & Omnibus**
- p4: **Keeping Track - rail news**
- p5: **Events & Xmas services**

☒ **FARES & PASSES** ----- Page 1 / 5 -

Fooling some of the people most of the time

The fare increases as reported last time are to be a repeat farce of last year. Like last year fares agreed by TfL and DfT etc, ie the Government, are then announced by the Con-Dems as being too expensive so lo&behold David Cameron announces at the Tory Conference that instead of the July RPI of 3.2% plus 3% it will 'only' be +1% ie 4.2%. Thus in reality back to the figure they first thought of. Are we that gullible?

NB: Some rail fares will still rise by around 10% or more.

Here are some TfL fares which are all Adult and commence on Wed 2nd Jan:-

Bus cash fare is up from £2.30 to £2.40 or **Bus Oyster** up from £1.35p to £1.40,
Oyster PAYG daily cap from £4.20 to £4.40 | **7day Bus/Tram pass** from £18.80 to £19.60.
Tube, DLR and London Overground cash fares and Oyster are up 10p or 20p.

Daily Travelcards: Anytime **Z1-4:** £10.60 to £11 | **Z1-6:** £15.80 to £16.40
Off-Peak **Z1-4:** £7.70 to £8.00 | **Z1-6:** £8.50 to £8.90.

The **daily Oyster** PAYG cap for Bus, Tube, DLR & Rail travel will be frozen at 2012 levels:

Anytime **Z1-4:** £8.40 | **Z1-6:** £15.80 | Off-Peak: **Z1-4:** £7 | **Z1-6:** £8.50

7day Travelcards: **Z1-4:** £41.80 to £43.60 | **Z1-6:** £53.40 to £55.60 | **Z2-6:** £36.40 to £38.00

Monthly Travelcards are 3.84 times the weekly and **Annual** are 40 times the weekly.

Plus all **Cycle Hire** doubles: Daily to £2, Weekly to £10, Annual to £90.

✳ *Sometime next year will see the launch of contactless payment on the transport network – Phase one on London's 8,500 buses will give users the option by paying their single bus journeys using a 'contactless' credit or debit card. However, new Contactless bank cards in the same wallet as Oysters & Freedom Passes cancel each other out and is a major problem.*

OAP Oyster - The Mayor's scheme to give a **60+ London OYSTER CARD** to those Londoners aged 60+ is now in place. This lasts until you qualify for the Freedom Pass proper at age 61+ and rising. It is valid all modes but note that it is only valid in Greater London plus all TfL bus, Overground and Tube routes beyond which includes the parallel Chiltern Rail to Amersham. Some 100,000 are expected to benefit straightaway and then around 20,000 a month. Apply at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tickets/25830.aspx> and it costs a one-off £10 and but you can phone: 08453 319 872.

Third off Rail - The DfT launched a year trial on 2 Sep wherein all holders of the England Pass / Freedom Pass pay only a third on First Great Western's Worcester-Swindon, and Westbury-Weymouth services. Otherwise a third-off OAP Rail Card costs £28.

Which? Rail Delay Claim Back - A new train delay tool on the Which? website <http://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/travel-rights/train-delays/train-delay-tool/> claims to "cut through the confusion and show you in seconds what you're entitled to."

The facility covers every British train company and length of delay, but doesn't cover monthly and annual season tickets. The introductory notes invite you to "select the train company you were travelling with, then the length of time by which you were delayed, and you'll see what percentage of your train ticket you are entitled to claim back." – thanks to STORM via Rail Express

1st Reich: In October Chancellor Osborne was caught in a First-Class carriage with a standard ticket but instead of being taken to court and fined, as us ordinary mortals would have been, he was simply asked to pay the additional fare of, er, £190 to Euston. However, this was not without a fuss apparently and Virgin staff managed to hold back on getting on the blower to the BTP saying "Euston we have a problem".

Multi-millionaire Osborne has a history of not having the correct 1st Class ticket.

✳ *Ministers are no longer recompensed for 1st Class travel unless it is less than an Anytime-Standard ticket! →*



Sat 29/09/12

265 (Putney Bridge Stn - Tolworth) London United (TV)

Minor timing changes mainly affecting SDO vs NSD.

*The 3 new pairs of stops on Beverley Way service roads s/b & n/b between Coombe Lane Flyover & Carter's Bridge are to be installed by next Autumn.

Sat 10/11/12

267 (Hammersmith – Fulwell) London United (FW)

New timetable mainly juggling the SDO vs NSD. Summer Sunday/Bank Holiday extension to Hampton Court proposed to be withdrawn subject to consultation.

281

Sat 02/07/12

(Tolworth – Hounslow) London United (FW)

Missed was this new timetable mainly affecting SDO vs NSD times.

Late Spring 2013

465 (Kingston - Dorking) Quality Line (EB)

*The pair of stops at Malden Rushett Garden Centre that were due by now have been delayed due to having to remove a small tree southbound which may affect **bats** for which a night survey is being carried out. Assuming bats are OK stops and pedestrian island now due late Spring. Meanwhile a new green 'RBK-Malden Rushett' sign has been installed near the said stop, albeit have left the old blue one!

Mon 03/09/12

655 SDO (Mitcham – Raynes Park High School) London General (AL)

School departures standardised at 15:30 on all school days (still via 152 routeing).

Mon 01/10/12 (actually changed on 3rd Sep)

671 SDO (Chessington Sth Stn – Tiffin Girls) London United (FW)

Tiffins' departures changed to 15:15 M-F despite a timetable on 1st Sep giving Mon-Thu: 16:05 & Fri: 15:05 and with minor timing changes. The school had clearly failed to notify TfL! (**613 & 691** also saw minor timing changes on 3rd Sep as forecast)

Mon 03/10/12

E15 SDO (Epsom – The Avenue Stoneleigh/W.Park) Quality Line (EB)

SDO variation of E16 with one return journey AM & PM but initially (4th Sep) the AM only ran to Auriol School despite both-ways on timetable but shortly after, coinciding with E15 & E16 becoming more or less commercial, the 07:36 was reinstated! Much confusion and cost not least to TfL who produce the t/t panels for stops. E15 is shown on E5 t/t but not on E16 TfL version which in turn lost an afternoon SDO journey to provide bus for E15 which, note, does not venture into Greater London.

Sat 29/09/12

K1 (Kingston – New Malden Stn) London United (TV)

Simply the Waitrose stop in New Malden was moved back around the corner into Dukes Avenue thus making a short hop from the station departure stop.

*As pointed out last time the odd journey from Ace of Spades is *every* Mon-Fri afternoon despite both the TfL's SW map and the Greater London Bus Map erroneously giving SDO!

Sat 29 June 2013

K1 (Kingston – New Malden Stn) London United (TV) to Abellio (TF)

K3 (Roehampton Vale ASDA - Esher) London United (TV) to Abellio (TF)

Both routes contracted to Abellio for 5 years and with new buses K1: x9, K3: x11+1. This is the first time in their 25year history they have been contracted to another operator albeit they 'moved' from LT to Westlink upon privatisation in 1994 but were then in bought by West Midlands Travel and then in 1995 by National Express then London United. So instead of the parent company being RATP (French Paris Metro) they transfer to the Dutch State Railways. Routes will operate from Abellio's Fulwell Garage (backing on to LU garage) who also run the 290,481,R68,R70.

*The **216, K2, K4** are retained by LU using buses off the 222 & 493 - except K4.

Sat 10/11/12 – Sat 5 Jan 2013 (not 13th Jan as was given on RBK website & LOTS!)

K50 Park&Ride (Chessington Wofa – Eden St (PR)) London United (TV)

Thurs evening now same as Mon-Fri but no service 25 & 26 Dec & 1 Jan. Return fare £2.30 and no Passes but 2-month Season ticket is £30 from Market House who, er, don't have any (confusing) timetable leaflets, thus available at Guildhall 2 only.

Sat 25/10/12

N22 (Piccadilly - Richmond - Fulwell) London General (AF/AL)

Some journeys up to 10min longer. New timetable is 5yrs to the day since the last. →



A Tangled Web They Weave! – Looking at bus operators' web sites they don't inspire the confidence of users, and all the errors go back many years. They have all acknowledged their errors but not yet amended:-

London United's list of routes omits '24hr' from both 33 & 72 which they have been for donkeys. Plus the 965 is listed under School routes which it is not and runs every Mon&Fri. Nor do they have links to timetables and instead refer to TfL web-site!

While at **Quality Line** their list gives the S3 as Sutton Hospital – Worcester Park when it has been to Malden Manor for 2 years. Plus gives the 641 Molesey – Kingston when it is not as per the 411 but Molesey – Teddington School!

And finally, **RBK's** site lists these:- 57/N57 gives Streattham instead of CLAPHAM PARK, 65 omits CHESSINGTON at night, 131 gives Wimbledon instead of TOOTING, 213 gives Croydon instead of SUTTON - day&night, omits route 461 (Kingston - St Peters Hosp), 467 gives Chessington instead of HOOK, S3 gives W.Park instead of MALDEN MANOR, both K2 & K4 give Kingston instead of KINGSTON HOSPITAL, and also omits KU5, 613, 641, 668 but does give 655 er, just outside RBK and lastly gives the 801 which was withdrawn a year ago.

The Big Red Book is a TfL drivers' handbook of 300+ pages that covers everything including a listing of all London's bus routes and here is a selection of local errors:- 85 & 371 omits 'Kingston' for Hall Road, 371 gives Dee Rd instead of Manor Circus Sainsburys, 131 includes DLR logo at Wimbledon, 152 gives the long-gone New Malden police station instead of Fountain, 493 omits Manor Circus before Richmond Stn, K1 gives Hook journey as SDO instead of every Mon-Fri.

TfL's quadrant bus maps (Central, NE & SE) dated July with Olympic venues marked were a limited print run and were not available at Kingston's Bus Stns etc albeit the July SW & NW were. The three 'Olympics' versions were reissued in Oct and are generally available. Meanwhile, our SW still shows the 493 along Hartfield Rd on the Wimbledon inset map er, some 6 years after it was re-routed via Alexandra Rd, Plough Lane etc. Also erroneous is the continued one-way arrows on Worple Road !

London Tramlink reissued the User Guide dated August but only has a frequency guide rather a proper timetable. Moreover the route diagram on centre pages has been made unnecessarily more linear and is therefore squashed with smaller type rather than the previous upward-ended Wimbledon and Beckenham & Elmers End and the downward New Addington of which the posters remain in this clear fashion!

1SCC's **#5 Epsom t/t book** is dated 1st Sept but omits the 773 & 775 that serve Banstead! Plus 467 SDO to Hinchley Wood omits the timing of 07:57 at the Ace of Spades. While the 516 t/t shows starting at Dorking's South Street but the Stops map (p65) erroneously gives stop N on High St as the first and also omits Vincent Street. New books **#4 Guildford** and **#3 Blackwater** also appeared in early Sept while both **#2 Woking** and **#6 Redhill** are due in December.

Correction: In last edition under **New Countdown screens** we inadvertently gave '471 & 481' as SCC routes etc that don't appear but should have read 458 & 459 etc. →



Olympians - As you recall the bus drivers' strike secured the Olympic bonus of £577 each albeit with £8.3m from the Olympic Delivery Authority and a promise of 50% of the extra bus revenue but TfL say that bus usage overall remained the same and so no extra! However as the £8.3m didn't cover the initial bonus then we ask if the operators reluctantly coughed up the difference of an estimated £10m ? It's all very quiet.

LTs – The 3-door hybrid LTs (eight on route 38) are to be joined by another 600 and all due by 2016. All for central London routes but are to be owned by TfL and leased to the operators which works out cheaper as the contract price is lower. However, the conductors (otherwise drivers) when used are being paid by TfL which is around £61,000 per bus per year for 2.6 conductors per bus per day. But buses will be speeded up accordingly and presumably require less. *The August heat caused problems for passengers wherein the cooling system was lacking and are being modified.

The Emirates Cable Car is only carrying 10% of the expected passengers not least due to its expensive fares of £4.30 cash or £3.20 with an Oyster.

Correction: Last time it was wrongly stated that the £16 multi-journey Boarding Pass gives you 10 returns when it's 10 singles - £1.60 each way.

Bay-Watch: There is a welcome TfL bus campaign advising push-chair owners to vacate the bay for wheelchair users who have priority. Meanwhile the adjacent and dangerous fold-down seats can be still be found on some local buses but are being phased out and new vehicles don't have them but there has not been a TfL directive to operators to bolt shut the existing ones. →

West Coast Rail franchise gone West – First Group had been awarded the WCML franchise but Virgin claimed that First's promised penalty payments were far too costly to be true. Well it then transpired that the 4 bidders (inc Dutch Abellio and French SNCF) had each been given different data on which to bid and the Government have had to restart the process all over but not before some £50 million has been repaid by taxpayers to the four to cover their bids. The Con-Dems not only made the bidding more complicated and above all flawed they had already sacked many civil-servants at the DfT and instead of saving dosh they wasted a fortune. This being the Tory's costliest blunder since Thatcher's reversal of the hated Poll Tax – albeit replaced with the Council Tax. In an old "*Yes Minister*" Humphrey tells us that the average span of a minister is just 11 months, and 30 odd years later little has changed as the recently appointed Transport Secretary - Patrick McLoughlin - is the third since May 2010 but wonder for how much longer in light of his WCML fiasco.

We do however assume that if Virgin (49% owned by Stagecoach) had won the bid they would not have said a dicky-bird. Meanwhile, Virgin have been asked to carry on for 9-13 months after 9 Dec, but the terms are yet to be decided but we can be sure that Branson will be paid well for doing the Con-Dems a favour despite Virgin's West Coast being one of the most complained about services. First Group are also seeking compensation as their shares lost £240 million after the ConDems un-awarded the 15 year contract.

RMT's Bob Crow rightly said "*The whole sorry and expensive shambles of rail privatisation has been dragged into the spotlight and instead of rerunning this expensive circus, the route should be renationalised on a permanent basis*".

Four other franchises have also now been delayed: Great Western, East Coast, Essex Thameside, and Thameslink (to be joined with Southern and Great Northern).

★ *While the new **London Bridge Bus Station** opened in October the rail station is being completely rebuilt from 2013-2018 mainly to better accommodate Thameslink. Meanwhile, from Dec 9th Thameslink will divert via Elephant&Castle while some Southern trains will divert to Victoria until around 2016.*



Mux a Muddle at SWT – Despite Ashford being in Surrey for the past 47 years the SWT announcements still proclaim "*Ashford Middlesex*" despite their tickets, maps and destination screens stating Surrey. So without a response after 6 months of asking them to modify announcements we sought the help of TravelWatch. They could only elicit that SWT acknowledged this error and indeed others but had no money to change them despite Stagecoach boss Souter and his sister being worth £qtr of a billion. Meanwhile, SWT maps over train doors still show "Kempton - race days only" despite being a normal stop for the past 6 years or so. This problem could be solved with Tippex.

Finally, two weeks before the clocks went back, many, if not all of SWT's trains were showing GMT instead of BST!

★ *Just when you thought you've had enough of the Olympics it maybe noted that while many rail operators put on later trains our SWT did not thus catching many unaware at Waterloo. Nor did they put on extra trains for the Weymouth events and instead told users to er, "drive". SWT also, at short notice, banned non-folding bikes on all trains even out in the sticks.*

SWT Timetable (9th Dec) – Only known changes affecting KATA area is extra running time on the Chessington branch to make it more reliable.

From 9th Dec the final **London Overground extension** opens thus linking Dalston Junction and Clapham Junction via existing LO stations to Surrey Quays, then new 1km link to Queens Road-Peckham then Peckham Rye, Denmark Hill, Clapham High St, Wandsworth Rd and Clapham Junction serving the adjacent LO platform to Willesden Junction etc. Running every 15mins.

This effectively displaces the current direct Southern service between London Bridge and Victoria via Denmark Hill. So before then it's worth getting the half-hourly service which takes 30mins and takes in Millwall FC, Peckham Rye and Battersea Power Stn etc. <http://www.bellenden.net/srug>

★ *New **London Rail & Tube Map**, incorporating the above, is due from 9th December coinciding with the Winter etc rail timetables.*

At the helm! - BoJo's election 'promise' that we would soon see driverless Tube trains is feffel as TfL has no dosh for such fripperies. Even as late as 18 Oct the Mayor was still talking about getting rid of drivers but just a week later the TfL announcement came, er of which BoJo is chair! Thus we have been saved many lives. →

**Sunday 2nd December**

There is a free service between 10:00-16:00 using red RFs on the 213 & 200 which is to commemorate 60 years of RFs entering service on 200: 1st Dec 1952 and on 213: 12th Dec 1952. Note the main service is on the 213 (Kingston – Sutton) about every 15mins plus two part-journeys on ‘200’ (Kingston CRBS-Raynes Park-Copse Hill-Wimbledon-Copse Hill-Raynes Park-New Malden). www.red-rf.com

**XMAS & NEW YEAR SERVICES** (Tramlink to be as per buses):-

(NB: Alas TfL are not issuing the Seasonal travel info booklet so check their web)

Xmas Eve - Mon 24th December 2012:

TfL buses run normally including **965** but 24hr services finish just after midnight, and NO night buses. Less Tubes after 19:00 and Trains finish around 21:00.

Xmas Day - Tues 25th December:

No buses or Night buses, Tubes or trains, except special buses to/from Heathrow.

Boxing Day - Wed 26th December:

TfL Bus services have a normal Sunday service starting at normal Sunday times while 24hr services start about 06:00. Almost no SCC routes. Night buses operate a Sun -Thur night service. The Tube has a Saturday service if not on strike for sufficient pay for working anti-social hours. No London Overground or SWT trains etc.

Thurs 27th & Fri 28th December:

A Saturday service, plus our **965** runs on Friday. Night Buses run normally. Most trains operate a Saturday service.

Sat 29th December:

A Saturday service on all modes.

Sun 30th December:

A Sunday service on all modes.

New Year's Eve - Mon 31st December:

A Saturday service except buses withdrawn from Central London between 17:00 & 03:00. Some 56 day routes and Tramlink will run through the night, but Night Buses terminate outside the Central area with our N87 terminating at Vauxhall. The Tube has a Saturday service and runs through the night while London Overground has later trains. SWT run a Saturday service and between 01:00 & 04:00 expected to run the Kingston loop but will charge. All TfL modes are free between 23:45 & 04:30.

New Years Day - Tues 1st January 2013:

Normal Sunday services but Tube has a reduced service between 05:00-11:00 and then a Sat service. SWT trains to be a Sunday service but others either Sat or Sun.



- **Links – for further info** -----

last page

cont...

Customer Services, TfL London Buses, Zone B5, 14 Pier Walk, SE10 OES
 ☎ **0845 300 7000** (08:00-20:00 Mon-Fri) | 24hr Travel enq: ☎ **0843 222 1234**
customerservices@tfl-buses.co.uk or <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

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

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

or

<http://www.busmap.co.uk> / (NB: GREATER LONDON & NIGHT BUS MAPS available)

or SCC routes etc at –

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccewbsite/sccewspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTf/Bus+timetables?opendocument

NB: London TravelWatch has moved to Dexter House, 2 Royal Mint Court, London EC3N 4QN and the new telephone number is: ☎ **020 3176 2999**



KATA sends seasonal greetings to all readers.



And Finally, a thought for Xmas;
“Do ghost trains stop at manifestations?”

> Next KATAlOG web update will be next Spring <

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