

# Yorkshire Rail Campaigner

No 4 March 2009

*railfuture* Yorkshire

## Rail Regulator signals approval for new East Coast Main Line services - great news for Bradford, Halifax, Brighouse and Pontefract!

by Graham Collett

**The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) announced its proposed decision on East Coast Main Line track access applications on 29 January.**

Subject to confirmation of its proposals following consultation, Grand Northern (sister company to Grand Central) has been given permission to operate three daily trains from Bradford Interchange to London Kings Cross, calling at Halifax, Brighouse, Pontefract, Wakefield, and Doncaster, until 2014. "Let us now hope that the long overdue improvements to Wakefield Kirkgate & Pontefract Monkhill stations are made a priority" said Branch Chair Chris Hyomes.

The ORR announcement also included:

- a fourth Grand Central Sunderland weekday and Saturday service running until May 2012 (when its current track access contract expires);
- conversion of the twelve (six each way) National Express East Coast contingent rights between Leeds and London King's Cross to firm rights until December 2011;
- continuation of the current access rights, but all as firm rights, for seven weekday and five weekend Hull Trains services each way between Hull and London King's Cross until December 2014.



Class 180 trains are likely to be used on the new service from Bradford to Kings Cross via Brighouse and Wakefield (photo Paul Colbeck)

The ORR also supported an application, by National Express East Coast, to operate an enhanced service on the route, including services from London to Lincoln and Harrogate. But this will require Department for Transport approval and depend on route capacity.

The ORR was expected to announce its final decision by the end of February.

### Forthcoming Railfuture Yorkshire Events

Sat 21st March 2009: **Branch AGM and Lunch** at the Huddersfield Hotel, 41, Kirkgate, Huddersfield—see page 4 for details

Saturday 9th May 2009: **National AGM** at the Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place Leeds (see Railwatch for details) —all offers of help to Mike Crowhurst please

Saturday 20th June 2009: Branch Meeting in Hebden Bridge

Saturday 19th September Branch Meeting in Harrogate

### Press Date for June 2009 issue

Please email (preferred) or post material to: Graham Collett 16 Wilstrop Farm Rd Copmanthorpe York YO23 3RY graham@collettgh.plus.com **by Friday 24th April.**

## Re-openings back on the Agenda?

by Graham Collett and Nina Smith

**A surprising offer of Government funding for new local and regional train services might enable the reopening of much needed rail lines and stations.**

This apparent dramatic change in government policy was announced to the House of Commons by Transport Secretary Geoff Hoon on 5<sup>th</sup> February.

The scheme would provide an offer of long-term financial support for “new and enhanced rail services and calls at new stations that are promoted successfully by local authorities and Passenger Transport Authorities.” To benefit from the new arrangements, the new or enhanced service would have to have been run successfully for the first three years and show good value for money. If successful the new service could then be included within a franchise agreement, guaranteeing its future operation. Services which have proved successful could get funding from April 2014, from a budget set in 2012.

The DfT says that initiatives might include new or improved services during weekends or late at night, or more frequent off-peak services in rural or semi-rural areas. An obvious candidate would be the Knottingley to Goole line, with its very limited passenger service. Whilst the DfT refers to “new stations being served by existing services”, it is unclear whether reopening of lines would qualify under this scheme.

David Maudsley of SELRAP said “Even if it does not go as far as reinstatement of a totally closed line, it might be appropriate to draw the announcement to the attention of Lancashire CC

### Branch Visits by Phil Watson Branch Membership Secretary

**The following visits are planned for this year:** Sheffield Supertram Depot/Control Centre; York IECC (Integrated Electronic Control Centre) & Siemens First TransPennine Express Maintenance Depot; Corus Steel Works/Appleby Frodingham Railway Preservation Society Scunthorpe (joint trip with Lincs/North Notts Branch); Associated British Ports King George’s Dock Coal Handling Terminal Hull. For more information please get in touch with Phil, especially if you have any local contacts who could help with making the visit arrangements.

### Fifth Hourly Leeds - Huddersfield - Manchester Service proposed by the Draft Yorkshire & Humber Rail Utilisation Study (RUS) by Tony Ross

The RUS proposes an option to run this additional service to and from York. A strong body of opinion on the north bank of the Humber, including local authorities, would like to see this service run to and from Selby, Brough and Hull, providing a half-hourly service between Hull and Manchester, and relieving overcrowding between Hull, Selby and Leeds at peak times. **Do you agree with their assessment? Please let the Chairman or Secretary know your views as soon as possible.**

**Wakefield Kirkgate Station** is a notorious no-go area. In October a young woman was raped and the Wakefield Express has reported countless other assaults and robberies. The paper has had a massive amount of feedback from people who say they are too scared to use the station and fear for their own safety. But Northern Rail said that crimes were so few people should not be worried and refused to put staff on the station. The Wakefield Express (supported by Railfuture Yorkshire) have now started a S.O.S (Staff Our Station) campaign.

We urge every member of Railfuture to follow the link below and sign the paper’s on line petition <http://www2.wakefieldtoday.co.uk/kirkgatestation.htm> We do hope that the forthcoming introduction of the Grand Northern Bradford to London service (see page 1) will help to put this station “back on the map”!



Tony Ross, one of the Founder Members of the Minsters Rail Campaign (York to Beverley), points out details of the route (photo: Graham Collett)

and North Yorkshire CC, encouraging them to press for Colne - Skipton to be put on the list.” Details of the new DfT scheme at: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/strategyfinance/revisedpolicyfunding>

## Branch Key Contacts

**Chairman: Chris Hyomes**

12 Monument Lane, Pontefract  
WF8 2BE

Email: [chrishyomes@supanet.com](mailto:chrishyomes@supanet.com)

**Secretary: Nina Smith**

14 Bank Terrace Hebden Bridge  
HX7 6BU

**Treasurer: Andrew Oldfield**

14 Long Lane, Worrall, Sheffield  
S35 0AF

**Press Officer/ Parliamentary**
**Liaison Officer: Peter Yates**

26 All Saints View

Woodlesford Leeds LS26 8NG

Email: [petyates53@uk2.net](mailto:petyates53@uk2.net)

**Information Officer:**
**Graham Collett**

16 Wilstrop Farm Rd Copmanthorpe  
York YO23 3RY

Email: [graham@collettgh.plus.com](mailto:graham@collettgh.plus.com)

**Membership Secretary and**
**Visits Organiser: Phil Watson**

8 Millfield Lane, Wilberfoss, York  
YO41 5PP

Email: [watson804@btinternet.com](mailto:watson804@btinternet.com)

**Yorkshire Rail Campaigner on the Web**

<http://www.railfuture.org.uk/tiki-index.php?page=Yorkshire%20Branch>

## Help Save Us Time and Money!

Please let our Membership Secretary Phil Watson know if you are new to e-mail and would like to receive your newsletter electronically. It is a very quick and cost effective way of contacting members and can save the Branch considerable amounts on printing, postage and envelopes - not to mention "sweated labour" - over a year. Please also advise Phil if you change your e-mail address so that he can ensure you receive your newsletter "hot off the press"!

## Chairman's Column by Chris Hyomes

I have just finished reading an article entitled "Electrification plans expand to take in more routes" (*Railnews February 2009*). It is indeed good news that Network Rail are examining plans for extensive infill electrification, in addition to proposals to electrify major parts of the Great Western and Midland main lines. Potential routes for electrification include Leeds/West Yorkshire area, plus Leeds-York-Scarborough and Leeds-Hull. However, before we get too excited, the plans which are due to be published in the summer have to go before the Government. Transport Minister Geoff Hoon said "we will analyse the **value for money, affordability and financing options of the electrification proposals** which Network Rail will put to me shortly"

We in Railfuture, both nationally and locally, will be working hard to ensure Network Rail's plans come to fruition. However, this can only be achieved by lobbying at the highest level, presenting clear and factual evidence, maintaining a high level of good quality publicity and by working with the Rail Unions, Train Operating Companies and Network Rail while at the same time keeping our independence.

I look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming Branch AGM in Huddersfield.

## Rail Developments in South Yorkshire by Nina Smith and Graham Collett

Members attending the last Branch meeting in Rotherham (on 17th January) enjoyed an interesting presentation by Roy Mitchell, Principal Public Transport Manager, South Yorkshire PTE.

Amongst the topics covered in Roy's talk or raised in questions were: planned automatic ticket barriers at Sheffield station, the possibility of Tram-trains running from Rotherham to Sheffield, possible new stations at Parkgate and Robin Hood Airport and overcrowding on the Sheffield to/from Manchester, and Liverpool to Norwich services (with new/cascaded rolling stock being sought). Also discussed were the need for an improved service on the Sheffield - Lincoln line (especially on Sunday mornings), the lack of proposals by the PTE for new (or reopened) stations in the Sheffield travel to work area and the 200 new diesel units recently announced by the Government (to be shared between Northern and First Great Western).

## Annual General Meeting: Saturday 21st March 2009

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Railfuture Yorkshire will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2009 at the Huddersfield Hotel, 41 Kirkgate, Huddersfield, commencing at 11am.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008)
3. Matters Arising.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Secretary's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Appointment of Officers.  
(a) Chairman (b) Vice Chairman (c) Secretary (d) Treasurer (e) Assistant Treasurer (f) Auditor (g) Membership Secretary (h) Parliamentary Liaison Officer
8. Any other Business.

NOMINATIONS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE POSITIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY (FOR ADDRESS SEE PAGE 3) NO LATER THAN **MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**.

**Nina Smith**

**Secretary**

## Branch Annual Luncheon

The Branch AGM will be followed by the Branch Annual Luncheon at 1pm at the Huddersfield Hotel. This year's Guest Speaker will be **Steve Butcher, Area Director East, Northern Rail**. For further details, please see the enclosed flyer and booking form. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL BOOKINGS MUST REACH CHRIS HYOMES NO LATER THAN **MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**.

**2008 Annual Review:** As announced at the last Branch meeting, we are not producing an Annual Review this year. However, we hope to produce one or more publicity brochures jointly with local groups or campaigns. If you have any ideas for these or can offer help or advice please contact any Branch Officer.

## Loss of Doncaster EWS (now DB Schenker) 'Enterprise' Railfreight Hub by Tony Ross

The 'Enterprise' wagonload services use a 'hub and spoke' system, with yards at Wembley, Bescot, Warrington, Doncaster, Mossend and Newport being the major 'hubs', from where trip workings serve terminals in each area. From December, Doncaster was removed as an 'Enterprise' hub and the MWFO 'Enterprise' trip working to Hull Docks and return became instead a loaded steel working outwards (to Hull), with empties or scrap metal on return. Immingham, which was a 'spoke' from Doncaster, is now served from Warrington.

## Improved Sunday Services by Alan J Sutcliffe and Graham Collett

The December 2008 new timetable saw some welcome improvements in Sunday services. These include an hourly Leeds–Barnsley–Sheffield–Nottingham service, three trains per hour between Leeds, Bradford and Halifax and an hourly service between York and Hebden Bridge, extended to Blackpool from May. There are also three TransPennine Express trains per hour between Leeds, Huddersfield and Manchester from mid-day on Sundays and an hourly local Sunday service between Huddersfield, Marsden and Manchester—ideal for walkers!

**Stop Press:** An improved service on the **Hull-Scarborough line** could be introduced from December, if plans submitted by Northern Rail are accepted. These include an improved weekday service on the line after 3pm and the extension of summer Sunday services to run all year around, doubling the number of trains on this day. The outcome should be known by July. Our thanks to the Hull Daily Mail/East Riding Mail website <http://www.thisishullandeastriding.co.uk> for this information