



**British Section**

**Newsletter**

**Vol.22 No.4**

**June 2018**

## **European Association of Railway Personnel**

**Association Européenne des Cheminots (AISBL)**

**International Association (A.R. 4.2.1985)**

**International Non-governmental Organisation with advisory status to the  
Council of Europe (6.4.1977)**

**International Non-governmental Organisation with consultative status to  
the UN (decision E/ 2002/ of 22.07.2002) and member of the  
United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

**Registered address: A.E.C (AISBL). - 25 Square de Meeus 1000 Brussels, Belgium**

**AEC EUROPEAN BUREAU – elected at the General Assembly at Poznan (PL),  
September 2017.**

**European President: Nicolae Dutu (RO)).**

**Vice-President: Dott. Giuseppe Cirillo (I)**

**European Secretary: Malgorzata (Margaret) Boczek-Kwaczynska (PL).**

**Asst European Secretary: Philip Worsfold, B.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E. (GB)**

E-mail: [wors@8bwhi.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:wors@8bwhi.eclipse.co.uk)

**Treasurer: Karl Eder (A). Asst Treasurer: Walter Rohr (A)**

#### **AEC BRITISH SECTION COMMITTEE**

The committee, officers (other than the President) elected at the Annual General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, is as follows

##### **Honorary President:**

Colin Charman,  
Operations Manager  
Eurostar Engineering Centre.

##### **Past Honorary President & Hon. Life Member:**

Theo Steel (formerly Project Director ONE Railway)

##### **President:**

Bob Clark, 52 Farcroft Road, POOLE, Dorset. BH1 2 3BQ.

E-mail: [bob.aec.bs.eu@gmail.com](mailto:bob.aec.bs.eu@gmail.com)

##### **Vice-president:**

Patrick Rigby,  
E-mail: [patrickrigby13@gmail.com](mailto:patrickrigby13@gmail.com) (NEW)

##### **Secretary:**

Jenny Worsfold,  
E-mail: [jenworsfold@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jenworsfold@tiscali.co.uk)

##### **Assistant Secretary:**

Peter Davies  
E-mail: [peter@24foxglove.co.uk](mailto:peter@24foxglove.co.uk)

##### **Visits Secretary:**

Post left vacant

##### **Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recruitment Officer:**

E-mail: [nigel.hyde6@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.hyde6@btinternet.com)

##### **Checker of Accounts:**

Colin Charman,

The British Section Newsletter is produced by a small team headed by Philip Worsfold, who fulfils the non-committee role of Editor and Translator.

**A.E.C. BRITISH SECTION NEWSLETTER, Vol. 22 No. 4  
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**IMPORTANT NOTICE.**

**A form relating to the new General Data Protection Regulations is attached to this newsletter. Please ensure that you complete it and return it to the editor – by post or e-mail to the Editor, Philip Worsfold, at the address on page 2. He will pass the copies to the Secretary.**

**The European web page is at: <http://www.A-E-C.net> (now updated)**

AEC Latvia is at [www.ldz.lv/biedriba/](http://www.ldz.lv/biedriba/)

AEC Spain is at <http://www.aec-es.net/>

Poland is at [www.aecpl.republika.pl](http://www.aecpl.republika.pl) (*Private site, not officially recognised.*)

AEC Austria is at [www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf](http://www.aec-oesterreich.at.tf)

AEC Romania is at [www.aecaferom.xhost.ro](http://www.aecaferom.xhost.ro)

Due to security issues the **British Section Website** and the **British Section Facebook** page have been closed down. A new website is under consideration. The French website has also closed due to the webmaster's ill health. The British Section Newsletter will still be available on line on line at the European website.

## EDITORIAL

The General Data Protection Regulations are now upon us and this means there must be some changes in how we handle information about our members and friends. The newsletter is distributed not just to our members but to officers and friends in other sections in Europe, as well as other interested parties in the U.K. It has the widest distribution of any communication by the British section. The new regulations apply throughout Europe and include organisations from outside Europe which do business within the European Union. To a large extent they bring the rest of Europe into line with existing British legislation but go a little bit beyond. We are not 100% sure if the new regulations apply to small organisations such as the British section of AEC, but since we are part of something bigger, we aim to comply.

As Editor it falls upon me to arrange the distribution of the newsletter and this is done either by e-mail (attachment) or by post. How you receive it is your choice and some members receive it in both formats. In order to do this I have a database of names, addresses and e-mails. This I keep securely on a computer which is password protected and to which only I have access. I am not the only person who needs to retain information to be able to contact you. The treasurer needs to be able to deal with subscriptions and reminders; and the secretary needs to be able to contact you on matters concerning meetings etc. and they may require to contact you also by telephone. But overall, I have the biggest outreach.

Under the new regulations we need your permission to use the data we hold if you wish to continue to receive the newsletter – even if you remain a member; to be reminded about your subscription or to receive other information about the association.

In the e-mailed edition of the newsletter, you will find that the usual membership application form has been replaced with a form you can use to let us know your wishes. A paper copy is included with the printed edition. Readers in Europe receive the form in English, French, German and Italian. **Please take a moment to complete the form in the language in which you are comfortable; and return it to me at the address/e-mail shown under 'Asst European Secretary' at the top of page 2.** I shall advise the secretary and treasurer of the information relating to members of the European Bureau and the Administrative Council; and those of members of the British section. They will then maintain their own secure databases. For the future, a new membership application form will include the options available to new members.

The British section officers shown on page 2 are those elected at the Annual General Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April. They have already given their consent to the publication of the details shown and their willingness to receive communications. You are welcome to contact them but please remember that in doing so; you consent to their responding to you.

If you have not already done so, **please be sure to respond either by e-mail or by post. Otherwise we shall be required to delete / destroy all your data and contact with you will be lost.**

The future of the British section was discussed again at the AGM, following a suggestion that it should quietly be disbanded. The person who made the suggestion was not present at the meeting and there was no support from those who were. However the post of visits officer was left vacant pending further discussions. In the meantime, Nigel Hyde is researching the possibility of a visit to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway in September and a return visit to the Brewery at Oakham in October. There was a feeling that with a few exceptions members did not know one another very well and some longer events with overnight stays might go some way to overcome this.

On other matters, several of us are looking forward to European Days in Sicily; and hope that the weather there will be better there than it has been of late in Britain. That said, I recall that during a previous visit to Italy there was a torrential storm and some parts we travelled through were recovering from an earthquake. This time we'll not be far from Mount Etna... so watch this space! Hopefully we shall find out the definitive venue for the 2019 European Days.

Soon afterwards, a couple of us – one of them me - will be attending the FEANDC Congress in Mons in Belgium and the following week a few more – including me again; I'll hardly have time to change my underwear – will be off to Amiens to join our French friends in discovering (or in some cases revisiting) the Baie de Somme area. With the exception of the latter, we seem to have navigated ourselves around the strikes on French Railways, apart from the journey home from Amiens. We've mostly opted to stay on an extra day – no harm in that!

### **Reminders.**

**Please also take note of the changes to the national details - on page 2.**

**Don't forget to return your GDPR form.**

### **Recruitment**

Nigel Hyde has been elected as Treasurer and membership Secretary as well as Recruitment Officer. Any ideas you have should be channelled through him. All enquiries about membership should be addressed to **Nigel Hyde**. **Please note telephone number and e-mail address on page 2.**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Bob Clark.**

***Below is the full text of the report that Bob gave to the AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> April. The questions he asked were discussed at the meeting and the outcomes will be found elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.***

As we are approaching another European days event in 2018 I am looking forward to travelling to Taormina along with my sister and the others from the Section. Since the last AGM nothing appears to have changed and I think the membership (approx. 30) has remained static. There needs to be a serious discussion about the future of not only the British section but other sections need to plan for a controlled decline of numbers-----maybe the time has come for there to be just the one section like the single market. I have received correspondence from David King laying out ideas for a future vision of the AEC & I would like to thank David for his time and thoughtfulness. As for the British Section we have survived another year, but no one else seems to provide ideas for our continuing existence, so where do we go from here?

Do we carry on regardless as if nothing has changed?

Do we carry on as we are until we are unable to travel?

Should we expect everybody to travel great distances to our meetings/reunions etc.?

Could we do things differently?

There are people who do not attend meetings but maybe like to join our visits or the European Days, so could we encourage them to accompany us and to bring friends, perhaps on a short term membership for the day/week?

I think we can realistically answer NO to 4 of the above and 5 is a probable NO also.....so we could go round in ever decreasing circles that fade into the background which I am certain no one wants. One member has suggested that we should disband gracefully and I must put that to you all - my fellow members if some one seconds the motion, that we gently put the section to rest then so be it. We have a lot to be proud of as a section, unfortunately pride itself cannot keep us afloat

The British Section has been a part of my life for 31 years, not always a big part but none the less I have a lot of happy memories of times gone past---- those drunken nights in Brussels and in Antwerp with the late Jean Thys and his alter ego Samantha Pistache, Charleroi in my kilt (upsetting the then British Section President, delighting every one else!) having 3 Italian ladies arguing over me, listening to a heavy metal version of the Blue Danube in Vienna followed by the Birdie Song! the strange variety of entertainment on offer and new adventures in eating and drinking all helped cement friendships over the years and as Eastern Europe opened up our destinations became more "exotic" my trips to the east being to Riga in Latvia where I was surrounded by Costa (yes the same company) Coffee shops and wonderful art deco architecture which was restored to its former glory and Romania the land of surprises and genuinely generous people and unique attractions (the Salt Mines). Without the AEC none of this would be realised. We in return entertained the other sections in Canterbury, York being just two locations visited and a Christmas Dinner in Bournemouth all of them very successful and all very different just like the "British Culture". I think our Association is a valuable asset in the peaceful cohesion and shared values of respect and dignity helping to promote peaceful co existence in Europe today. I can therefore say that I am extremely proud (as were my managers in Royal Mail) to be part of such an important instrument of peace and President of the British Section for some of that time.

Having said this I am now at the end of my term as President, but in the absence of a successor I am prepared to carry on until one is found. I would like to thank Patrick Rigby for being vice President, Jenny Worsfold for stepping in as Secretary, Peter Davies for his services as assistant Secretary, John Woods, Nigel Hyde & David King for their services over the years along with all the former holders of the positions. Finally Philip, my predecessor as President for his help in keeping us all informed by publishing and translating the cross section news items etc. and for being the first British Section officer to hold a position on the European Bureau, firstly as Vice- President then in his current position of Assistant Secretary.

(The views expressed in this article are personal and do not necessarily represent those of the Association.)

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018 held at the Royal Oak, Tabard Street, London SE1, commencing at 2pm**

Members present: Bob Clark, chairman of the meeting, Patrick Rigby, David King, Philip Worsfold, Colin Charman, John Batts, Nigel Hyde, Jenny Worsfold, secretary.

### **1. Opening remarks and Apologies for absence.**

The President, Bob Clark welcomed members to the meeting. He showed us the Quaich which he will be the gift from the British section to the Italian section in May.

Apologies were received from: Peter Davies, John Hayward, John Woods, John Roberts.

### **2. Minutes of the 29th Annual General meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were posted/e-mailed to members in January, together with the notice convening the meeting. Copies of the minutes were available for perusal.

The minutes were approved unanimously – p: Jenny Worsfold, s: Bob Clark

### **3. Matters Arising.**

Item 12. The visit to Belvoir castle did not take place.

### **4. Correspondence.**

All correspondence received related to matters being discussed at this meeting.

## **5. President's Report.**

Bob Clark told us that he is looking forward to European Days in Taormina but feels that there must be serious discussion about the future for AEC. He thanked David King for the time and effort he has put into looking at possible ways forward. Bob recalled several of the memorable events that have taken place while AEC has been part of his life for the past 31 years, and spoke of his pride in being, as president, part of this instrument of peace. He thanked the other members of the committee and expressed his willingness to stand for a further term of office as president.

## **6. Reports from Officers.**

(a) Secretary – Jenny Worsfold reported that there has been little to do as secretary. She agreed to look into the measures that should be taken to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations.

(b) Recruitment Secretary – Nigel Hyde reported that membership remains at 30. There has been one new member and one who has not renewed, though we understand he has been unwell, so Nigel will pursue this.

Nigel has been unable to get anything into the REPTA publication but will contact Peter Davies to try and achieve this.

Nigel also suggested that more concentration on trips in this country, being less expensive, may appeal to more possible participants.

## **7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts.**

Nigel Hyde submitted the accounts and these were inspected. We have once again just about broken even over the past year. The accounts were accepted.

## **8. The Future of the British Section.**

A letter had been received from John Woods suggesting that this may be the time to wind up the British Section. There was no further support for this idea but it prompted a full discussion about the way forward.

Publicity: Jenny will try to get something into Rail News. Philip will make us known with the West Somerset Railway and Nigel with the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. The possibility of corporate membership for Heritage Railways was considered but no decision made until we know the level of interest. Nigel will look into the possibility of getting a new website set up.

Meetings and visits: The monthly reunions will continue as now. Visits should be reduced to about four a year (not necessarily evenly spaced) with good advance notice and publicity. Nigel suggested visits to the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway in September and to Oakham in October. John Batts suggested a visit to Bletchley Park. We were unsure whether John Woods wished to continue to organise visits as we had received conflicting messages from him. Jenny to email him for clarification. We hoped that he, or anyone with a good idea, would arrange further visits but agreed not to appoint an Events Officer at present. Bob will look into the possibility of a weekend similar to the Christmas Dinner weekend at Bournemouth a few years ago, not necessarily at Christmas.

#### **9. Election of President.**

Bob Clark (p. PW, s. NH) was elected for a period of 4 years from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

#### **10. Election of Officers.**

The following were elected for a period of 1 year from 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018:

Vice President – Patrick Rigby (p. CC, s. NH)

Secretary – Jenny Worsfold (p. NH, s. CC)

Asst. Secretary – Peter Davies (p. BC, s. PW)

Treasurer, Membership Secretary – Nigel Hyde (p. JW, s. CC)

Events Officer – *position vacant*

#### **11. Checker of Accounts** - Colin Charman agreed to take on this post and was appointed.

#### **12. Nomination of delegates for European Administrative Council.**

The President and Secretary were nominated as delegates for the meeting in Sicily, May 2018.

#### **13. Dates and Venues for forthcoming European Days.**

13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Sicily.

It has yet to be decided whether European Days in 2019 will be held in Linz or in Romania.

#### **14. Proposed date and venue for 2018 Annual General Meeting.**

The date and time agreed are **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 4pm**. It was felt that a later meeting could be followed by some time to socialise in a pub and an overnight stay in a Travel Lodge, or similar.

Colin to look for a venue – meeting in Temple Mills Depot with pub and hotel accommodation nearby, was one a possibility to be investigated.

#### **15. Events Programme.** As outlined in item 8 (above) with the possibility of suggestions made by John W. of visits to the National Mining Museum, Overton, to Burton-on-Trent, Hartlepool/Peterlee/Castle Eden, Exeter, RHDR, and a Cotswold venue.

#### **16.** There being no further business, the meeting closed at 16.24.

## **PEOPLE**

### **Manfred Schampel**

Manfred Schampel, President of the German section, has been in touch to let us know he is recovering well. However, his treatment has been very hard on him and he still has a long recovery ahead.

### **Josee Willems**

Josee has had to give up the presidency of the Belgian section as the illness of old age takes its toll. At its AGM, the Belgian section has elected Michel Simar in her place. Her presence will be greatly missed. Her partner Rik is looking after her

### **The Belgian section**

The Belgian section has abandoned its regional structure in favour of one national section. A better rapport between the Flemish and French speakers was already evident at the recent European Days.

## **TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT NEWS**

### **BRITAIN**

#### **Food vouchers on Virgin Trains**

Railway staff travelling at reduced rate are now able to purchase food vouchers on Virgin West Coast trains, in line with the system which has operated on East Coast for some years.

Vouchers can be bought (at £5 each) from the onboard Shop, and should then be handed to the person serving the food. (Those intending to buy vouchers are asked to check first with the Service Manager whether there is enough food on board).

There is one significant difference between West Coast and East Coast offers - on West Coast you are not allowed to accept alcohol.

### **EUROPE**

#### **Amsterdam Urban Transport**

As from 26 March, Amsterdam public transport service (GVB) do not accept cash for buying tickets on trams, buses or metro trains in Amsterdam; tickets can be bought by credit card (not American Express) on buses, trams or at payment points at main bus and tram stops, Amsterdam Central Station and Schiphol airport

#### **Travel via Hook of Holland**

It has been confirmed that FIP tickets and coupons are accepted on the replacement buses and for the future the trams that replace the rail service from Hook of Holland to Rotterdam.

#### **France**

Rail strikes continue in France up to 18<sup>th</sup> June, with no sign of a back-down. Strikes are two consecutive days in five. Forthcoming June dates so far known are 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **London to Amsterdam by Eurostar.**

The service is still seamless only from London to Amsterdam because there are no border facilities at Amsterdam. Apparently the Dutch government sacked most of its immigration officers when the Shengen zone was introduced and now has to recruit and train new ones, in addition to providing the necessary equipment. Passengers detrain at Brussels to pass through immigration controls out of the Shengen zone before continuing their journey – not necessarily in the same Eurostar train.

## **NEWS FROM RAIL FUTURE.**

### **EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY SUPPORTS RAIL**

Poul Kattler reports:

For the first time, the EEA is more precise in its recommendations about the depressing gap between targets on emissions within the transport sector and the real world situation. The Agency mentions directly night trains in the section on “shift away from air”:

“Currently non-aviation transport modes mainly dominate shorter distance travel, often for reasons of convenience and/or cost-competitiveness. However, for journeys greater than approximately 1000 km non-aviation transport modes would need to offer substantial advantages to compete with the time and cost savings offered by aviation. These advantages could include improved comfort such as dining and sleeping facilities, efficient boarding, internet access and remote working opportunities.”

Concerning remote areas of Europe “the connectivity should be aimed and joining remote and disadvantaged regions of the EU. It is essential that this is done in conjunction with more sustainable alternatives, including cross-border overnight trains.”

Concerning the lack of a level playing field: “The particular fiscal system of air transport, which has no fuel taxes and where VAT is applied only in a minority of European countries, is identified as a barrier to modal shift to rail.”

### **European Week of Action**

April 7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> was a week of action when associations in various countries took a variety of initiatives to highlight the value of night trains.

In Switzerland, UmverkehR lobbied the Federal Minister of the Environment on the question of taxes on rail and air tickets.

In Copenhagen, Danish activists had a stand in the central library on April 14<sup>th</sup> to promote night trains. There was also be a book-signing session by the author of a new book on rail travel.

Spanish campaigners promoted the remaining night train services while calling for the reintroduction of sleepers from Madrid to Paris and Barcelona.

Actions were also planned in France and Sweden, while in Germany they centred on Hamburg-Altona and Munich.

In Great Britain the journal *Railwatch* carried a major article on night trains.

### **DISCOVER AND ENJOY EUROPE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

This is the theme of the 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the European Passengers’ Federation, to be held this year from June 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in Aachen.

It will be hosted by passenger associations from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands and deal with issues which include cross-border and multimodal travel, ticketing, Interrail and car-free holidays.

For the programme and booking information log on to [www.epfconference.eu](http://www.epfconference.eu)

### **WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL LONG-DISTANCE RAIL**

This working group consists of activists in national and regional passenger associations, concerned about international day and night rail travel.

Contact [trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk)

### **THE FINAL MILE**

In spring 2017 the European Passengers’ Federation published, in English, French and German, a report of this title, surveying the range of through tickets available in many European countries. This included PlusBus and City-Ticket add-ons to a long-distance train ticket, multimodal smartcards and other ways to produce seamless travel and ticketing.

The report is available on [www.epf.eu](http://www.epf.eu)

A year later, Railfuture, one of EPF’s member associations in the UK, has produced *Seamless Public transport in East Anglia* – a 13-page illustrated report on good and not so good practice in train/bus integration in this region.

Among its five recommendations are real-time train and bus information screens at stations (as provided on rail stations at Perpignan, Pilsen, Bad Schandau and Wandlitzsee, to name but a few), improved interchange facilities and better staff awareness.

The report is available at

[www.railfuture.org.uk/East+Anglia+Seamless+Public+Transport](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/East+Anglia+Seamless+Public+Transport)

Both reports are also available as pdfs from [trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk)

### **DEVELOPMENTS IN URBAN RAIL**

**Amsterdam:** Chris Fox reports that the new north/south metro line is ready for trial operation; and revenue-earning services are due to start on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The line runs

from Zuid station for 9.87 km to suburbs north of the IJ and has been under construction since 2002. Difficult tunnelling conditions delayed completion and increased the project cost from 1.4 billion euro to an estimated 3.1 billion euro. 6 km of tunnel under the city centre required innovative construction methods, including freezing surrounding land to stabilise soft soils and excavating tunnels under pressure. The section under the central station and IJ river was built using caissons and immersed tube.

From July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 of the 15 tram routes will be revised and restructured to form that the operator, GVB, describes as a “fishbone model.”

**Aarhus:** Erland Egefors reports that the first section of the new light rail system opened on December 21<sup>st</sup>. The first tram was too full for him to board, but he only had to wait ten minutes for the next one. Indeed, the peak service is one every 7 minutes.

The trams are quiet, comfortable and spacious – “as a matter of fact, it is very difficult to find anything negative to say about them.”

**Basel:** Juerg Tschopp reports that the second weekend in December saw the extension of the Basel tram network across the French border to St Louis. The line had opened in 1900, closed during each of the World Wars and during the 1950s was much used by French workers commuting into Switzerland., before being closed again. The 3.1 km route has been restored at a cost of some 91 million Swiss francs, with trams running every 15 minutes from the centre of Basel to the station of St Louis where a large park & ride site with places for 740 cars is being built. It is expected that 600,000 extra passengers per year will be attracted.

**Trieste:** Karl Schambureck reports that, following a 22,000 signature petition, the Region of Friuli-Julia-Venetia has agreed to 3.1 million euro investment to reopen the meter gauge tram up to Opicina on the Slovenian border. The work is due to be completed in 2020, when the line should be brought back into use.

## **TRAINS ACROSS BORDERS**

**Austria – Italy:** Karl Schambureck reports Since the timetable change there is a second daytime train between Vienna and Venice. A cause for celebration? Certainly; but there is still a lack of direct trains on the routes Munich – Trieste and Vienna – Ljubljana – Trieste.

As far as the latter route is concerned, there was a meeting in December between ÖBB and the Region of Friuli – Julia – Venetia. ÖBB is also very interested in linking the two Inter City trains planned to run later this year between Venice and Ljubljana to the EuroCity EMONA between Vienna and Ljubljana. The proposed trains will not run into Trieste but a dedicated bus link at Opicina is being considered.

ÖBB is also planning from 2019, building on the EU MICOTRA project, an hourly service between Villach and Udine. There are currently just two regional express and two Railjet services each way. As the new CEF564 multiple unit trains are not yet passed to run in Italy, it may be necessary for passengers to have a cross-platform interchange at Tarvisio Boscoverde.

**Germany – Poland:** Kerstin Carlberg reports that February 3<sup>rd</sup> there has been a direct service between Gornitz and Zielona Gora, three times a day, using the new Pesa trains branded as Polregio. The cost is shared between the Polish and German authorities. Tickets can be bought on the train. The Polish drivers had to pass a test and learn German in order to be permitted to drive on DB tracks.

Gornitz has become an important hub, with a total of 26 daily workings across the border, linking it to Zielona Gora, Wroclaw and Jelenia Gora.

A German / Polish agreement has also been signed to double and electrify the 55km of route from Knappenrode to Horka. Upgrading work started in September 2017 and regular regional and freight trains are due to start on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**Germany - Switzerland – Italy;** Marcel Drews reports that on November 17<sup>th</sup> he took part in the presentation journey of ETR 610 from Mannheim to Milan via Basel

and Lucerne. In a naming ceremony at Basel SBB station, the train was called "Johann Wolfgang von Goethe". (The German writer J W von Goethe, 1749-1832, wrote a famous account of his Italian Journey in the pre-railway age). Since December 10<sup>th</sup> there has been a new daily "Trinational" service between Frankfurt and Milan via Basel and Lucerne which has been especially well-loaded between Frankfurt and Basel.

**Barcelona – Montpellier -Dijon – Frankfurt night train?** For over a year, a team of campaigners in France and Spain has been studying the case for a night train on this route. The options of sections from Genoa and to Brussels have also been considered.

A dossier is being prepared in French and German. The working title is "LunaJet" but variations on that are also being considered. The new step will be to secure funding for a feasibility study.

For more information please contact Eric Boisseau (in French) or Helmut Neumayer (in German or English) on [boisseaueric@wanadoo.fr](mailto:boisseaueric@wanadoo.fr) and [neumayer.helmut@wanadoo.fr](mailto:neumayer.helmut@wanadoo.fr)

**Initiative in Scandinavia** – A group of activists in Scandinavia are proposing a joint venture of SJ, DSB and DB to establish two night train services that would link Stockholm and Copenhagen to Hamburg, Amsterdam, Brussels, Basel, Innsbruck and Berlin. As a first step they have sent articles to major newspapers. You can read more on the Back-on-Track website.

## **SAIL & RAIL**

Work which has been in progress to convert the rail link on the Dutch side to become part of the Rotterdam metro is now delayed till the autumn of 2018. There is a major cost overrun and a dispute over who will pay the bill. There have been dismissals by the planners of the project.

Therefore ferry passengers on the Harwich – Hoek van Holland ferry route; as well as local commuters still have to travel between Hoek van Holland Haven and Schiedam Centrum by bus. The buses are frequent and about half of them run non-stop.

## **FLY & RAIL**

Europe has many airports with very good quality train services – such as Amsterdam Schiphol, Paris Charles de Gaulle and Frankfurt-am-Main.

In Great Britain, the airports at London, Gatwick, Luton and Stansted; Southend and Manchester are among those that are well integrated into the national rail network with a full range of tickets to most stations in the UK.

However, Railfuture member Nigel Perkins has done some mystery shopping at London Heathrow, the major UK gateway airport and subsequently wrote to the operator Heathrow Express.

Heathrow's three stations have ticket offices selling a limited range of tickets and also automatic machines in 4 languages which can sell you a ticket to some destinations. These are mostly expensive tickets to "popular destinations" such as Edinburgh, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester. There is nothing to the (surely!) popular destinations of Cambridge and Bath while the only ticket available to Oxford is a 1<sup>st</sup> class off-peak day return.

Nigel has written to Heathrow Express (which runs fast trains into London) stating "as the... airport has been linked to the rail network for almost 20 years, is it not about time ticketing facilities at Heathrow were fully integrated with the system used by the regulated Train Operating Companies?" Heathrow Express replied that their operational team would consider this suggestion.

Meanwhile, you can buy a rail ticket in Heathrow Coach Station – but there are no signs about this in the arrivals hall and how many visitors landing at Heathrow would automatically go to a bus station to buy a train ticket?

## EUROPEAN EVENTS

The proposal for European Days in September 2019 was approved at the recent meeting of the Administrative Council. The Romanian proposal for European Days is now to take place in 2020, based in Sofia in Bulgaria, with the help of friends interested in re-forming a Bulgarian section.

Discover the BAIE DE SOMME and the Town of Amiens with the French section of AEC, Friday afternoon 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to Monday morning 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018 after breakfast. (booking is now closed)

**AEC European Days in Austria (Linz) for September 2019 (now approved - see below)**

The FEANDC Congress for 2018 will take place in Mons, Belgium, from 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

FEANDC General Meeting in Lübeck (D), 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

**The FEANDC Congress for 2019 will still take place in Glasgow as planned from 5<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**AEC European Days in Bulgaria – May 2020.** The Romanian section has prepared a programme for European Days in Bulgaria (Sofia) hopefully to re-establish a section there. The programme has just been received and will be presented in our next edition.

The Spanish section is proposing European Days in Madrid/Toledo for 2021.

## ITEMS FROM THE GERMAN SECTION CALENDAR:

02.-09.05.2018 RV Hagen: 8-tägigen Busreise nach Slowenien

09.05.2018 RV Rostock: Buchlesung, M. Köster

11.05.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Grillfest bei Anneli Behnke

18.05.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Versammlung und Kegeln

13.06.2018 RV Rostock: Besuch Biohof „Meyers-Hausstelle“

15.06.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Versammlung und Kegeln

15. - 18.06.2018 **Sektion Frankreich:** Ein Wochenende im Departement Somme

16.07.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Versammlung und Kegeln

05.08.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Kremserfahrt mit Grillabend

18.08.2018 RV Hamburg: Ein Tag in der Lüneburger Heide

12.09.2019 RV Rostock: 800 Jahre Hansastadt & 600 Jahre Universität  
Rostock: H. Spielmann

29.09. - 04.10.2018 RV Hagen: 6-tägige Busreise an den Bodensee

10.10.2018 RV Rostock: Kegeln in Broderstorf, H. Jaschewski

14.11.2018 RV Rostock: Neuerungen zur Pflegeversicherung,  
Pflegestützpunkt HRO

05.12.2018 RV Rostock: Adventsfeier, M. Köster

05.12.2018 RV Hamburg: Weihnachtsfeier im Hotel Hamburg Hafen

08.12.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Weihnachtsfeier

22.12.2018 OV Ludwigslust: Tannenbaum schlagen

## Europäische Treffen

**22.09. - 28. 09.2019 Europäische Tage 2019 der Sektion Österreich  
in Linz in Oberösterreich.**

## PROPOSED EUROPEAN DAYS IN LINZ (A) 2019

**Suggested Programme:**

**Sunday, 22. September 2019 *Arrival of members of the Administrative Council  
in Linz***

**Monday, 23. September 2019 *Arrival of other members in Linz***

Linz – Administrative Council

Opening of European Days

**Tuesday, 24. September 2019 *A Day in the Mountains of Upper Austria***

- Trip to Hinterstoder (Dead Mountains)
- Visit to the Alpineum and trip by cable car to Hutterer Böden (Lunch)
- on the return journey, visit to the Poacher's Museums in St. Pankraz

**Wednesday, 25. September 2019 *Trip to Traunsee in the Salzkammergut***

- Travel to Gmunden and visit to the Gmunden ceramic factory
- Lunch in the town centre of Gmunden and a short visit to the town
- Travel to Bad Ischl and visit to the Emperor's villa followed by coffee and cake in 'Konditorei Zauner'

**Thursday, 26. September 2019 *A Day in the Monastery and the Brewery***

- Travel to the monastery at St. Florian and visit (music by Anton Bruckner)
- Travel on to Freistadt (Visit to town and brewery.)
- Trip on horse drawn railway

**Friday, 27. September 2019 *A Day in Linz***

- Travel to the Pöstlingberg
- Toen visit Stadtführung
- Free time in the afternoon
- Closing of European Days

**Saturday, 28. September 2019 *Departure of Members***

**Prices:** (Basis 1.09.2017) **650 euros** from 22.9.2019 until 28.9.2019)

**Includes:** Overnight accommodation including full Vollpension, all transfers, the cable car trip, visit to Gmunden ceramic factory, entry in the monastery, the Emperor's villa, museums etc.

We hope you like the programme and look forward to your visit..

Reservations with deposit for the European Days in Linz 2019 by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

**Take no action now. This event has still to be approved by the Administrative Council. Further details to follow.**

**FEANDC General Meeting September 2018.**

Four Days in the Hanseatic town of Lübeck and Travemünde to find out about the Baltic.

**Thursday, 13.9.2018** – Arrival, town trip and welcome evening.

12.00 – 17.00 Greeting/Check-in and welcome drink in the "Holiday Inn" (Double 125 Euro, Single 105 Euro) . Taxi transfer from DB station to hotel is arranged.

15.00 – 17.00 «**Lübecker Stadtpaziergang**» (Lübeck walking tour – for those arriving before 14h00)

or **alternatively Town tour** in Open-top-Bus (50 Min.) leaving at 14h50, 15h50 from the hotel bus stop.

18h30 **Welcome evening** in the Holiday Inn with entertainer **Küsten-Jörn**.

19h00 Dinner – bedtime when you're ready!!

**Friday, 14. September 2018 – General meeting and Events programme**

09h00 – 12h00 General meeting (9 – 10 with everyone), coffee break at ca. 10h30

12h30 – 13h30 **Lunch** for everyone – buffet or 3 course menu.

10h00 – 10u20 **Visitors programme:** 400 m walk to the **European Hansemuseum**

10h30 – onwards Visit museum using audio guide.

12h00 – 12h20 walk back to the hotel for lunch with meeting delegates.

14h30 – 10 minute bus trip (public transport) from the hotel to the Schlüsselbuden bus stop; - 10 min walk to Niederegger Marzipan world.

15h40 – 17h00 tour of «**Niederegger Marzipanwelten**» (Marzipan maker) ending up together in the café

17h15 – return journey from «Wahmstraße» bus stop to the hotel – then free time until:

18h30 – **Gala evening with music** in the Holiday Inn – bed when you're ready.

### **Saturday, 15. September 2018**

08h45 – walk (15-20 min) or taxi transfer to the boarding point at the Drawbgridge.

9h30 – 11h15 Boat trip to Travemünde «**Travemünde und die Ostsee**» to learn about the Baltic.

11h15 – 12h00 Strol along the **beach promenade at Travemünde** (old lighthouse, the clipper ship Passat ...)

12h00 – 13h15 **Lunch** in Restaurant «**Fisherman's**» in Travemünde

13h15 – 15h20 free time in Travemünde

from 13h45 **Return** by Bus (public transport to Hotel with **Privilege fare** is possible.

Buses run every 30 minutes

18h00 – 18h20 walk to the historic Restaurant «**Schiffergesellschaft**» (750 m – 15 Min walk)

18h30 **Dinner** in the «**Lübeck**» room – after the meal, return individually on foot to the hotel

### **Sunday, 16. September 2018**

9h30 short walk to the boarding point at the Town Gate (Burgtor).

10h00 – 11h00 **Town, Harbour and Canal round trip** of Lübeck

11h00 – short walk to return to the hotel for:

11h30 – **Lunch** in the hotel

from 12h30 **Taxi transfer** to the railway station for individual journeys home.

### **RECENT EVENTS...**

The transfer to the Royal Oak in Tabard Street, has gone smoothly although there has been no increase in the number of members attending. At the reunion in March in particular we were thin on the ground due to transport disruptions caused by the ferocious weather. But the AGM in April was quite well attended and it was a pleasure to meet again some we had not seen for a while.

Seven of us are just returned from European Days in Sicily. The event was a great success and well organised. We are grateful to Anna Gabriele Brancato – an admirable hostess and to Mimmo Persico for ensuring that everything went smoothly. The photographic competition in memory of Anna's late husband, Fransisco, was won by the Latvian section's Janis Petersons, who sadly was unable to be present to collect the prize. In fact all the other nine active sections were represented among the nearly 200 guests. A full report will appear in our next edition. The gift from the British section was a Quaich; a two handled Gaelic 'welcome' cup – made thus so the person you are welcoming can't reach for his dirk to stab you – with explanations in English, Gaelic (of course) and Italian. In presenting it, Bob Clark emphasised the British section's commitment to AEC and the European ideals. Philip got involved with some linguistic gymnastics when asked without warning to translate the European President's thank you address from French into English. Memory not being his strong point, Philip asked to see his notes only to find that they were in Italian – as one might not expect from a – Romanian!!

### **...AND THINGS TO COME**

#### **London reunions.**

London reunions will continue on the **third** Thursday the month at the **Royal Oak** in Tabard Street nominally from **16h00 onwards** until about 19h00.

The meetings to come are on **21<sup>st</sup> June** (we should be back from the Baie de Somme by then), **19<sup>th</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> September & 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

### **Other events.**

We have asked John Woods to clarify the position because we have been getting conflicting messages. However, he has offered the following proposals:

**Mon 11 June** - Burton-on-Trent-brewery museum etc

Meet Burton-on Trent station 12:30

**Mon 9 July** - Middleton Railway

Meet Leeds Station 12:30

**Mon 6 Aug** - Swindon - Steam Museum etc.

Meet Paddington 10:45

These are formative and will be 'built up' nearer the time.

Inquiries and bookings should be addressed to John Woods:by phone: -

**07 380 388 874**

In the meantime, Nigel Hyde has arranged the following excursions:

### **Wednesday 19 September**

a trip to the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, followed by a look at the Bronte Museum in Haworth . Possibly a pub lunch in Haworth .

### **Wednesday 17 October**

A return visit to Oakham Station Brewery, with lunch at the Brewery, followed by a look at the Town Museum

He is also researching a visit to the South Yorkshire Air Museum at Doncaster. This will take about 3 hours to look round properly.

### **ASSOCIATION TIES AND BADGES.**

In common with other sections, the British section of the Association has a necktie and a badge. Our particular items are common to both the British and Belgian sections. We have produced the ties and the Belgian section, the badges. I am sorry that we do not have a specific item for ladies.

Ties are available, at £4.50 plus postage, and badges are in stock in small numbers, at £1.50 each, including UK inland postage. These items are available from **Philip Worsfold**. Please contact him first by e-mail or phone to check availability (details at the top of page 2.)

### **GREAT BRITAIN ALL LINE TIMETABLE EUROPEAN RAIL TIMETABLE**

The Middleton Press edition of the Great Britain Rail Timetable is said to available from the W.H. Smith bookstall at London Victoria (Central) – and bookstalls at some other London terminals, including Paddington. It has been recast and now contains the Great Britain part of the European Rail Timetable in the same size print. It may also be available from the Ian Allan bookshop in Lower Marsh near London Waterloo. Be aware that you may still need a magnifying glass to read the smallest print; as with the European Rail Timetable, now published three-monthly' with a monthly on-line edition, to keep you up to date. It includes all the above mentioned British internal services as well as principal services throughout Europe. It can be ordered on line from:

<http://www.europeanrailtimetable.eu/european-rail-timetable.html> for delivery by post and purchased over the counter at:

- Oundle News, Oundle Northamptonshire, UK.
- Stanfords, Long Acre London and Corn Street Bristol, UK ([www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)).
- GVE-Verlag/BahnBuchShop, Bahnhof Berlin-Lichtenberg ([www.bahnbuchshop.de](http://www.bahnbuchshop.de)).

- Fahrplancenter, Winterthur Switzerland ([www.fahrplancenter.com](http://www.fahrplancenter.com)).
- Blackwell's Bookshop, Broad Street Oxford UK.

Philip Worsfold holds a reasonably up to date copy. Most European services can also be accessed on the Deutsche Bahn and other European railways' websites.

#### **YOUNG BUFFERS ASSOCIATION. RAILWAY STUDY ASSOCIATION.**

We recommend the support of these organisations, membership of which is open to members of AEC. There follows a little more detail about them.:

**Young Buffers Association:** There is no subscription provided that you have an e-mail address; and no obligation to attend their events. If you would like further details, the Secretary is Larry Fullwood, tel. 01485 541599, e-mail [larry.fullwood@virgin.net](mailto:larry.fullwood@virgin.net) .

**Railway Study Association:** The RSA is currently in course of merging with the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT). Subscription rates are likely to change but at present include subscription to 'Modern Railways'. Each annual session of lectures, in London and Birmingham, held on (different) Wednesday evenings, begins in October with the President's Address.

Full details of immediately forthcoming changes and details of all activities can be found at [www.railwaystudyassociation.org](http://www.railwaystudyassociation.org)

#### **REPTA.**

The long standing Railway Employees' and Public Transport Association offers bargain price insurance through AVIVA and concessions and discounts at stores and attractions throughout the country. The 'Yearbook' gives full details, including the invaluable guide to staff travel facilities throughout the world. Membership for individuals costs £5.75 per year including the yearbook; with family membership, including two adults and all children (up to age 18) at £10.25. **These rates are unchanged for 2018.** Our Asst Secretary, Peter Davies is also General Secretary of REPTA. Contact him (see page 2) for details, or visit: [www.repta.co.uk](http://www.repta.co.uk) .

#### **FEANDC.**

FEANDC has similar social aims to AEC; and like AEC has sections in a number of European countries, including some which do not have AEC sections.

More details and all other information about FEANDC are available from Peter Davies (address etc on Page 2).

#### **AND FOR THE FUTURE???**

We shall endeavour to continue the production of these newsletters. I continue to use the website of the European Commission and also Rail News as sources of news of international interest and thank those members who send me information – especially John Hayward. But I still continue with my plea for more from you. I hope I shall be able to keep my promise of more articles. So please, put pen to paper. We need more than ever to build up a library of articles. Please keep in touch and let us have your information, your views and your ideas. The next issue will be published for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The copy deadline is:

**1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.**

## SUMMARY OF DATES

London reunions will continue on the **third** Thursday the month at the **Royal Oak** in Tabard Street nominally from **16h00 onwards** until about 19h00. The dates are

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> June.**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July,**  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August,**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September &**  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

Dates for visits are:

**Mon 11 June** - Burton-on-Trent-brewery museum etc  
Meet Burton-on Trent station 12:30

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Meet Leeds Station 12:30

**Mon 6 Aug** - Swindon - Steam Museum etc.  
Meet Paddington 10:45

Inquiries and bookings should be addressed to John Woods:by phone: -  
**07 380 388 874**

Excursions arranged by Nigel Hyde:

### **Wednesday 19 September**

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A return visit to Oakham Station Brewery, with lunch at the Brewery, followed by a look at the Town Museum

# Association Européenne des Cheminots, BRITISH SECTION

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A copy of your GDPR declaration will be kept by the British section of the  
Association.**

# Association Européenne des Cheminots, BRITISH SECTION

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# Association Européenne des Cheminots, BRITISH SECTION

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Nome: .....

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Luogo di lavoro (facoltativo) .....

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# Association Européenne des Cheminots, BRITISH SECTION

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aufbewahrt.**