

TIMETABLES and DIAGRAMS

Maidstone: There have been reports that a revised Maidstone East service is under consideration by the Department for Transport. Rather than having a Thameslink service to Cambridge, fast via Chislehurst, trains would run via Catford to Blackfriars.

Freight: Additional trains between Morris Cowley and Southampton, conveying BMW Minis for export, started running in February. Most car exports go through Eastern Docks, but provision of a new car handling facility at Western Docks enables this extra traffic to be handled. The trains concerned previously operated to Purfleet.

INTERESTING WORKINGS

Class 20: Locomotives 20118+20132 hauled a tamper from West Ealing to East Grinstead, for trials on the Bluebell Railway, during the evening of 22 March. They returned the tamper to West Ealing during the night early on 24 February, running via East Croydon (reverse), Redhill, Tonbridge (reverse) and Catford.

Class 43: HST power cars 43423/68/67 and 43308 were hauled from Ely to Eastleigh Works by 60046 during the morning on 3 March. These were followed later in the day by 43296 and 43465/80/84 hauled by 60028. On 5 March 60046 hauled power cars 43296, 43308 and 43423/67 from Eastleigh to Willesden Depot.

Class 69: GBRf is having sixteen class 56 locomotives rebuilt with General Motors equipment, similar to class 66. They are to be painted at Eastleigh Works and the first to be hauled there was 69002 on 15 March.

Class 156: Unit 156496 ran from Heaton to Eastleigh via Oxford on 31 January. It had previously been to Eastleigh for overhaul, but returned for modifications. It returned to Heaton, with 156447, on 8 February.

Class 313: Network Rail unit 313121 was scheduled to run from Ferme Park to Eastleigh on 23 February, but it failed at Kensington Olympia. Next day 313202 ran empty 04:08 Brighton to Kensington in order to haul it to Lovers Walk. However, the return trip terminated at Three Bridges about 07:30, because of a points failure at Balcombe Tunnel Junction. Arrangements were then made for 313202 to haul 313121 to Eastleigh Works via Pulborough, arriving at 11:08. 313202 later returned to Lovers Walk from Eastleigh.

Class 375: Unit 375805 made two round trips from Herne Hill to Waterloo via the Linford Street curve during the early afternoon on 20 March, thought to be for route learning.

Networkers: Over-running engineering work prevented trains leaving Grosvenor Carriage Shed on time on Sunday 7 February. Units 465247+466015 had to be used on the 07:25 Victoria to Ashford via Maidstone East.

Carriages: A rake of seven HST carriages for Locomotive Services was hauled from Crewe to Eastleigh Works by 47593 + 47501 on 9 February. Mark 4 carriages that had been intended for use by Grand Central between London and Blackpool were moved from Wembley to Eastleigh Depot, for debranding, and then on to Worksop in February. Each working comprised twelve vehicles including two driving trailers. Movements from Wembley via Reading were by 57303 and 57305 on 2 February and by 47813 on 16 February. The carriages were hauled to Worksop via Chertsey and Kew East on 25 and 26 February by 47813 and 47812 respectively.