What's new this month

AIRPORT LINKS

Only a few weeks after the rail link to Warszawa's main airport opened, a new secondary airport north of the city commenced operations in mid July. Known as Modlin, it is aimed at low-cost airlines such as Ryanair and Wizzair, and now makes an appearance in Airport Links Table **5**. A shuttle bus connects the terminal with Modlin railway station, pending the opening of a direct rail link planned for the end of 2013.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostar changes from July 8 (Table **10**) include a new train **9136** departing London at 1404 for Brussels on Mondays to Fridays (although the 1604 is reduced to Saturdays and Sundays only). The new train makes good connections at Lille for stations to Bordeaux and Montpellier (Table **11**), also for Köln (Tables **20** and **21**). From November 1 there will be a slight reduction in the London - Brussels service with two train pairs running on fewer days a week.

Thalys has issued amendments from August 26. The number of *Thalys* services between Paris and Amsterdam (Table **18**) will reduce by one, whilst train **9300** will depart Brussels 24 minutes earlier for Paris at 0613. The Paris - Namur - Liège service (Table **17**) and the direct Paris - Brussels - Oostende train (Table **16**) are confirmed as returning from August 26.

Elipsos has announced that Paris - Madrid *Trenhotel* **409/407** *Francisco de Goya* will run on an additional day during the winter period from mid October (Table **46**).

Thello Trainhotel **220** Venezia - Milano - Paris (Table **44**) will be retimed and diverted via Modane from August 11 until September 1 due to engineering work in the Domodossola area. *Trainhotel* **221** southbound is unaffected.

A further line affected by engineering work is that between Praha and Linz where there is bus substitution between July 7 and September 9 south of the Czech / Austrian border at Summerau (Tables **52, 1132**).

IRELAND

Engineering work between Londonderry and Coleraine (Table **231**) from July 29 is resulting in complete closure of the line, expected to last until April 2013. Buses are operating in lieu of the trains and Portrush is enjoying a temporary direct rail service to Belfast.

FRANCE

Several lines are partially closed for reconstruction this summer and further details of replacement buses have been added to a number of tables. Lines with revised timetables include Pau - Oloron from July 23, along with the connecting bus across the Spanish border to Canfranc (Table **324**).

A new scenic electric rack railway in France is the *Panoramique des Dômes* which climbs to the summit of the 1465 metre high Puy de Dôme. A connecting bus runs from Clermont Ferrand seven times a day between June 16 and September 16. Further details are in Table **397**.

BELGIUM

Table **425** has been restructured to show all services that serve Brussels Airport, including the new hourly service to Antwerpen via Mechelen which commenced recently, albeit now in a listed format. The Antwerpen frequency is due to be increased to half-hourly from December.

ITALY

Details of summer schedules were received too late for inclusion of local services last month, but all tables have now been updated.

There are further changes to night trains in addition to those recorded previously. A new train has been introduced between Milano and Sicily via Genova (*ICN* **784/5**), which replaces one of the Roma - Sicily services (*E* **1952/1963**). Similarly, the Roma - Reggio di Calabria train pair (*E* **894/5**) now starts back at Milano and also gets reclassified as InterCity Notte (*ICN* **794/5**). The Adriatic coast route sees a reduction from four night trains to three as *ICN* **751/6** has been withdrawn, but by contrast *ICN* **752/5** mirrors *ICN* **750/7** in starting from Milano rather than Bologna.

Engineering work is taking place on the Brenner route until September 30 with services replaced by bus on most days. This also includes international trains where passengers will be required to transfer to bus transport for the journey between Innsbruck and Brennero / Brenner, although timings are barely affected. Local journeys are extended by ten minutes (Tables **595/6**).

Santhià - Arona services have been withdrawn and replaced by local buses at least until December. As this move appears permanent the route has been removed from Table **609**. Ancona Marittima services have been removed from Tables **625** and **630** and placed together in a new table allowing all services to be shown (Table **632**).

Two new TrenHotel services are due to commence shortly operated by a private operator, Arenaways. The trains will operate from Torino to Reggio di Calabria and Bari three times weekly. Accommodation on each train will consist of 46 double cabins (with single occupancy option), 140 reclining seats and a restaurant / cafeteria. Schedules are shown in a panel on page 319, but a start date had not been announced as we went to press.

SPAIN

Once again there are many changes to report. The three times weekly *Media Distancia* service between Linares - Baeza and Almería (Table **661**) now runs additionally on Tuesdays. This was formerly a direct service from Barcelona as a portion of the *García Lorca* **697/694**.

One pair of *Media Distancia* services between Monforte de Lemos and A Coruña via Betanzos - Infesta (Table **682**) has been withdrawn. Also various *Media Distancia* services between Ferrol and A Coruña have been retimed. The daily direct *Media Distancia* service between Ronda and Málaga (Table **673**) has been altered to enable a day visit to Ronda rather than the reverse.

Further to last month's report regarding *Arco* **280/283** *Camino de Santiago* Irún/Hendaye and Bilbao to A Coruña and Vigo (Tables **680, 681, 682** and **689**), the two A Coruña portions run on differing routes. The Irún/Hendaye - A Coruña portion detaches at Monforte and runs via Lugo and Betanzos - Infesta, while the Bilbao - A Coruña portion detaches at Ourense and is routed via Santiago de Compostela.

Travellers between Madrid and València via Cuenca (Table **669**) now have to change trains at Aranjuez on Mondays to Fridays, instead of Villaverde Bajo. Connections between Madrid and Arunjuez are made on Madrid cercanías (suburban) services, línea C3. At weekends, the service now operates between Madrid and València direct.

Certain *Alvia* services between Barcelona and Pamplona (Table **650a**), Barcelona and Valladolid (Table **653**), and Madrid and Ponferrada (Tables **681** and **682**) are now branded as *Intercity*. *AVE* **3193** and **3262** Madrid - Barcelona (Table **650**) have been replaced on Saturdays by *Alvia* **10192** and **10062** making the same stops but with an extended journey time.

MD **18001/18004** Madrid - León (Table **681**) and *MD* **12609/12604** León - Vigo (Tables **680**, **682**) have been combined as *MD* **18793/18794** and run as one through service. Another instance of trains combining can be found on Tables **670** and **672**, where *MD* **14120** Murcia to València and *MD* **18502** València to Huesca is now a direct service on Mondays to Saturdays. In the opposite direction *MD* **14205** València to Cartagena starts back at Zaragoza as *MD* **18523**. Retimings of other *TRD* and *MD* services in Table **670** have occurred.

On Fridays *Alvia* **4181** 1830 Madrid to Gijón (Tables **681**, **685**) will no longer call at León (but the Fridays only *IC* **4491** 1855 Madrid to Ponferrada will call there). In the reverse direction *Alvia* **4180** 1722 Gijón to Madrid does not call at León on Sundays with the last train now from León to Madrid 2½ hours earlier. Train **941/940** *Picasso* Málaga - Bilbao returns for a short summer season and is shown in Tables **661** and **689**. *Talgo* **10229/10228** Madrid - Murcia - Aguilas (Table **668a**) runs from Madrid on summer Fridays returning on Sundays.

The Spanish Government announced in July that the Barcelona - Figueres high speed line would open in the next six months, and in connection with that, timings on the Barcelona - Cerbère route (Table **657**) have been accelerated as the amount of engineering work on the line is reduced. Some early morning and late evening services have also been altered.

The new direct *AVE* service from València to Sevilla (Tables **668** and **660**) does of course take just 3 hours 50 minutes and not 7½ hours as erroneously stated in last month's news.

PORTUGAL

The connecting taxi service from Tua to Cachão (Table **694**) has been reintroduced on an experimental basis. This enables a link between the Douro Valley railway line and the Cachão to Mirandela local service which is isolated from the main rail network.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

What's new this month - *continued from page 3*

DENMARK

Engineering work around København H until August 18 means that many services are arriving into the capital slightly later than scheduled; most by five minutes, but thirteen minutes on services from Ystad. Additionally, InterCity trains to Esbjerg, Flensburg and Sønderborg will depart up to five minutes earlier between København and Odense (Tables **705/10**), and a few peak hour services have been cancelled whilst the work takes place.

Owing to the short period affected, our tables have not been amended to show these changes, but travellers should allow extra time for connecting services and consult local information.

GERMANY

Services between Halberstadt and Halle (Saale) are affected by engineering work August 8 - December 9. During this period buses replace trains between Halberstadt and Aschersleben resulting in extended journey times. Table **860** has been updated with the revised timings (certain journeys between Bernburg and Halle are also re-timed).

Private operator *Hamburg-Köln-Express* was scheduled to start operating a limited service between Hamburg and Köln on July 23. Initially there is at least one train per day in each direction, but with up to two additional trains on Thursdays to Sundays. Full details will be found in the new Table **800a** on page 367. Please note that DB tickets are not valid on these services.

POLAND

Przewozy Regionalne, Poland's regional railway operator, has experimentally introduced additional services on the Katowice - Kraków - Rzeszów - Przemyśl axis for the summer (Table **1075**), but rather than being rail services they are operated by long-distance buses and are up to two hours faster than the rail services on the same route, thanks to new stretches of motorway (and ongoing engineering work which has slowed down railway schedules). In some cases the buses replace existing rail services. InterRail and Eurail passes are valid.

There is now only one train a day between Zebrzydowice and Cieszyn to and from Czechowice Dziedzice (Table **1079**).

MACEDONIA AND GREECE

A new summer train will briefly reconnect Greece to the european rail network. The service will run outwards from Skopje on Saturday mornings and return from Thessaloníki on Sunday evenings (Table **1380**).

UKRAINE, BELARUS, RUSSIA

Two out of the three expected new Intercity services between Kyïv and Lviv (operated by Hyundai units) did not materialise, but we await information regarding their introduction (Table **1710**).

LITHUANIA

On the recommendation of a correspondent, Kaišiadorys has been added to Tables **1810** and **1811**.

LATVIA

Due to engineering work from August 14 to 16 between Riga and Krustpils, the sleeper trains between Riga and Moskva (Table **1840**), Riga and St Peterburg (Table **1820**), and Riga and Minsk (Table **1932**) are diverted with extended journey times.

RUSSIA

Train **312/311** Kaliningrad - Minsk - Kharkiv (Table **1780**), which ran on alternate dates all year, has been replaced by train **140** Minsk - Kharkiv - Simferopol which runs on alternate dates in the summer only.

Train **66/65** Moskva - Mykolaiv via Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk (Table **1790**) is diverted to run via Konotop and Imeni Tarasa Shevchenka as train **61/62** in Table **1770**.

Despite an earlier report to the contrary, the weekly Berlin to Adler through sleeping car is running this summer after all, albeit for a shorter season. It leaves Berlin on Saturdays July 7 - Sept. 15, and from Adler (just south of Sochi) at 1507 on Wednesdays July 4 - Sept. 12. The carriage is now attached to a slower train from Michurinsk to Adler, arriving there at 1613 on Tuesdays, over six hours later than last summer. Due to space contraints it has only been possible to show brief details in a footnote in Table **1980**.

SHIPPING

There are a few changes to report this month. The Metromare dello Stretto consortium operate in the Strait of Messina providing regular sailings from Messina to both Reggio di Calabria and Villa San Giovanni. Thanks to a reader's suggestion, schedules for both have now been added (Tables **2660** and **2695** respectively).

Grandi Navi Veloci has taken over the routes from Sète to an-Nadûr (Table **2678**), and Tanjah Med (Table **2680**) following the demise of Comanav. The Salerno - Cagliari - València service of Grimaldi Lines no longer carries passengers so has been removed from our pages (Tables **2662/75**).

Meanwhile the well documented financial problems affecting Greece has prompted Minoan Lines to amend its operations between Greece and Italy. The Pátra - Ancona route (Table **2715**) now has a simplified schedule with extended crossing times, whilst Pátra - Venezia (Table **2875**) has been suspended at least for the remainder of the year.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's Beyond Europe section covers South East Asia and Australasia (Tables **6000** upwards). There have been only minor changes since we last featured this area in our February edition.

News from Canada (featured along with the USA in our May and November Beyond Europe section) is that Via Rail plans to reduce service levels on several of its routes from July 29, most notably on the Toronto - Vancouver *Canadian*, and the Montréal - Halifax *Ocean*. A second round of service reductions is planned for October.

NEXT MONTH

As well as the latest updates to the timetables, the September edition will include a 21-page **Winter International Supplement**, showing provisional winter versions of selected tables valid from December 9. It will also include our annual **High-Speed Trains** feature, whilst the **Beyond Europe** section will cover China.

All of our timetables, maps and guidebooks can be ordered online at **www.thomascookpublishing.com**. There is a 10% discount for online purchases of the monthly European Rail Timetable. The timetable is also available on annual or part-annual subscription at attractive rates. Our sales staff in Peterborough will also be happy to take your order by telephone on +44 (0)1733 416477 during office hours, which are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

LANGUAGE GUIDES

You'll never be lost for words with our range of language guides.

To order your copy call us on -
+44 (0)1733 416477
or order online at -
www.thomascookpublishing.com

18 titles
from £3.99

Thomas Cook