

## What's new this month

### ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Nicky Gardner rides the slow train to sunny Andalucia in our Route of the Month. Entitled *Table 661: South to Andalucia*, it will be found on page 44.

### INTERNATIONAL

From October 7, two additional *Thalys* trains will run between Brussels and Amsterdam in both directions on Mondays to Fridays (Table 18), with one pair forming connections to and from London (Table 15). This will help to alleviate the situation following the withdrawal of international *Fyra* trains earlier this year due to technical problems.

### GREAT BRITAIN

From July 20 to August 25 there will be significant disruption to services calling at Nottingham due to major engineering work taking place at the station. Most services calling there will either be diverted or replaced by bus for part of the journey.

Services on the lines from Doncaster to Hull and Scunthorpe which pass the site of the landslip at Hatfield and Stainforth were due to return to normal at the end of July (Tables 192 and 193).

### FRANCE

The unprecedented amount of engineering work taking place throughout France means that timetables continue to be very fluid, and passengers are advised to recheck schedules before travelling. Long-term bus replacement is to be found notably in Table 364 where the Grenoble - Valence line is closed until December, whilst Chambéry - Grenoble has buses until September 1 (the rail service from September 2 will be found on page 211).

As normal, services in Brittany have revised timings during the high-summer period, and separate versions of Tables 280 to 288 will be found at the back of this edition on pages 558 to 562.

As mentioned in previous editions, a new international *TGV* service from Paris to Freiburg will commence on August 26, with one train each way running on six days per week. This will use the recently reopened border crossing at Neuenburg/Müllheim, not far from Mulhouse. Timings for the new train are shown in Table 370.

### ITALY

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

During the current timetable period several long-distance services will be retimed and renumbered. This is particularly relevant to Tables 610 and 611 where, owing to the complexity of the changes, it is not possible to show every variation and alterations may occur, notably prior to September 7.

### SPAIN

Last month's news was dominated by major schedule changes in Spain, including the opening of the Albacete - Alacant high-speed line. There are many further changes to report, many of which were implemented at the end of June or in early July.

*Alvia* 5490 Madrid - València - Castelló de la Plana (Table 668) has been extended to Barcelona (Table 672) and Figueres Vilafant (Table 657). Arriving Figueres Vilafant at 1628, this forms a connection with *TGV* 9707, arriving Paris at 2245 (Table 13). In the reverse direction *Euromed* 1401 Barcelona - València (Table 672) starts back at Figueres Vilafant, but with no obvious connection from Paris.

*AVE* 3143 Madrid - Barcelona is extended to Figueres and the return *AVE* 3192 starts back from there (Table 650). *Alvia* 4111/4140 Gijón - Madrid has been extended to València (Table 668), whilst *Alvia* 4070/4180 Gijón - Madrid and 2134/2135 Madrid - Cádiz have been combined to form a daily through service in summer (Tables 685, 671).

Similarly *Alvia* 4142/4133 Santander - Madrid and 2085/2194 Madrid - Cádiz have been combined, though the southbound departure from Santander terminates in Madrid on Saturdays (Tables 684, 671).

*Alvia* 5581 Castelló de la Plana - València - Madrid has been retimed to run over two hours later and starts back in Barcelona.

*IC* 10695/10696 Córdoba - Puente Genil - Málaga (Table 661), which previously formed a portion of the *García Lorca* 697/694 Barcelona - Málaga, has been withdrawn leaving, we believe, no passenger services over the 'classic' route between Córdoba and Bobadilla.

### PORTUGAL

The international service from Porto to Vigo (Table 696) has been recast. The two through trains now run non-stop, with intermediate stations being served by connecting local services.

### GERMANY

Trains between Hannover/Braunschweig and Berlin via the high-speed line continue to be disrupted following flood damage to the Elbbrücke (east of Stendal) and diversions/cancellations remain in place until further notice. *ICE* services Köln/Düsseldorf - Berlin are diverted via Magdeburg (not calling at Wolfsburg or Stendal); *ICE* services Frankfurt - Berlin are diverted via Erfurt (not calling at Kassel, Göttingen, Hildesheim, Braunschweig or Wolfsburg). Please note that these diversions result in extended journey times of approximately 60 minutes. Most *IC* services Amsterdam - Osnabrück - Hannover - Berlin (also Friday/Sunday *IC* trains Köln - Hannover - Berlin) do not run between Hannover and Berlin and trains *EC* 248/9 are suspended between Berlin and Lüneburg/Hamburg. No date has been set for the resumption of normal services, so travellers intending to use this route are advised to confirm their travel plans before departure.

### POLAND

Several tables in our Polish section have been restructured this month. In particular Table 1001 Berlin - Poznań has been extended to Warszawa incorporating former Table 1005, whilst the Zielona Góra - Wrocław trains from the former table are now in 1004. New Table 1005 Zielona Góra - Jelenia Góra is a combination of old tables 1004 and 1081. A major change is that Table 1020 has been split into two, with new 1025 showing trains from Gdynia and Gdansk to Warszawa and Łódź. New Table 1062 covers Łódź - Kraków (formerly part of 1020) whilst Table 1090 Warszawa - Łódź - Wrocław now also includes the Warszawa - Wrocław trains via other routes (Katowice or Poznań) in order to give a summary of the complete service.

Amongst other improvements to the tables, 1076 has been expanded to show the cross-border route via Chałupki taken by the Moskva - Praha train *Vitava*, which also conveys first and second class seats between Warszawa and Bohumin.

Czech open access operator Leo Express has announced that it intends to enter the Polish market and, subject to negotiations, plans to run on the routes from Warszawa to Katowice and Kraków and from Warszawa to Poznań and Szczecin.

### MONTENEGRO

Imminent changes are expected to services between Podgorica and Nikšić when new electric multiple units, currently on test, enter full traffic. At the moment three return trains operate daily (Table 1371).

### BULGARIA

Timings for a single return service between Vidin and Craiova via the recently opened Danube bridge will be found in Table 1520. However, the proposed start date was not available as we went to press.

### RUSSIA

The local service from Sochi to Sochi Airport has been doubled from five journeys each way to ten (Table 1960).

Due to open later this year ahead of the Winter Olympics is the new 45 km line from Adler and Sochi Airport to Krasnaya Polyana. With six tunnels and 23 bridges the line is a major feat of engineering, and the project also includes an adjacent road. There will be two stations in the area of Krasnaya Polyana named Esto-Sadok and Alpika Service. During the games the line will be used to transport up to 8,500 passengers per hour from the main Olympic Village near Adler to the Alpika Service Mountain Resort, venue for various alpine events.

### SHIPPING

Condor Ferries made a welcome return to Weymouth on July 17 when sailings resumed between the Dorset port and the Channel Islands following refurbishment of the ferry berth and terminal facilities (see Table 2100).

### BEYOND EUROPE

This month our Beyond Europe section covers South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand, with tables numbered from 6000 upwards.