

What's new this month

As well as numerous updates to the current winter timings, this edition includes a **Summer International Supplement**, which has been expanded this month to include advance summer versions of all our international tables. These are valid from June 9, and will be found on pages 570 to 618.

The **May** edition will contain further updates to the Supplement. A number of countries will be introducing new or amended timetables for the summer and these will be shown, where possible, in the **June** edition. British schedules will be valid from May 19, timings in Russia and the Ukraine will change from May 26, whilst the International section and most other countries in the June edition will be valid from June 9. An exception, however, is Finland, where the new timetable starts on June 3. The French section will include additional tables covering the high-summer timings in Brittany, valid July 7 to August 25.

ROUTE OF THE MONTH

Into the Bulgarian Hills, written by Nicky Gardner, is the topic for **Route of the Month** (page 35), the new feature introduced in our 140th Anniversary edition last month. The narrow gauge line which forms the subject of this piece has a revised timetable, as shown in Table **1510**.

AIRPORT LINKS

A new rail link has opened to Lublin Airport in Poland. Situated ten kilometres east of Lublin city centre, the five journeys on Mondays to Saturdays (three on Sundays) take 15 minutes. Each departure is timed to meet Wizzair and Ryanair arrivals with the facility to delay train departures if planes arrive late.

The number of trains serving Tbilisi Airport has been halved from four a day to two.

INTERNATIONAL

Train **301/300 Berlin Night Express** Berlin - Malmö will run again this summer, but for a considerably shorter season (Table **50**).

The much anticipated through TGV service between Paris and Barcelona is expected to start on April 28, removing the need to change at Figueres Vilafant. There will be two trains each way as now, with a third train operating on three days a week between the two cities (Table **13**). Additionally, two S100 AVE train pairs will operate daily between Barcelona and Toulouse (Table **49**).

GREAT BRITAIN

Following the landslide at Hatfield and Stainforth mentioned last month affecting Tables **192** and **193**, it is believed that the line is unlikely to reopen until July at the earliest. The summer timetable in Great Britain will come into effect on May 19 and will be shown in our June edition.

IRELAND

The Coleraine - Londonderry line reopened earlier than expected on March 24. Closed since July 2012 for track relaying, the timetable features a departure from Belfast at 0605 arriving in Londonderry at 0825, believed to be the first ever arrival from Belfast before 0830 (Table **231**).

FRANCE

The Tramway du Mont Blanc plans to run to the upper terminus at Nid d'Aigle this summer, following a period when it has only been possible to run as far as Mont Lachat. The summer season will run from June 15 to September 29 and timings are shown in Table **397**.

BELGIUM

Engineering work in the tunnel under the River Schelde necessitates schedule alterations at weekends. Lille / Mouscron - Kortrijk - Antwerpen Central trains (route IC C) will terminate at Sint-Niklaas, where an hourly service will run via Mechelen to Antwerpen. Buses will replace local trains between Sint-Niklaas and Antwerpen Berchem. The Oostende - Antwerpen service (IC G) will run only between Oostende and Gent Sint-Pieters. Work will take place from 1330 on Saturdays (including Easter Monday), and is currently scheduled to last until April 14.

NETHERLANDS

In December 2009 the line through the town of Nijverdal, located on the Zwolle to Almelo route, was closed so that a new alignment and station could be constructed. Just over three years later the new section of line is now complete and through services between Zwolle and Enschede will start running on April 8. Table **492** has been updated with the new timings.

ITALY

A new *Frecciarossa* will be introduced from April 14. Train **9591/2** will run between Milano and Ancona using the high-speed line between Milano and Bologna and traditional lines beyond (Tables **600/630**).

SPAIN

A third direct AVE between Barcelona and Sevilla commenced service on March 22. Operating six days a week, it runs non-stop from Camp de Tarragona to Córdoba, taking under five hours from Barcelona to Sevilla, a reduction of approximately 30 minutes (Tables **650, 660**).

Trenhotel Alhambra 897/894 Barcelona - Granada has been retimed to improve connections with the TGV service between Barcelona and Paris (Tables **661/672**).

A new IC service from Madrid to Gijón has been introduced on Fridays, calling only at Oviedo and returning on Sundays (Table **685**). On Fridays, a new MD service from Miranda de Ebro to Bilbao connects out of Alvia **4397** Madrid to Irún, whilst on Sundays in the reverse direction there is a new connection into Alvia **4376** (Table **689**).

On the island of Mallorca, SFM has issued a new timetable for its services from Palma to Inca, sa Pobla and Manacor (Table **674**).

DENMARK

Much reported in this column previously, news of the Limfjord bridge works north of Aalborg suggests that rail services may resume on April 22, although this remained unconfirmed at press date (Table **701**).

SWEDEN

Trains between Stockholm and Göteborg run by secondary operator SKJB have been amended. Of note, services now run non-stop between Stockholm and Hallsberg and as a consequence no longer serve Strängnäs, Eskilstuna, Arboga or Örebro stations (Tables **732/40**).

GERMANY

From April 2 to September 27 the line through the Rehberg Tunnel, situated to the east of Altenbeken, will be closed so that upgrade work can take place. Services on the routes from Altenbeken to Bad Pyrmont (Table **809**) / Detmold (Table **811**) / Ottbergen (Table **811**) will operate to a special timetable during this period with trains replaced by bus for part of the journey. Tables **809** and **811** have been updated with the revised timings.

SLOVAKIA

Amendments were made to several local services from March 3. In particular, these have affected Table **1196** Košice - Prešov - Lipany and Table **1197** Prešov - Humenné.

HUNGARY

A number of minor amendments from April 7 have been incorporated into our tables.

TURKEY

Due to engineering work between Konya and Adana, *Toros Ekspresi 61305/71306* Adana - Eskisehir is suspended in both directions until September 30.

RUSSIA

A new timetable has been issued for the *Allegro* St Peterburg - Helsinki service from March 31 as a result of the clock change (Table **1910**).

SHIPPING

Stena Line has taken over several routes formerly operated by Scandlines: Rostock - Trelleborg (Table **2380**), Sassnitz-Mukran - Trelleborg (**2385**), Nynäshamn - Ventspils (**2448**), Travemünde - Liepaja (**2486**) and Travemünde - Ventspils (**2487**).

Moby Lines' Genova - Porto Torres service will not operate this summer (Table **2675**).

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Tables **10** to **99** (Summer) from June 9 will be found on pages 570 to 618.

Table 10 – Eurostar services are valid June 2 - Aug. 31.

Table 13 – From July 7, the three times weekly TGV **9713** 1007 Paris to Barcelona will be retimed six hours later to depart at 1607 as TGV **9717**.

Table 24 – We understand that train **447/446 Jan Kiepura** Amsterdam - Warszawa, together with the three times weekly cars to Minsk (also the Basel - Moskva car) are to be withdrawn, with the last departures on June 29 from Warszawa and June 30 from Amsterdam. The CNL trains from Amsterdam to Praha and København (Table **54**) are unaffected.

Table 49 – From July 7, two S100 AVE train pairs will run daily between Barcelona and Marseille, and one a day will run daily between Barcelona and Lyon Part Dieu.

BEYOND EUROPE

This month's section covers Japan (Tables from **8000** upwards) and includes a new Airport Rail Links table numbered **8400**.