

Chair's Report for 2012

This report covers the calendar year 2012, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings continue to be held in the Arup Headquarters in Fitzroy Street, London. We are very grateful to Arup for making a room and refreshments available to us and to Scott Clyne for his support with meeting arrangements.

Our nine meetings over the year have covered topics across the transport field, with a set of expert speakers:

- In January 2012, Dick Dunmore from Steer Davies Gleave (and TEG secretary) spoke on *'Reviewing rail fares for the Rail Value for Money study'*;
- In February, Tom Farrell and Robin Finer of the Competition Commission explained the *'Competition Commission investigation into the supply of local bus services in the UK'*;
- In March, following the AGM, Dr Ian Skinner of Transport and Environmental Policy Research gave a talk on *'Delivering greenhouse gas reductions in European transport by 2050'*;
- In April, Ben Condry of the Imperial College's Railway and Transport Strategy Centre presented *'MOIRA2 – a new timetable-based rail demand and revenue forecasting model'*;
- In May, we heard from Nick Maltby of Bircham Dyson Bell on *'Tax Increment Financing'*;
- In June, we had a debate on the *'Thames Hub Airport'*, which was led by a presentation from Andrew Price of Halcrow and chaired by Tom Worsley;
- In September, Jake Kelly of South West Trains spoke on *'The Wessex Alliance'*;
- In October, Stephen Joseph of the Campaign for Better Transport and Phil Goodwin from the University of the West of England led a talk and discussion on *'Modelling Smarter Choices'*;
- And our last talk of the year, in November, was from Duncan Horne of Transport for London, on *'Smartcards in London'*.

This year, we trialled a change in format for one of the meetings, with the June meeting being more of a debate than a formal presentation, which successfully allowed for more discussion among members to take place. We intend to use this type of approach in some future meetings where it suits the subject matter, although we expect that most meetings will continue to be of the normal presentation format.

Average attendance at meetings over this period was 31, an small increase on recent years, with averages of 26 in 2009/10 and 30 in 2011. The talks on railway topics tended to be the most popular. The number of attendees ranged from 25 to 40 and, overall, one fifth of attendees were guests.

Publications

The Transport Economists' Group Journal continued to be edited ably by Peter Gordon during 2012, with three issues published reporting the monthly talks and discussions. We intend to continue to publish the Journal in full colour so that graphics from speakers' presentations can be incorporated in the write-ups of the talks.

Speakers' presentations continue to be distributed to members by email after each meeting and we are grateful to our speakers for allowing us to distribute their presentations in this manner.

Membership and Finance

Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary will be making a separate finance report, which shows that the Group is in a strong financial position and membership numbers are good.

Publicity

The Committee continues to make efforts to publicise the Group and our talks, using:

- Our website (<http://www.transecongroup.org/>) which is updated each month with details of forthcoming talks;
- Monthly emails to members advising of the next talk and the forward programme;
- A flyer for each talk sent out with the monthly email, intended to be suitable for posting on office notice boards;
- A Twitter account (@TransEconGroup) which is used to alert followers to forthcoming talks – this now has 275 followers;
- A LinkedIn [TEG group](#) used for discussions and for notices on the monthly talks – this now has 185 members.

Retiring Committee

All members of the Committee have made substantial contributions to the running of the Group over the last year. Sincere thanks go to Gregory Marchant (Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Dick Dunmore (Secretary and Webmaster) and Peter Gordon (Editor), plus members without portfolio Tom Worsley, Gerard Whelan, Scott Clyne and Tim Griffiths. Tim Griffiths has decided to stand down from the committee and we thank him for all his contributions over the last year.

I would also like to thank Melanie Buchan for her excellent work as our Group Administrator.

The Transport Economists' Group provides a forum for economists and others interested in transport to meet regularly, discuss topical subjects and keep up-to-date with current developments in transport economics. Expert presentations on various topics are enhanced by members' contributions to debates and we hope this will continue to be of value to members.

Julie Mills

Chair

28th February 2012