

## FROM THE PAPERS

Items for “From the Papers” should be sent to Ian McKenzie at 24 Thamespoint, Fairways, Teddington, TW11 9PP, and not to the Editor of this journal. Please ensure that contributions are identified by date and source publication.

**02.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Commuters on the DLR were today caught in major delays after the radio system broke down. The DLR has driverless trains but does have “captains” who stay in touch with central control on the radio network. DLR trains began running again shortly after 08.00 but delays continued throughout the morning peak.

**02.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – High above the Thames, London’s first cable car has its maiden flight. Three gondolas were suspended in mid-air today after moving off just before 10.00 – the first test of the city’s newest river crossing. The £60M cable car system could transport athletes at the Olympics if it is completed in time and will eventually carry up to 10 people per trip. A spokesman for Emirates said, “This is a significant milestone in the development of the Emirates Air Line and brings us closer to be able to fly passengers over the river. One fully operational, passengers will travel across the river at heights of 90 metres”.

**02.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Letters – *from Anon* – “At rush hour, the Central Line is at capacity, and Stratford, a supposedly “international” station, feels the same. This is before the arrival of additional passengers coming to see the Olympics. Damage limitation is surely the only strategy now before the summer”. *From Peter* – “Stratford station flooded yesterday. Staff say it happens each time it rains. I met Boris there and told him that action is needed before the Olympics – he found that very amusing”.

**02.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – A man, whose video of a woman racially insulting Underground passengers helped convict her, did it because he wanted to save his daughters from similar abuse. The woman faces prison after admitting racially aggravated harassment. She was returning from a party when a black woman accidentally bumped into her in a packed Central Line carriage in January. The video was played in court and it showed her screaming racial abuse. He raised the alarm but the woman had left the train. After the video was put on YouTube, the woman handed herself into police. She had previously been convicted of a similar rant on the DLR in 2008 for which she was fined. Currently she is banned from the Underground and electronically tagged until final sentencing at the end of May.

**09.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Thousands of commuters suffered a second successive day of major Victoria Line disruption today, again because of signal failure. Severe delays hit the length of the line after problems at Finsbury Park, following yesterday’s suspension between Seven Sisters and Walthamstow Central. DLR services were also suspended today between Crossharbour and Lewisham due to a broken down train at Greenwich, while a broken down train between Gospel Oak and Barking delayed Overground services.

**09.05.12 METRO** – Texts – *from Rob* – “When will London make its Underground announcements and signs multilingual pre-Olympics?” – *from Ian* – “I think we should have Olympic events for Londoners, such as a dash for a Tube seat with extra points for good use of elbows”.

**10.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Stuntman Chase Armitage is racing as the crow flies through the streets of south London to see if he could beat the train in a 1.5 mile “man v Tube” challenge. Instead of wedging himself on a stuffy Underground train, he was dashing on foot from Borough Market to Waterloo and on to the Royal Festival Hall. Making the identical journey but on the train was marketing executive Russ Bispham, travelling from Borough to Waterloo on the Northern and Jubilee lines, changing at London Bridge. It came after TfL bosses warned that during the Olympics it could be quicker to walk than take the train. But commuters thinking of copying Mr. Armitage’s example should beware. Instead of walking he is using his freerunning skills to vault railings, flip over cars and jump over fences to get to his destination as quick as possible, as the predicted Underground journey is just 10 minutes. This stunt was to promote the release of the film “Freerunner”.

**10.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Since his re-election, Mayor Boris Johnson has said he wants to change the face of transport by investing in the Underground and gaining more control of the suburban rail network. He has also warned Underground union bosses he is ready for “a fight” over

driverless trains, and he would lobby “vociferously” for a 50% minimum turnout for strikes. He is confident that commuters will be able to use their Oyster cards on the whole railway network in the future, and said he is not necessarily committed to “whacking up” fares next years.

**10.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – An exhibition showing how transport maps have shaped our understanding of the capital opens on 18 May. “Mind the Map” at the LT Museum draws on the venue’s collection and explores the influence of Harry Beck’s iconic Underground map on cartography and art. It includes work by artists Simon Patterson, Susan Stockwell, Jeremy Wood and Claire Brewster. The show, which runs until 28 October, will be accompanied by a series of public events and a book.

**10.05.12 METRO** - More than 2,000 TfL office staff have volunteered as Travel Ambassadors to help provide journey information during this summer’s Olympics. The ambassadors will work alongside full-time operational staff at London’s Underground, rail and bus stations, and other customer-facing areas such as Travel Information Centres.

**10.05.12 METRO** – Historically, the local area we now know as Marylebone, was named Tyburn (Tiburne in the Domesday Book). It became infamous for the Tyburn Tree gallows, where many of London’s most notorious criminals were hanged. Little wonder local residents petitioned for the name to be changed in honour of the much more wholesome St. Mary-by-the Bourn parish church in the late 15th century. Maryburne became Marylebone in the 18th century (the “le” meaning by or near). During the station’s planning it was referred to as either Marylebone or Lisson Grove, but it opened as Great Central in 1907, and was renamed Marylebone in 1917.

**13.05.12 THE NEW YORK TIMES** – In this often capricious city of Cairo, the Metro is something of a miracle. Efficient and orderly, it is frequently referred to as the one thing that always works. This is not new, but it has become even more appreciated in the year after the toppling of President Mubarak, as the police vanished, people marched and Egyptians struggled to find their bearings. But the trains are still dependable. One commuter said, “If there was a crisis in the Metro the people would have another revolution”. During one recent bus strike, the subway trains were full of people trying to escape the chaos above for just £1 (about US16 cents). Some of the trains are old, dating back to 1987 with wooden window shades on the outside. 3 million people in this city of 18 million ride on the subways every day. It is the fastest, cheapest and safest means of transport in the country. The country has had frequent labour strikes following the revolution, and even the vaunted subway was not immune; workers have been holding regular sit-ins, complaining that the Metro has failed to honour previous pledges for wage increases and bonuses. For now, the workers, who do not include the train drivers(!) have not tried to halt the service, with many saying they worry about the impact on the country(!).

**14.05.12 METRO** – Former soldier, Ben Hancock, who served in the Army for 11 years is hoping to raise £1M in a day during this year’s Poppy appeal. In 2006 he and 5 others stood outside Underground stations across London. After leading 1,000 current and former soldiers to a £450,000 total last November, he is planning to hit the £1M mark with 2,000 volunteers this year – although admitted 2014 was his official target.

**14.05 and 17.05.12 METRO** – London is blessed with some of the world’s greatest transport architecture. The following are a selection of MetroTravel’s favourite examples of a legacy that encompasses the Victorian railways revolution, the creation of the Underground network and the jet age: London Heathrow Airport Terminal 5, Stockwell Bus Garage, Baker Street Underground Station, Paddington NR Station, Blackfriars NR Station (2012), St. Pancras NR Station, Arnos Grove Underground Station, Canary Wharf Underground Station, King’s Cross NR Station and Tower Bridge.

**15.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Mayor Boris Johnson hailed figures showing that the Underground is more reliable than ever – as thousands of commuters suffered long rush-hour delays. TfL revealed that the numbers of hours lost by passengers in delays was at its lowest since measurement began in 1999. Later this year the Mayor will announce how he plans to fulfil his manifesto pledge of reducing delays by more than 30% over the next 3 years. There were severe delays on the District Line due to a track fault at Earl’s Court. RMT leader Bob Crow said, “It is all very well for TfL to boast of record services, but passengers are still suffering delays every day due to breakdown caused by maintenance and staffing cuts”.

**16.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – The Mayor's Deputy Mayor for Transport said that upgrades to Underground lines and major schemes like Crossrail will help to fulfil the Mayor's pledge to create 200,000 jobs. Crossrail will be largely completed and the vast bulk of the upgrades on the Jubilee and Waterloo & City lines as well as all the new trains on the subsurface lines will be completed by the end of Boris Johnson's term.

**16.05.12 METRO** – Soaring above the Thames, the first load testing for London's newest transport link, the Emirates Air Line, took place yesterday. It will carry up to 5,000 people per hour across the river between Greenwich Peninsular and the Royal Victoria Docks.

**17.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – LU is to be prosecuted after a driverless train careered out of control for four miles on the Northern Line – speeding through 6 stations and narrowly missing smashing into a passenger train. A flawed coupling broke while the 90-tonne train, used for engineering work, was being towed to Archway. It rolled backwards downhill. It "chased" a passenger train with the driver of that train ordered to pick up speed and not stop at stations to avoid a crash. Two quick thinking signallers diverted two other passenger trains. LU and Tube Lines will be prosecuted under Health & Safety regulations.

**17.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Tracey Emin has created a cover for pocket Underground maps to celebrate the Olympics. Her design features a chirping bird sitting on a "branch" of the Northern Line. Emin's map is the 16th in a series by various notable artists. She said, "When people look at the map cover I want them to smile". Her design will appear on 18 million maps – the largest print run of the series.

**18.05.12 THE TIMES** – (*See above item*) – Unfortunately for bemused foreign visitors to the capital this summer, of the five stations that Emin has chosen to include in her design, one of them – Shoreditch High Street, where she lives – isn't on an Underground line.

**18.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Alcohol is banned on the Underground but did not stop TfL chief Peter Hendy being named "bear drinker of the year" at an awards dinner. His suggestion that commuters should go to a pub after work to avoid travel chaos during the Olympics was cited as a "glorious example of common sense" by the chairman of Parliament's all-party beer group at its annual awards for the brewing industry. Andrew Griffiths said, "With one sentence of clarity Peter Hendy not only said something that would ease pressure on the Underground system but would also help struggling publicans across London".

**21.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Plans to install "wave and pay" technology using a credit or debit card on London's transport network have been significantly delayed. The scheme – described as "contactless travel" – was supposed to make commuter travel easier as fares would be automatically deducted from passenger's accounts. But it is now running a year late and will not come into use on the Underground until the end of next year. TfL's Shashi Verma said, "We are breaking new ground. It is not like a programme we have done 25 times before. This is new technology starting from scratch, and it will be even harder fitting on the Underground than the buses. There is huge amount of development to be done. Not just by us but by the banking industry. TfL is focused on making the London Games go smoothly and Wave and Pay was not the sort of thing you want to be mucking about with just before the Olympics".

**21.05.12 METRO** – *Tweet from Chris from Liverpool* – "Having visited New York and experienced Subway staff, Tube staff are to be treasured".

**24.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – Mayor Boris Johnson was forced to apologise to hundreds of Underground passengers trapped underground in stifling heat, and offered them £40 compensation each. He said, "This was a very serious mechanical failure and it was very unusual". The unprecedented compensation offer for distress and disruption to all 773 passengers on the stranded Jubilee Line train totals £30,920.

**24.05.12 METRO** – Referring to both the area and more specifically a street in north-west London, Maida Vale takes its name from Maida, a town in southern Italy where the British defeated the French during the Napoleonic Wars in 1806. The street was first mentioned in 1868 and is part of the Edgware Road. Before the Bakerloo Line Underground station was opened in 1915, Elgin Avenue had been the proposed name, but Maida Vale was chosen instead.

**25.05.12 METRO** – Hundreds of passengers stranded on a special Diamond Jubilee Underground train will be given £40 each in compensation. In what transport union leaders called "a week of hell",

more than 770 people had to be walked through tunnels because of problems on the Jubilee Line. Three people had medical treatment after the train – one of two decorated with bunting to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee – broke down near St. John's Wood. LU staff tried to move the train, using another train to push it from behind. This was not successful and the decision was made to walk the passengers off the train.

**28.05.12 THE TIMES** – Medically trained BTP officers will be deployed across London Underground network from today in any attempt to cut delays when passengers are taken ill on the Underground.

**29.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – *Londoner's Diary* – Six Labour MPs have tabled an Early Day Motion asking LU to change the name of the Jubilee Line to the Elizabeth Jubilee Line to mark the Diamond Jubilee year. It could be costly. Not only would this present us with a bill for millions via LU having to print new maps and signs but, with all due respect to Her Majesty, Elizabeth Jubilee sounds suspiciously like an adult film actress.

**29.05.12 METRO** – Proposals for the Bank station capacity upgrade project include the creation of wider platforms, better access to lines and step free access to a new ticket hall. The planned scheme is scheduled to be completed by 2021. The Bank and Monument station complex is located in the heart of the City and is the 4th busiest interchange station on the Underground network, handling around 96,000 passengers during morning peak.

**30.05.12 EVENING STANDARD** – The drunken Underground passenger filmed hurling racist abuse to fellow travellers was jailed for 21 weeks. Her rant on the Central Line was viewed by more than 200,000 times on YouTube. The 42-year old secretary admitted causing racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress and was banned from travelling on the Underground or DLR while drunk for five years.

**30.05.12 METRO** – Underground staff are to be balloted for strikes in rows over jobs, pay and conditions. Scores of control centre and maintenance staff will be urged to back industrial action, the RMT union warned. Plans to replace old signal cabins and service control centres with a control base at Hammersmith have led to a 'range of union concerns'. "These disputes are about protecting our members in the face of aggressive and bullying management tactics that leave us no choice but to ballot for action", RMT's Bob Crow said. LU said it was disappointed by the move, as talks were "on-going and, up to this point, constructive".

**30.05.12 CITYAM** – LU has dipped into its coffers to avert strike action on the network during the Olympic Games. After a month of wrangling, the RMT union said it has agreed a deal with LU that offers staff up to £850 and drivers as much as £1,000 in extra payments for working during the Games. On top of the bonus, staff will not be required to work outside their normal working hours and conditions. RMT continues to lobby LU to hold a full-scale mock emergency evacuation to test plans ahead of the Games, and remains critical of the use of volunteers to help at stations.