



## IEEE United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section

### Travel Information for March 2011 R8 Committee at Heathrow, London

This document will be updated and revised from time to time

#### Meeting location

The meeting will be held in the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, which is near to Heathrow Airport, on the Northern Perimeter (where many other hotels are located).

**Address** 140 Bath Road, Middlesex UB3 5AW

**Telephone:** +44 (0) 20 8759 6311. **Fax:** +44 (0) 20 8759 4559

The hotel provides car-parking for its guests, with self or valet parking. Self-car-parking fees are £12 per day. It claims that

*“Hotels near Heathrow airport can be noisy, but this superb hotel offers a haven of quiet”*

The hotel has 459 bedrooms, and these have safes, coffee maker, free wireless internet access without password and air conditioning.



#### Airport options

There are five airports in the London area: Heathrow 15 miles to the west, Gatwick 30 miles to the south, Stansted 35 miles to the north-east, Luton to the north, and the London City airport in the docklands area down-river from the City of London.

Those planning to attend the R8 Committee Meeting are **strongly advised to select Heathrow for their air-travel**. Although there are various means of public transportation between the airports, these are generally expensive and some are slow. The ‘budget’ airlines generally do not use Heathrow (for example, Ryanair flights mostly use Stansted, many Easyjet flights use Luton, and several other budget airlines use Stansted). However the saving in cost that might be obtained from a budget airline is likely to be cancelled by the cost of travel between the arrival airport and Heathrow.

Public Transportation in London and vicinity is comprehensive (surface trains, now called “National Rail”, London Underground, buses) but is among the most expensive of any capital city.

Consequently, a substantial saving in the cost of an air fare may not be worthwhile if it entails arrival at one of the other airports. A taxi from Stansted Airport to Heathrow could cost well in excess of the equivalent of 100 €.

Road transport (whether bus or taxi or private car) is liable to be slow because of traffic congestion. The London Underground trains and London buses are operated by ‘London Transport’

Route advice and general travel and ticket information can be obtained from the website <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

#### Travel between Heathrow Airport arrivals and the Hotel

There are five terminals at Heathrow, but terminal TWO is closed for total reconstruction. Terminals ONE and THREE are fairly close together, linked by an underground pedestrian passage which

includes moving walkways. About quarter of an hour should be allowed for finding the entrance plus walking time. The underground passage also provides access to the Central Bus Station and the departure stations of the Heathrow Express and London Underground (Piccadilly Line). The Central Bus Station is directly above the Underground station ticket office and entrance/exit.

Terminals FOUR and FIVE are much further away and cannot be reached on foot – either an underground train on the Piccadilly Line must be taken or else a shuttle bus (bus number 555 between ONE/THREE and FOUR) – the bus is free but the bus runs only about every 20 minutes.

From FOUR and FIVE it is also possible to travel free on the Heathrow Express train to the other Terminals (every 15 minutes): Be sure to get off at the T1,2,3 station or you might have an expensive journey to Central London!

Terminal ONE is generally used for local (UK) flights and some other local destinations, and Terminal THREE mostly for long-haul flights other than British Airways (a small number of British Airways flights do now use Terminal THREE).

Terminal FOUR is used for both European and long-haul flights, by a number of other airlines including Air France and KLM.

Terminal FIVE is the newest and is used only by British Airways.

Because of airport building development work, etc. changes are likely and the former simple allocation of flights and airlines to terminals no longer applies – for example Air New Zealand and Lufthansa use Terminal ONE! A careful check of your flight arrival and departure terminal is therefore advisable. See also list on the last page.

The Piccadilly Line maps still show “T1, 2, 3” as if Terminal TWO still existed. Note that some trains take the terminal FOUR loop and some do not, but all call at the T 1,2,3 station:



### National Express Hotel Hoppa Buses

There are no free hotel shuttle buses at Heathrow. However, the Hotel Hoppa buses provide a convenient but fairly expensive shuttle service at £4.50 each way between all terminals and many hotels, departing every 30 minutes. From Terminals ONE and THREE, the Hoppa bus to and from the Edwardian Radisson is H3, and from Terminals FOUR and FIVE it is H53. Departures continue until about 2330. For the return journey, the Hoppa bus is good for early departures from the hotel, because the service starts at about 0430, the bus comes to the entrance door of the hotel, and it travels to near the departure areas of each terminal.



There are free public bus services in addition, which may be taken from the **Central Bus Station** to the hotel (longer journeys on the same buses will NOT be free). The rule is that these red-bus services are free within the Heathrow area, but longer journeys on the same bus are not free, so be sure to tell the driver where you are going – tell him the hotel name and ‘Bath Road’ and you will be let on free.

Buses to consider for this are 111 and 285 because these run frequently and also operate an all night service. In particular, 285 has a low floor which makes access easier, and has good luggage space. Frequency of this bus is about every 10 minutes, and the journey to the hotel takes about 10 minutes. Get off at the New Road stop, by the Marriott Hotel and walk back about 100 metres to the Radisson entrance. It is on the same side of the road with a good walkway past the hotels.



The Central Bus Station is not directly accessible from Terminals FOUR or FIVE although it can be reached by 423 bus from Terminal FIVE and 555/7 bus from Terminal FOUR. If you are determined to travel free from these terminals to the hotel, it would be best to take the Heathrow Express to the Terminal 1,2,3, station, and go up to the Central Bus station and catch, for example, a 285

bus.

### Paying for Travel

With a few exceptions (such as the Gatwick Express and Stansted Express trains) it is essential to buy the correct train ticket **before** getting on the train or entering restricted platform areas. Otherwise, substantial fines may have to be paid. In most cases, there is an automatic barrier gate for access to the platform areas, so that a ticket is in any case necessary to get through (except for those agile enough to jump over the barrier). The photo shows the typical automatic barrier gate type.



For some but not all bus travel, it is possible to buy a ticket from the driver (in cash only) when getting on to the bus. Note that bus drivers in Central London do NOT sell tickets, which must be bought from automatic machines before boarding the bus. Ticket machines mostly accept cash or credit cards.

### Ticket types for the London area

London is divided into six concentric zones, numbered 1 to 6 from the centre outwards (e.g. the innermost zone is 1). Heathrow is in zone 6.

Underground single fares are £4 in zones 1 and 2 and £5 for travel to the outer zones. These fares apply even for very short journeys (e.g. from one station to the next) and there are no discounts for senior citizens or visitors. Therefore there is a strong incentive to use alternative ticket types, such as a Travelcard or an Oyster Card. An Oyster Card so-called 'pay as you go' fare is £1.90 in zone 1 and offers reductions on other fares at off peak times (after 0930 Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday)

The pre-paid electronic Oyster Card is a widely used and often the cheapest method of travel in London, and is valid on almost all trains and buses. Automatic card readers are provided on platforms, at automatic entry and exit barriers and on buses. When using an Oyster Card it is essential to touch it on the yellow circular reader both on entry and exit from a journey, otherwise the charge debited for the journey may be incorrect. You might be charged for the longest available journey rather than a shorter actual journey if you fail to do this properly.



The amount stored on the Oyster Card can be topped up in various ways.

An Oyster Card is purchased with an initial amount stored on it (minimum £10) and there is an initial 'activation fee' of £3 included.

An all-zone Travelcard costs £15 for unlimited travel (on bus, underground and surface rail) for one day, reduced to £8 for off-peak travel. There are cheaper Travel cards for use in less zones (for example, for the inner two zones only the costs are £8 and £6.60 respectively – and these zones cover many of the places of interest to tourists visiting London. The automatic barriers are programmed to prevent entry with an off-peak Travelcard prior to 0930 on weekdays.



Single bus fares (without an Oyster Card) are £2.20. This applies even if you are

travelling between adjacent bus stops. It is therefore much better to have a Travelcard or an OysterCard. For the Oyster Card, there is a daily cap on the maximum you will pay for bus fares – it will never exceed £4 however many journeys you make.

### **Arrival by Eurostar**

From Northern France or from Belgium, it may be preferable to come by train instead of plane. The Eurostar trains via the Channel Tunnel arrive at St. Pancras station in London. From there, the easiest and probably cheapest route is to take the Piccadilly Line Underground train to the Heathrow T1,2,3 station, then use the underpass walkway to the Central Bus Station and catch a free bus (such as 285) to the hotel. However this route takes rather a long time: the Piccadilly line journey from St. Pancras to Heathrow T1,2,3 takes about 70 minutes. Parts of the journey are typically very crowded and getting a seat might be impossible.

Consider travelling only to Hounslow East or Hounslow West stations on the Piccadilly Line and take a red bus from there to the Radisson Hotel (111 from Hounslow East or 81, 222 or H98 from Hounslow West). In each case you have to cross the road outside the station to get to the bus stop. Heathrow East has an elevator to street level, so may be preferable if you have heavy luggage. There is no need stay on the Piccadilly Line to Heathrow. Leave the bus at Mondial Way stop on the Bath Road, and walk to the Radisson Hotel, which is almost opposite (take care crossing the busy Bath Road!)

An alternative is to go by London Underground (Hammersmith and City Line or Circle Line) to Paddington and take the Heathrow Express: this leaves Paddington every 15 minutes with a journey time of 15 minutes, but the Heathrow Express fare is £16.50 (or £26 for First Class) and Travelcards and Oyster Cards are not valid on this train.

### **Visiting Central London**

Access to and from Central London and associated areas of interest to tourists, etc. from the Edwardian Radisson Hotel is neither rapid nor easy, and it is not intended that as part of the R8 Committee meeting there will be time for the Committee members to visit Central London, though arrangements are planned to assist accompanying people to do so if they wish.

Committee Members who do wish to visit London are recommended to stay for additional days at their own expense and to select a suitably priced and located hotel nearer to London and places of interest.

Should you be planning to make any long-distance journeys to other towns well away from London, consider either National Express buses (which are cheaper but slower than train travel), or, if using trains and old enough, look into the possibility of buying a “Senior Railcard” which will give a substantial discount for off peak travel, and might be cost-effective if you plan to make one or more long distance trips.

Many museums are free of charge. Those for which payment is needed may offer concessions to senior citizens on proof of age.

### **Taxis**

The standard and well-known ‘London Taxis’ are well regulated and the drivers well trained. They can therefore be expected to provide a good quality service, with well-controlled fare-rules. However, they are NOT cheap. Some will accept credit card payments. It is normal practice to ‘hail’ these taxis in the street, and if free they will normally stop to pick up passengers. However, near to rail stations, airport terminals, etc. pick up may be only from a labelled taxi-rank, where you need to queue to take the next available one.

Mini-cabs (standard cars operating a taxi service) are widely used, are legal, and generally far cheaper, but need to be booked in advance by telephone, they cannot legally or safely be ‘hailed’ in the street.

Unlicensed cars operating as taxis should be avoided, and great care taken in making use of drivers standing in airport arrival areas offering ‘cheap travel’.

### **Currency**

There are no restrictions on exchanging currency – exchange booths can be found in main streets in London and at airports, and all banks, post offices and many travel agents offer a currency exchange service. Of course, the usual warnings apply to exchanging money with unlicensed street traders and so on.

Rates offered at airports and by banks may be less favourable than elsewhere, and commissions and other extras may be added to make the transaction less good than it appears.

Coins are available in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 pence and £1 and £2. Bank notes are available in £5, £10, £20, £50 denominations. However, the £50 notes are not widely used and some places will not accept them because of the risk of forgeries. There is said to be a substantial number of forged bank-notes in circulation but they are of good quality and not easy to recognise. From time to time, new bank note designs are issued and after a while the old designs become obsolete and no longer legal.

Scotland and Northern Ireland Banks issue their own bank-notes of different designs. They are legal for use throughout the UK, but may not be welcomed in England. In any case, they may be exchanged for no extra cost in any English bank, as can English bank notes of obsolete designs. Should you arrive in UK with some bank-notes of these obsolete designs, go to a bank and they will provide replacements.

MasterCard and Visa credit cards are almost universally accepted, but American Express and Diners Card less so, although American Express is accepted at almost all hotels, supermarkets and rail ticket offices.

Cash machines are plentiful. The ones in smaller shops, etc. may sometimes charge a fee for use, and so some care is needed. There is a fee to use the one in the lobby of the Radisson Hotel.

### **Electrical Supply**

The standard supply is 230V, 50 Hz, and sockets use a three-pin format with rectangular pins. The plugs are required to contain a fuse (normally 3A or 13A).

### **Travel from other airports**

If, despite the recommendation to fly to Heathrow, you choose to arrive at one of the other London airports, the journey to the Radisson Edwardian Hotel at Heathrow is inevitably going to be lengthy and expensive.

National Express runs buses between most of these airports. These buses are comfortable with luggage space and normally with toilets.

Gatwick to Heathrow costs £21.50 one way, journey time up to one and a half hours (approx three per hour).

Stansted to Heathrow costs £23.90 one way, journey time up to two hours (approx. one per hour).

Luton to Heathrow costs £20.90 one way, journey time up to one and a half hours (approx. one bus per hour).

### **Alternatives to buses:**

From **Stansted**, take the Stansted Express train to Tottenham Hale station, change to the Victoria Line and travel to King's Cross St Pancras, and change there to the Piccadilly Line towards Heathrow. Preferably, travel only to Hounslow East or West stations and take the bus from there to the Radisson Hotel as described above. It is also possible to change between Victoria and Piccadilly lines at Green Park, but the interchange may involve a longer walk.

Should you arrive very late at Stansted Airport, it may be advisable to stay in the SAS Radisson Hotel at Stansted, which is connected with the terminal by a short walkway, and resume the journey early the following morning.

From **Gatwick**, take the Gatwick Express or any other train to Victoria station, change to the Circle or District Line to South Kensington and then to the Piccadilly Line towards Heathrow. Alternatively, if you are on a District Line train, you can change to the Piccadilly Line at Hammersmith, which allows crossing between platforms on the same level, without stairs. **WARNING:** Victoria Underground Station is undergoing substantial reconstruction and the elevators are unlikely to be in operation, so it is advisable to avoid this station if possible.

From **Luton**, take the shuttle bus to Luton train station, then a train to St Pancras, and following that continue as described for arrival by Eurostar. Almost certainly, the National Express bus from Luton airport to Heathrow will be easier and quicker. If you arrive late at Luton, and overnight stay is advisable (Holiday Inn Express and Ibis, etc. are close to the airport).

From **London City** airport, take the DLR (Docklands Light Railway) to central London and London Underground from there (for example from DLR Tower Gateway, take the District Line to Hammersmith and change to the Piccadilly Line).

### **Travel from Hotel to Central London**

From the bus stop outside the Marriott Hotel, a red bus may be taken to either the Hounslow West station (bus numbers 81, 222 or H98) or Hounslow East Piccadilly Line station (bus number 111). To Hounslow West is a ten minute bus ride, but stairs lead to the platform, there is no escalator or elevator. Hounslow East is further away but has an elevator from street level to the platforms. Returning from Central London by this way has a disadvantage that the returning buses are travelling west past the Radisson, so it is necessary to cross a rather busy road when you arrive there after alighting at the Mondial Way bus stop.

## Extra days at the Hotel

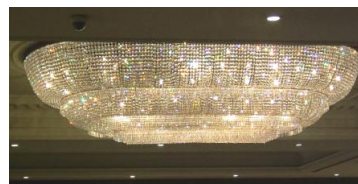
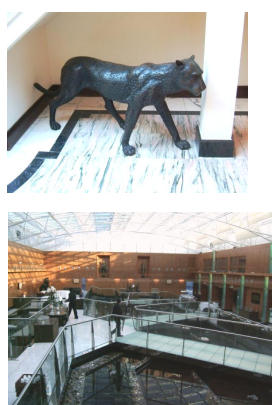
The Radisson Edwardian is not conveniently placed for visiting places of tourist interest, but if you choose to stay there for additional days at your own expense, expect to pay £100 per night including breakfast (£110 for two people in the same room).

Which Terminal?		
Terminal	Terminal	Terminal
A3 Aegean Airlines	1 CK Cathay Pacific	3 MH Malaysia Airlines
EI Aer Lingus	1 CI China Airlines	4 ME MEA
8J Aeroflot	4 MU China Eastern Airlines	4 NW Northwest Airlines
AH Air Algerie	4 CO Continental Airlines	4 OA Olympic Air
KC Air Astana	4 OU Croatia Airlines	1 WY Oman Air
AC Air Canada	3 OK CSA Czech Airlines	4 PK Pakistan International Airlines
CA Air China	3 CY Cyprus Airways	1 QF Qantas
AF Air France	4 DL Delta	4 QR Qatar Airways
AI Air India	3 MS Egypt Air	3 FV Royal Jordanian
KM Air Malta	4 LY EL AL	1 AT Royal Air Maroc
MK Air Mauritius	4 EK Emirates	3 BI Royal Brunei Airlines
NZ Air New Zealand	1 ET Ethiopian Airlines	3 RJ Royal Jordanian
HM Air Seychelles	4 EY Etihad Airways	4 SK SAS - Scandinavian Airlines
T5 Air Transat	4 BR EVA Air	3 SV Saudi Arabian Airlines
AZ Alitalia	4 AY Finnair	3 SQ Singapore Airlines
AA American Airlines	3 GY Gulf Air	4 SA South African Airways
NH ANA	3 IB Iberia	3 SL Sri Lankan Airlines
W3 Asic Air	4 FI Icelandair	1 LX Swiss International Airlines
OZ Asiana Airlines	1 IR Iran Air	3 RB Syrianair
OS Austrian	1 JL Japan Airlines	3 JJ TAM Airlines
J2 Azerbaijan Airlines	4 JU Jst Airways	4 TP TAP Portugal
BG Biman Bangladesh Airlines	4 9W Jet Airways (India)	4 RO Tarom
KF Blue 1	3 KQ Kenya Airways	4 TG Thai Airways
BD Bmib	1 TK Kbris Turkish Airlines	3 UN Transavia
BA British Airways	3 IT Kingfisher Airlines	4 TU Tunisair
<small>Singapore, Barcelona, Gibraltar, Helsinki, Lisbon, Madrid, Malaga, Singapore, Tokyo, Vienna, All other British Airways flights</small>	3 KL KLM - Royal Dutch Airlines	4 TK Turkish Airlines
SN Brussels Airlines	3 KE Korean Air	4 TS Turkmenistan Airlines
FB Bulgaria Air	3 KU Kuwait Airways	4 UA United Airlines
	5 LN Libyan Airlines	4 US US Airways
	1 LO LOT Polish Airlines	1 HY Uzbekistan Airways
	4 LH Lufthansa	1 VS Virgin Atlantic
		1 VY Vueling Airlines
		1 WY Yemenia - Yemen Airways



A view the Radisson may not want you to see

## Red arrow shows approximate location of Hotel



Various hotel scenes including the Royal Suite at the right, where the R8 Committee will meet

Tony Davies