

Chair's Report for 2013

This report covers the calendar year 2013, corresponding to the period covered by the finance report and accounts. This year was the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Transport Economists' Group and I am pleased not only that the group continues to provide a forum for topical debate but that a number of the founding members continue to attend and to bring their valuable experience to our discussions.

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 and Margot Finley for their support with meeting arrangements.

As usual, we have had nine meetings over the course of the year, and have benefited from engaging and expert speakers:

- Some of our talks have explored the changing trends in transport provision and travel behaviour, with Dr Scott Le Vine of the Centre for Transport Studies at Imperial College providing insights into the research report '*On the Move: Making sense of car and train travel trends in Britain*' and Richard Anderson and Ben Condry, also from Imperial College, illustrating the value of international public transport benchmarking;
- We've also ventured into the (sometimes murky) relationship between politics and economics with a wide-ranging debate in February between Tom Worsley of ITS Leeds and Scott Clyne of Arup, chaired by Peter Mackie; we've also had Carol Smales of TfL explaining the latest on the devolution of rail services to the Mayor of London, and David Bull of Thurrock Council talking about the challenges of local decision making in a resource-constrained world;
- Updates on topical subjects have been provided in a number of areas: Dick Dunmore of Steer Davies Gleave discussed the implications of the EU's Fourth Railway Package; Jean Richards of Quantum Shipping Services provided a fascinating insight into the impacts of the economic cycle on the shipping industry; and Peter White of the University of Westminster was as well-informed as ever on current issues in the local bus industry.

All of the talks benefit from the observations, comments and probing questions of a very well-informed audience of TEG members and visitors. Average attendance at meetings over this period was 30, consistent with recent years. The number of attendees ranged from 17 to 41 and, overall, one fifth of attendees were guests.

Publications

The Transport Economists' Group Journal continued to be edited by Peter Gordon during 2013, with three issues published reporting the monthly talks and discussions, together with reviews of new (and sometimes historic) books.

Speakers' presentations are 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 is 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 502 followers;
- A LinkedIn [TEG group](#) used for discussions and for notices on the monthly talks – this now has 425 members.

Retiring Committee

All members of the Committee have made substantial contributions to the running of the Group over the last year and TEG could not run without them. 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 and Scott Clyne.

Melanie Buchan has worked as efficiently as ever as our Group Administrator and I would like to extend my thanks to her.

Having chaired the Committee since 2009, it is now time for me to stand down and hand over to a new Chair. It has been extremely enjoyable working with the Committee and rewarding to see the stimulating debate that takes place at TEG meetings. I am confident that TEG will continue to play an important role in the transport economics community.

Julie Mills

Chair

2nd March 2014