

**From:** [Christmas Market](#)  
**To:** ["Brian L Dunsby"](#)  
**Subject:** HARROGATE LINE SUPPORTERS GROUP – Bulletin No 29 - Draft Timetable + Earlier Start  
**Date:** 05 January 2020 17:40:43  
**Attachments:** [Harrogate-London Trains 2019 Issue 2.xlsx](#)

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HARROGATE LINE SUPPORTERS GROUP – Bulletin No 29

Attached is a second edition of the draft timetable for the new Harrogate-Kings Cross AZUMA services due to start on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

I have corrected two small errors in the first draft timetable which I issued on 19<sup>th</sup> August - and I have then added the corresponding details for Saturday and Sunday services. These are still subject to further minor variations between now and December

I have had feedback from several members on the first draft asking about an earlier service from Harrogate to London Kings Cross – arriving by about 09.00am. I put the question to LNER Commercial Director, Suzanne Donnelly, for whom Peter Hess, Corporate Communications Manager, has just replied as follows:

*“As Suzanne has mentioned in the past, we are very sympathetic to the desire for an earlier direct service between Harrogate and London. However, there are a number of significant operational constraints in place, including Network Rail engineering access, LNER rolling stock availability and Hitachi maintenance schedules, which are critical to the safe operations of the railway. We also need to take into account the plans Northern have to enhance their Harrogate services which is reliant on the completion of further improvement work at Harrogate.”*

*“Following the completion of the rollout of our new Azuma fleet in mid-2020, we will be working with Network Rail and other partner organisations to explore options of how we can make further enhancements to our timetable. In December 2021, we will then be looking to introduce a new timetable which looks to incorporate the benefits of our new fleet as well as the completion of the King’s Cross Remodelling and East Coast Mainline Upgrade. This would give us another opportunity to look at enhancing our Harrogate timetable”.*

This is quite encouraging as it confirms LNER’s aspirations for enhancing the Harrogate connections to London when all the required engineering work is completed. December 2021 is their target for optimising the schedule and possibly introducing an extra early morning service to London..

We are meeting LNER Management on 4<sup>th</sup> October to review plans for the launch of these new trains. Further comments and suggestions for this improvements to these important new services would be welcome.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THESE EMAILS – OR IF YOU WISH TO NOMINATE SOMEONE ELSE TO RECEIVE THEM.

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