

RAILWAY STUDY FORUM

Chris Loder MP headlined at yet another successful virtual discussion. He attracted the largest audience to date who were tempted by his strapline: *The future of public transport: the view from the 'House'.*

Chris Loder had a career in the railways spanning 20 years before his election to parliament in December 2019. Prior to this, he was Head of New Trains, South Western Railway, and led the Waterloo Upgrade Programme in 2017. Prime Minister Boris Johnson recently described as 'one of the greatest experts on railways' in the House of Commons. He brought welcome innovation to the Zoom session in the form of online polls that tested the audience's views on financial investment across various areas within the sector and the extent to which we felt the industry should be taxpayer or fare-payer funded. Interestingly, there were only a few points in it; the audience was almost equally split.



He talked with passion about the challenges within his own constituency, West Dorset, and how significantly less affluent areas are impacted and prohibited by lack of investment in public transport. He was faced with a significant number of questions on topics ranging from reform, accessibility, freight and HS2 to catering facilities,

^ Chris Loder MP was elected to parliament in December 2019

marketing and general customer experience. He was overt in describing his passion and belief in rail and the pressing need for reform.

Jacqueline Starr FCILT
President, Railway Study Forum.

GOLF FORUM

Summer Meeting, Copt Heath



^ The Golf Forum is confident that they will be able to complete the rest of this year's programme

After a stuttering start to the season with the cancellation of our season-opening Members' Meeting, which was due to be held at Beaconsfield Golf Club in April, we are optimistic that progressive relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions will allow us to complete the rest of 2021's programme. On that understanding, we plan to return to Copt Heath Golf Club near Solihull for our Summer Meeting on Thursday 24th June.

Copt Heath represents an enjoyable and challenging test for golfers of every level,

requiring strategic thinking as well as some power and finesse. The course maintains an enviable reputation for play on full greens throughout the year. A natural sandy subsoil, good drainage and a full course irrigation system help ensure the course is at its best whatever the weather. Many of the original features of the Harry Colt design, most notably his renowned deep bunkers and subtle greens, are still evident today.

The opening is tough, with the first six holes requiring either length or accuracy to

ensure a solid start to your round. From the 7th tee onwards the course opens up a little, and players have the opportunity to build a good score as the course becomes a little friendlier.

In 2018, Copt Heath was voted 99 in the top 100 by National Club Golfer, with comments like: 'Greens are true and more often than not slick' and 'I do not think I saw a course that was better presented than Copt Heath all season.'

Sponsorship from provider of industrial battery systems Hoppecke and art-to-business specialist Artko means that we are able to play this fantastic course and enjoy good food and drink at an affordable price, all in the company of industry colleagues and friends.

To reserve a place, contact: Richard Burgess, event organiser. 07479 880844
richardburgess42@btopenworld.com



^ The renowned deep bunkers at Copt Heath