



**The Institution of
Railway Operators**

Supplied by the IRO, PO Box 128, Burgess Hill RH15 0UZ

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FIRST STUDENTS ATTEND RAILWAY TUTORIAL FOR CERTIFICATE



One of the syndicates at the tutorial working on formative assessments relating to background and basic railway operations.

An IRO tutorial day held at Eurostar's London offices saw the launch of the institution's first course modules for the certificate programme.

The programme, which began for the first time in October last year, currently comprises two railway-specific modules. The first, under the heading Background to Railway Operations, covers areas such as train planning and customer service.

The second, Railway Business Organisation and Basic Railway Operations, includes core operations such as signalling, the driver's perspective, trains and what happens when things go wrong. Fifteen of the 20 students studying for the certificate were

able to attend and met the tutors for the two modules, Colin Charman, Andrew Doherty, Stephen Grant and Donald Macpherson, along with Mike Hill and Tricia Meade from the institution.

As well as working together on some of the formative assessments for the two modules, there were a number of presentations.

Following a general introduction to the modules, students were given a presentation on how rules and regulations and the *Rule Book* have developed over the railway's 184-year history. They were also given an overview of the structure of the industry in Britain today, highlighting the roles of organisations such as the ORR, DfT, Network Rail, the Tocs and freight operators, as well as the various safety bodies and the importance of the European dimension.

Students later heard a presentation on the early commercial and technological developments that helped the growth of the railways. The presentation also included

changes in the industry from the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 1825 to the rail resurgence in the 21st century. Other topics covered light rail and tramways, which have had a rebirth in the UK over the last 20 years.

A final presentation to students covered the basics of train planning and performance management and considered why we need a plan at all, as well as some of the constraints affecting train planning.

Emphasis was placed on the importance of managing performance and 'closing the loop' on the principles of 'plan

– operate – review'. Following the tutorial, the students will be working on the modules until 1 May. They will then tackle the final two modules, soon to be launched, on Communications and Railway Operations and also undertake a work-based project, between May and August to complete the programme.

If this course is of interest to you and you would like to take on the challenge of distance learning, our next programme of courses will commence in October 2009. For further details and enrollment forms please visit the website at: www.railwayoperators.org



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CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

A number of industry employers have corporate subscriptions to the institution that cover their employees' subscriptions. These are graded as associate or affiliate. The current corporate member companies are:

Network Rail ● Eurostar UK ● First ScotRail ● First Great Western ● National Express East Anglia ● Railnews ● Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) ● DB Schenker ● Northern Ireland Railways ● First TransPennine Express ● RWA Rail ● First Capital Connect ● Atoc ● Southern ● London Underground ● Docklands Light Railway ● Mott MacDonald ● Transport for London ● South West Trains ● Stagecoach Supertram ● Arriva Trains Wales ● Centro ● Parsons Brinckerhoff ● Southeastern ● Virgin Trains ● Chiltern Railways ● C2C ● East Midlands Trains ● Stagecoach Metrolink ● CrossCountry Trains ● London Midland ● National Express East Coast ● Heathrow Express ● Grand Central ● Heritage Railway Association

Those with full membership will continue to pay their subscription personally, irrespective of whether they can subsequently claim it back. Please note that, as the IRO's subscriptions are tax-deductible, a receipt will be issued for all payments – whether by cheque, standing order or internet payment.

If your company would like to explore the benefits of corporate membership of the institution, please contact us. We welcome applications from all industry companies, suppliers and associations – please contact Chris Daughton on: 01444 248931 or: admin@railwayoperators.org

APRIL TREAT IN STORE FOR MEMBERS WHO LUNCH..

The seventh annual IRO Members' Lunch, fast becoming one of the most popular events in the railway industry calendar, takes place on 24 April.

London is the location for this year's event and the venue is the Grange City Hotel, situated close to Tower Hill Tube station at 8-10 Coopers Row, London EC3N 1BQ.

For the 2009 lunch, the guest speaker is Network Rail's chief executive Iain Coucher.

Members of all grades are welcome to attend this ticket-only event, and you are also welcome to bring guests such as partners/spouses, colleagues and clients.

The popularity of the Members' Lunch means that most tables are reserved well in advance, however, at the time of writing, a limited number of

places remain available.

A cash bar will open at noon and lunch will be served at 13:00. House wine should be ordered before lunch at the bar. Dress code is business attire.

The price per head is £42 for individual members and guests.

For late booking applications, which will be dealt with on a first come first served basis, or for answers to any questions about the lunch not answered here, please ring Claire Wickes on 01444 248931 or email admin@railwayoperators.org so we can find out the details and get back to you.

Important details:

- Cancellations received on or after Monday 6 April will not be eligible for refund. Payments for cancellations received prior to 6 April will be refunded if



Network Rail's chief executive Iain Coucher, guest speaker at the 2009 annual IRO Members' Lunch.

the ticket can be re-sold.

- Vegetarian and other special meals can be ordered in advance – please detail your

needs on the booking form.

Details of the venue: www.grangehotels.com/grange_city_hotel/index.htm

DIARY OF EVENTS

SCOTTISH AREA

For further information on the IRO Scottish Area, please contact Ross Campbell on: 0141 242 8620 or email: scottish@railwayoperators.org

NORTH EAST AREA

12 May: A talk about the tram-train project at the National Express East Coast Academy Platform 9, York, at 17:30 hours.

11 July: A visit to NEXUS control and depot at Gosforth.

12 September: The area Annual General Meeting and a visit to the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.

For information on all North East Area events, please contact David Monk-Steel by email: northeast@railwayoperators.org or by telephone on 01751 473799 during office hours.

All North East Area meetings normally take place at 17:30 for 18:00, at York.

NORTH WEST AREA

20 May: Visit to Trafford Park Freightliner Terminal
July: Family day TBA.

To contact the North West Area on membership matters or for any information email Clive Evans: northwest@railwayoperators.org

To contact the North West for all events information, email Carl Phillips: ironw.booking@railwayoperators.org

MIDLANDS AREA

20 April: Visit to Oxley depot, which will also include a visit to the Rail Gourmet operation. Attendees need to meet at the front of Wolverhampton station, no later than 17:15. The visit will commence at 17:30 and finish 19:00 for a 19:15 return to Wolverhampton station.

18 May: Presentation on RAIB, East

Midland Trains Rail Academy, Derby, start time 17:30.

Summer trip: TBA

For information on all Midlands Area events, please contact Julia Stanyard on 0121 345 3833 or email: midlands@railwayoperators.org

SOUTH WEST AREA

For information on all South West Area events, please contact Nick Edwards on 07801 905409 or email: nicolas.edwards@ews-railway.co.uk

SOUTH EAST AREA

18 May: The Train Crew Debate: We're hosting an open debate to discuss some key train crew issues within today's railway, including safety, performance, train crew management and industrial relations. This is particularly relevant if you're a driver, guard or crew manager. There will be some key

industry specialists, including union representatives, attending for a balanced debate.

13 July: Nigel Harris, editor of *Rail* magazine, will be giving a talk.

14 September: Howard Collins, chief operating officer of London Underground, will be addressing members at 55 Broadway, London.

16 November: Chris Green (TBC). All talks will be at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, near Waterloo Station at 17:30 for 18:00, unless otherwise indicated.

For further information on the IRO South East Area, please contact Rupert Brennan Brown at southeast@railwayoperators.org

IRO YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

For details of our events and to book a place on one of our trips, please visit www.iroyoungprofessionals.org.uk