



**The Institution of
Railway Operators**

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PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN RAILWAY OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

THE IRO WELCOMES ITS 2009 STUDENTS

Diploma students



Students starting the 2009 IRO's certificate, diploma and degree courses attended the institution's now well-established course launch day in October. Held in London, the seventh such occasion was attended by 54 of the total 74 students enrolled on the certificate, diploma and degree

courses starting this year.

Those present at the event heard presentations from Chris Daughton, IRO CEO; Mark Hopwood, IRO board member and managing director of First Great Western; Mike Hill, IRO course programme organiser; Tricia Meade, IRO learning and

Degree students



development manager; John Roffey, IRO course mentor; Camilla Allison, chair of the Railway Study Association and tutors, Vince Mills and Caroline Tuff, from Glasgow Caledonian University.

During the afternoon, the students split into syndicate

groups relating to their respective courses to hear further presentations. Donald Macpherson and Stephen Grant addressed students starting the certificate course; Colin Charman spoke to those beginning the diploma and Piers Connor welcomed the students enrolled on the degree course.

WHY A COURSE WITH THE IRO?

Rail Professional asked a number of the students their reason for enrolling on an IRO course.

Sandra Bregger, a change and administration manager at Southern, who is studying the IRO's certificate course, said: 'I enrolled on the IRO certificate course to gain a better understanding of the various aspects of the rail industry, and to improve my job prospects within the company and the railway as a whole.'

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

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

- Network Rail ● 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 ● 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 ● Cross Country Trains
- London Midland ● Mott MacDonald ● 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

'I also wanted to achieve a recognised qualification which would complement my years of experience.'

Joe O'Meara, 49, the acting head of revenue at Southern, who has enrolled on the IRO's diploma course, said: 'I have worked in the rail industry for 19 years and for the majority of that time I have worked in commercial roles.'

'I have very limited operational experience, except for knowledge of train dispatch and conductor roles, so decided to do this course to gain a more in depth operational knowledge and also to gain a recognised qualification in operational studies. The IRO diploma will help me gain knowledge of the operational side.'

Stephen Eaves, 57, a route control manager for Network

Rail, who is also starting the IRO diploma course, said: 'I chose to do the course to increase my knowledge of railway operations outside of the sphere in which I currently work and to gain an academic qualification in something that I enjoy doing. The course will also show my managers that I am committed to my role.'

Matthew Lee, 24, a project manager for FirstGroup who opted for the IRO degree course, said: 'After finishing my degree in business management two years ago, I joined First Great Western as a management trainee.'

'While I already have a degree, I am still a relatively new comer to the industry and therefore decided to take up the challenge of studying for the IRO degree to broaden my knowledge of the industry.' ❏

Certificate students



DIARY OF EVENTS

IRISH AREA

For information on all Irish Area events please contact Kay Doyle, chairman, by email at Kay.doyle@railwayoperators.org or Hilton Parr, secretary, by email at: hilton.parr@railwayoperators.org

SCOTTISH AREA

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

NORTH EAST AREA

For information on all North East Area events, please contact David Monk-Steel by email at northeast@railwayoperators.org or by telephone on 01751 473799 during office hours. All North East Area meetings take place at 17:30 for 18:00, at York.

NORTH WEST AREA

1 December: Christmas Event – IRO North West get together in Chester/North Wales area. Further information will be posted on the IRO website.
19 January: Talk by Chris Gibb, chief operating officer of Virgin Trains – The West Coast VHF Timetable. Start 18:00. Venue: Manchester Square One.

16 February: Visit to Newton Heath Depot – A look at the operation of a Northern Rail unit depot. Start: 17:30 at Manchester Victoria for transport to Newton Heath Depot.

23 March: Master Class – there will be a talk on ERTMS for operators. Start: 18:00 at Chester.

20 April: AGM in Manchester and presentation on South African Railways. Start: 18:00. Venue: Manchester Rain Bar.

18 May: Speaker and visit – David Hunter and Carl Phillips will speak about Manchester Route Control. Presentation on how a modern day railway control manages day-to-day operations for its customers. Time: 18:00. Venue: Manchester Square One. All events and enquiries should be via Carl Phillips at: ironw.booking@railwayoperators.org
General membership enquires to Clive Evans at: northwest@railwayoperators.org

MIDLANDS AREA

Dates are confirmed, if events change members will be notified via letter or email. Unless otherwise indicated, our events start at 17:30.
11 January: Visit to Rugby station and SCC, at Rugby.

8 February: Network Rail National Operations Delivery Function at Derby ICC.

8 March: LRT speaker at The Mailbox, Birmingham.

12 April: Visit to a freight terminal or freight presentation TBA.

10 May: Toc presentation or driver simulator visit 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@dbschenker.com

SOUTH EAST AREA

All South East events will now take place at London Underground's HQ, 55 Broadway, St James Park, SW1, unless otherwise indicated, starting at 17:30 for 18:00.

3 December: SE Area Christmas Reception at the Long Acre, near Covent Garden. Places are limited. If you wish to attend, please contact glen.merryman@londonmidland.com

18 January: Chris Green on Stations. The former chief executive of Virgin

Trains and now Lord Adonis' 'stations champion' will be speaking about his work to improve the facilities at the UK's stations. Start: 18:00.

22 January: First IRO Golden Whistles awards ceremony sponsored by *Modern Railways*. This event will be hosted by The Fourth Friday Club, Grand Connaught Rooms at 12:15 for 12:45. Tables of 10, priced at £900 each, can be booked through Chris Shilling on: 07736635916 or email: chris@shillingmedia.co.uk

For further information on the IRO South East Area, please contact Alex Hellier at: southeast@railwayoperators.org

IRO AGM

8 December: IRO 2009 AGM at 40 Melton Street, London, NW1 commencing at 17:00. Please notify either Claire Wickes by email at: admin@railwayoperators.org or Jo Lane by email: at jo@railwayoperators.org if you would like to attend, as the security measures at this venue are very strict.

More details of area events listed in 2010 are listed on the IRO website at www.railwayoperators.org/Events.aspx