



**The Institution of
Railway Operators**

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New planning course launches

Four-day courses will mix classroom and hands-on learning

The IRO is running a series of Practical Train Planning & Performance courses – a programme to stand alone or be used in conjunction with our distance learning modules. It is part classroom-based and part work-based, and is designed for those who are fairly new to the subject or who wish to further their career development and expertise in this field.

Spread over two months, the four-day course runs at weekends to ensure availability of expert tutors and for ease of releasing staff. You need to be available for, and commit to, all four days of this course in order to be accepted. Course venues will

be decided when bookings have been received (the aim is to provide venues that are as local as possible).

Dates and venue for the next course will be announced on our website; however, expressions of interest and provisional reservations are already being accepted – see below.

COST

The course fee is £1,300 per person and this will cover all direct costs. Travel arrangements and any overnight hotel accommodation must be paid for direct by delegates. If overnight hotel accommodation is required, however, we can book this upon request.

Payment is to be made in advance by cheque payable to the Institution of Railway Operators or by sending a

purchase order to the administration officer. An invoice to your company will then be issued, so do come to an agreement beforehand with your manager about your attendance.

COURSE OVERVIEW

DAY 1

Introduction/Background/Objectives
The need for planning Timetables
Rolling Stock
Crew
Short term v. permanent
Public v. working timetable
Rules of the plan sectional running times
Acceleration and braking
Headways and junction margins
Dwell times
Allowances
Exercises within own company

DAY 2

Report back
Track layouts
Syndicate work
The planning cycle
Guest speaker
Hands on a driver simulator
Group dinner in a local hotel

DAY 3

Diagramming
Rolling stock
Crew

Use of typical software
Capacity and robustness
Exercises within own company

DAY 4

Report back
The business context
Guest speaker (Toc MD or similar)
Feedback and conclusions

HOW TO APPLY

Mike Hill, IRO education programme administrator, is coordinating nominations and issuing documentation as required.

MIKE HILL

Education Programme Administrator
The Institution of Railway Operators
51 Cedar Drive
Sunningdale SL5 0UA
Email: education@railwayoperators.org
Phone: 01344 875328

DEADLINE FOR DEGREE AND DIPLOMA COURSE APPLICATIONS

Please can we remind all members that applications and all payments for those wishing to enrol in our degree and diploma courses to start on 4 February 2006 MUST be with Mike Hill by lunchtime on Monday 12 December 2005. There are no exceptions to this rule! Anyone who misses the deadline will be deferred to the October 2006 intake.

“WE HAVE USED SIMILAR EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER RRV SUPPLIERS IN RECENT MONTHS, NONE OF WHICH HAVE HAD EITHER THE POWER OR THE VERSATILITY OF YOUR VACTOR UNIT.”

–PAUL MOHAN, SITE MANAGER, MURPHY GROUP



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NEW IRO WEBSITE

Those of you who check our website from time to time have already noticed its new look and content. www.railwayoperators.org should now prove a more useful and, eventually, interactive site which will enable you to keep up to date with our news, events and courses.

The members' area is still under development and we will let you know as soon as it has viewable content. When it is ready we will alert you and please note that you will then need your membership number (and a password – more on that next time).

● Have you got experience of operating the railway? Would you like professional recognition, development and work-based academic qualifications? The Institution of Railway Operators exists to provide a professional structure and qualifications for people with knowledge and experience of operating the railway, at all levels.

An information pack is available for anyone interested in finding out more about the Institution and its education programme. Please contact Claire Wickes at the address at the top of the page if you would like a pack for yourself or colleagues.

NEWS FOR IRO MEMBERS

The following employers operate a Corporate Membership scheme, by paying a one-off annual fee which covers all their employees' Affiliate or Associate membership subscriptions. 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.

Network Rail, Eurostar UK Ltd, First ScotRail, First Great Western, First Great Western Link, Railnews, Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail), EWS Railway, Northern Ireland Railways, Freightliner, Virgin Trains (West Coast), Virgin Cross-Country, Thameslink, Southern, Corus Rail Consultancy, London Underground Ltd, Docklands Light Railway, Transport for London, Stagecoach Rail, South West Trains, Sheffield Supertram, Arriva Trains Wales, South

Eastern Trains, Island Line, London Lines, Silverlink Trains, c2c Rail, WAGN Rail, Wessex Trains, Midland Mainline, First Transpennine Express, One, Central Trains.

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 email admin@railwayoperators.org

DIARY OF EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is to confirm that the 2005 Annual General Meeting will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 6 December 2005 at 40 Melton Street, London NW1. Members of all grades are entitled to attend and participate. For security reasons, however, you must advise us if you intend to be present so that we may add your name to the list held in reception on the day. Please phone, fax or email us no later than Monday 5 December 2005.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last AGM, held Tuesday 7 December 2004
2. Chairman's report
3. Statement of accounts
4. Chief executive's report
5. Report on retirement and appointment of directors
6. Appointment of auditors
7. Any other business

SOUTH WEST AREA

The South West Area's Christmas social event takes place on Wednesday 28 December 2005 and once again involves a visit to the popular West Somerset Railway. These trips have been well-subscribed in previous years and this year it is again open to all IRO members of all grades (and also to those who are interested in joining), including your partner or a guest. The itinerary is as follows:

- Assemble Bishop's Lydeard station (near Taunton) from 10am for 10.25am train to Minehead
- Arrive Minehead 11.38am
- Conducted visits to WSR facilities (loco works, loco shed, signal box)
- Lunch and drinks in pub close to Minehead station
- Choice of 2pm or 3.55pm train back to Bishops Lydeard (arr. 3.17pm/5.11pm).

Once on the WSR, the only thing we anticipate participants having to pay for is their lunch and drinks at Minehead, plus any refreshments on the trains. The WSR is again

kindly providing complimentary train travel for our party.

If you would like to go on the trip, please ring Tim Maddocks by 22 December on 07771 672661 or email

tim.maddocks@networkrail.co.uk

If you need assistance with transport to Bishop's Lydeard (e.g. from Taunton station), please advise Tim when booking your place. This may be in someone's private car, so places may be limited and allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. Please also note that this year there are engineering works on the main line between Taunton and Bridgwater/Castle Cary, with a substitute bus service operating, so if you are coming by rail to Taunton, please check the times and plan the journey accordingly!

More information on the West Somerset Railway is available on www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

For information on all other South West events and matters, contact Lawrie Hall on 01453 822150 or email us at Southwest@railwayoperators.org

SOUTH EAST AREA

All South East Area meetings take place at the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo. Doors open at 6pm and the talks commence at 6.30pm. To contact the South East area on any subject please email: Southeast@railwayoperators.org

SCOTTISH AND IRISH AREA

For information on all Scottish events and matters, please contact Scottish@railwayoperators.org or phone Jim Summers, Acting Chairman, on 01324 625284.

NORTH EAST AREA

All North East Area meetings normally take place at 5.30pm for 6pm, at York. For further news on the IRO in the North East contact us by email at: Northeast@railwayoperators.org

NORTH WEST AREA

Future meeting dates Wednesdays 25 January, 22 March and 24 May.

North West area visit to Network Rail signalling centre, Manchester Victoria

The trainee signaller stood perplexed for a moment as two trains approached the junction – should he let the already late down local go first, or hold it to allow the local from Gatestown to pass. He let the local from Gatestown go, breathing a sigh of relief as it passed his box on time. He tapped two beats (train entering section) on the 'penguin' (the black and white block instrument) to the signalbox in advance.

Then came a friendly word in his ear – his 'instructor' reminding him about the need to put the signals behind the departing train to danger, and send out of section (two beats followed by one beat) to the box in rear. He released the catches and pushed the highly polished levers back into the shiny black frame, tapped one beat (call attention) on the 'penguin' to the signalbox in rear, and when the reply came, tapped out 2.1.

Thus passed an everyday occurrence at a small mechanical signalbox somewhere on Network Rail? No, this 'signalbox' is located on the third floor of the 1909 station buildings at Manchester Victoria Station, part of the Manchester Signalling Training Centre. The centre follows a proud tradition. In 1910 in the very same room, classes in railway operating were first provided by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. One hundred students enrolled for that first session. Over the next 40 years thousands of railway employees (mostly men) successfully passed courses and exams. Such was the interest that in 1924–25 some 4,981 students gained a certificate. In 1912 the company installed a large scale model railway, signalled just like the real thing, with full size block instruments, and miniature signalboxes, with interlocked lever frames.

From 1953, under the control of the late

Cliff Weir, the school was used solely to train thousands of signallers. Inevitably this very fine model became life expired, was moved to the National Railway Museum at York, and is now being fully restored.

For a time training was centred at Crewe, but when Network Rail identified the need for a modern training centre for signallers in Manchester, it was an obvious choice to locate it where the old Signalling School had been.

Thus it was that some 17 members of the IRO had the opportunity to try out what is effectively a signalling simulator. There are two signalboxes, one mechanical, controlling a junction, passing station and level crossing (Hornby Junction) and one power box – with an entry/exit panel – Gatestown. The trains are no longer models, but originate in computer software, appearing on the NX panel or the illuminated diagram above the lever frame according to a timetable, which can be manipulated from a computer by the tutor. The tutor can also intervene to create other problems such as signal failures.

A most enjoyable evening was had by all. Special thanks go to Stuart Middleton, Geoff Armstrong, Ian Hammond and Chris Hock for their hospitality.

To contact the North West area on any matter, please contact Clive Evans on 01270-629009 or email us at: Northwest@railwayoperators.org

MIDLANDS AREA

Would members please note that there will not be an event in December 2005. The next Area Midlands event is being planned for Monday 23 January 2006. Details are still to be finalised.

Other provisional dates for the diary:

Monday 20 February

Monday 20 March

Monday 17 April

To contact the Midlands Area on any subject, please call Julia Stanyard on 0121 345 5030 or email: Midlands@railwayoperators.org