



# The Chronicle



Issue 3

7th January 2009

SOUTHERN DRIVERS  
COMPANY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.

## **Window tinting and horns on Class 377 units.**

These two issues have been the subject of ongoing dialogue. Tinting on side windows was carried out due to the risk of sunburn. This had been reported by a number of Drivers. The tinting also reduces the effect of sunlight on DOO monitors through the drivers side door window. Southern agreed to this after testing proved the benefits. There have been occasions where some tinting has been removed. A replacement programme will soon be underway and units will also be monitored by Fleet to ensure no more tinting has been removed. Drivers will be advised when the replacement programme has been completed. Drivers will also be requested to report any tinting found to be missing. Any report will be followed up by way of an investigation.

A problem was identified that some warning horns were becoming defective due to freezing weather conditions. A modification is underway with the projected date of completion during December. However, if you become aware of any malfunction, please report it in the usual manner and forward a copy of your report to Roy Luxford. Contact details overleaf.

### **Relief Drivers.**

Any time a Relief Driver takes charge of a train, they shall be paid First year Drivers rate for the day in question. This applies for 125 turns. The PM should provide Relief Drivers with a voucher, which is stamped and signed by the PM. Relief Drivers should retain all vouchers and on completion of 125 turns, the vouchers should be passed on to their DM, who, will arrange for their salary to be increased to the First year Drivers salary. Relief Drivers will then be paid at Drivers rate every time they take charge of a train. After a further year, their salary will be increased to Drivers salary. Relief Drivers should keep personal copies of all vouchers.

Should a Relief Driver be appointed to a Drivers position before they have completed 125 turns, they will be paid the First year Drivers salary for the remainder of turns required to complete 125. After this, they will be paid the Drivers salary. If you require any further information, please contact a member of Drivers Company Council. Contact details are overleaf.

### **Aptitude driving assessment.**

Southern have altered the validity period for staff passing the assessment for driving from one year to five years. This is in line with current RSSB standards. The increase also applies to Drivers who have left the industry and re-apply for a driving position within the five year period. Applicants that exceed a one year in time limit may be interviewed to discuss any life changing experiences they may have had during that time.

### **2009 Joint Branch Meetings.**

The first Joint Branch for 2009 will be held at 19.00hrs on the 4th March at Three Bridges Railway Club. This meeting will be the AGM and will elect its Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary from members who attend. These positions will be held for the remainder of the year. The meeting will also set the time, dates and venue for the 2009 Joint Branch meetings.

Branch Secretaries will be advised for the remainder of 2009 after the meeting on the 4th March.

## Mobile phones.

Mobile phones have been the subject of discussion for a number of reasons. Southern issued mobile phones to drivers earlier in the year. There appears to be confused messages as to when the phones can be used. Firstly, if you report a delay to the Delay Attribution Validator (DAV), you are not required to submit a written delay report at the end of your duty. Any faults that cause delays should be reported in the normal manner.

Southern state phones must be switched off in driving cabs. The only exceptions to this is, when the train is stationery, and all other forms of contact with the signaller are no longer available or when you are dealing with the In Service Fleet Manager (ISFM), trying to rectify a fault.

If however, you find you have forgotten to switch off your phone, you must not allow yourself to become distracted and should turn it off at the next safest and convenient opportunity.

## Getting active in ASLEF.

Last February ASLEF ran its first 'Getting active in ASLEF' course in London and it was seen as a great success. A second course has now been arranged to be held next year on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The course is for newly elected representatives and for members who may be interested in taking up positions within ASLEF in the future.

Any further enquiries and application forms should be directed to Sarah Laurie, Project Support Worker, at Head Office, telephone 0208 317 8600, email: sarah.laurie@aslef.org.uk

## Spectacles—change of prescription.

Southern have advised us they intend to re-issue all safety critical staff with a Guidance for prescribers card. This updated version includes advice for Opticians on the eyesight standard required with or without corrective glasses. The card also advises Opticians That safety critical staff may not wear varifocal lenses during the course of their duties.

Additionally, Southern have written to Specsavers advising them of the standards applicable to safety critical staff who need to wear spectacles.

## Travelling pass during the course of duty.

We raised this issue with Operations Director, Andy Byford at the March agenda meeting. Our concern was the non availability of seats and the expectation drivers will have to stand. The proposal we put forward was to allow drivers to pass in other than the leading cab. Mr. Byford agreed to this. Below is a copy of the minute from the March agenda meeting:

### Item 20 – Staff Travel Brief – Booked Pass on Duty

Staff side asked Mr Byford to review the Company's position. Mr Byford replied that he had no objection to drivers travelling in other than the leading cab on busy trains if they are booked pass as part of their duties He confirmed this item is not unreasonable if it is not abused. Item to be briefed out in the drivers Brief.

**We would like to wish all members and their families a peaceful New Year**

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