



The Chronicle



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SOUTHERN DRIVERS
COMPANY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER.

Toilet breaks within diagrams.

We have reported this subject on a number of occasions to various branch meetings. As diagrams had their turn around times increasingly tightened, there had been occasions where drivers are expected to continue for up to five hours without the opportunity to use a toilet or re-hydrate themselves. We now have an agreement that diagrams will provide adequate time, after a maximum four hours of driving, for drivers to use toilet facilities and time to obtain a drink. It has recently been brought to our attention there are still some diagrams that do not fit into this agreement. Please advise your Local Representatives if you find one of these (either permanent or as an STP) and they will endeavour to have the diagram amended. If they are unable to get it changed they can then ask us to take the matter up.

Following a visit to a London branch meeting, we decided to carry out a survey of how many drivers have found they have needed to relieve themselves while still in the driving cab. This was based on a report at the branch meeting that explained drivers were using bottles. We were also advised this was not uncommon. To date, the response of the survey has been low and we ask you again, to advise us if you have found yourself in this situation. The report form is obtainable from your Local Reps, Branch Officials and Company Council Reps and our web site. This is your chance to let us know what diagrams need to be addressed.

Class 377 drivers seats.

As you are all aware, there has been ongoing problems with the seats on Class 377 units. Drivers have complained of back and leg problems and we have sought with Southern to find an acceptable remedy. We recognise this has taken a considerable amount of time but we felt it was in the interest of our members to explore all options open to us. This has included a new seat base and back which did not remove the problem. We have more recently, been involved in a trial with a new seat base but this has also proved to be unsatisfactory to a number of our members.

We therefore reported to our Executive Committee on the 15th June that do not feel we can continue with the trial any longer and that we have to find an acceptable seat to resolve this issue. We are due to report back to our Executive Committee along with our District Organiser in September this year. We will keep you updated of any developments.

Pay 2010.

The joint Branch meeting held on 9th June decided drivers want a one year, money only pay deal for this year. We have since met with our Executive Committee Sub Committee on pay and this will be the submission sent from our Head Office to Southern.

Traction sand light, Class 377 units.

We have been made aware the traction sand light illuminates when units are travelling at speed even on a dry rail. We asked the Engineering Director why this happens when we attended a Joint Company Council meeting on the 5th May this year, he said he was not aware of this and could we send him copies of reported instances. If you have copies of reports and replies received could please forward them onto one reps listed below and we will then pass onto the Engineering Director.

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