

**SOUTHERN DRIVERS
COMPANY COUNCIL SPECIAL NEWSLETTER.**

4th February 2011

The Chronicle

GATWICK EXPRESS DEPOT VISIT

Colleagues these are the issues raised during our visit on 3rd February 2011.

1. A number of GX drivers believe their pension has been devalued by the integration of the two pension schemes. From the lengthy discussion we had with one member who told us he had received a letter from RPMI saying Southern pay bills had made a mistake and that his estimate was altered due to this. Our guess is one of two things either the value of the return of his contributions is lower due to the stock market or more likely, Southern gave the RPMI the wrong salary figure which is quite feasible bearing in mind you are on a different rate to other Southern drivers.

We agreed that he would us a copy of the letter and also give us his lump sum figures for the last 4 years and we will investigate and seek an explanation.

2. We received complaints that Brighton, Barnham and Selhurst drivers are being used to cover GX work through cross cover and RD working. and that you feel aggrieved that other depots can come and do your work but you are unable to do any other work due to route and traction knowledge. We will make sure Southern are made aware that the drivers on GX feel aggrieved by this.

3. We have been asked to enquire as to why all GX drivers are not being trained to drive the EDL or to learn the routes in Selhurst depot. We are not sure the EDL is used enough to keep everyone competent but it would we think make sense to teach you Selhurst depot due to amount of ECS you work to there now.

4. One of the concerns raised to day was the fear of Gatwick Express depot being reduced or closed. To try and alleviate your concerns about the future we have suggested that your representatives ask Southern to accept that the below paragraph would be applied to GX Drivers in such circumstances.

*“PTRA Para 15.Closure, Partial Closure. Merger Or Relocation Of A Depot
Prior to the closure, partial closure, merger or relocation of a depot. Sectional
Council(s) will give consideration to the arrangements to be made for the transfer of
the work to other depots.*

*In the event of a closure, partial closure, merger or relocation of a depot, staff will be
required to transfer to the depot nearest their home address at which a vacancy is
created or currently exists.”*

- 5 442 Driver Training was raised. Information received since is that Southern have a proposed 3 week basic traction course in draft form. We have asked for and been advised that we will be given a copy for our agreement as soon as Dominic Morrow has a copy.
- 6 Change end times for 442 units is a subject that is causing a lot of anxt. Now we are aware of the problem we will go and monitor the situation during the morning peak and if there is a clear problem with the driver egressing the cab and changing ends we will raise this matter with Southern and ask to retime in these situations.
- 7 Cancellations of Sunday Diagrams when only a 30 minute service is operated. We have advised your LSRs to raise this matter locally to start with. If this is not agreed, then they are to forward the FTA to us.
- 8 T & Cs we spoke at length about this subject. The situation was left as follows. Your Local Representatives will start to put together a booklet based on what the District Organiser has given them. They are also going ask to go through the file at head office to see if they have anything else on record. We have also offered to assist using the pre privatisation conditions of service book if they wish us to.

We hope that this give you some indication of the support we can and are prepared to give our members on Gatwick Express.

If you ever have any queries or questions please feel free to call anyone of us.

R Luxford, Kevin Eade, John Doyle

DFC