

**GATWICK EXPRESS DRIVERS
COMPANY COUNCIL SPECIAL NEWSLETTER.**

28th March 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.

We have received an explanation from Southern and RPMI that shows that an error was made in the information Southern gave to the RPMI in regards to the salary and restructuring pay. We are satisfied that the estimates given on these new figures would be the correct estimate.

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.

We raised this matter with and the Head of Trains who said he was unaware of this happening except in a case of disruption. He said if we have specific cases he would investigate as this was not the normal way of covering GX work.

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.

The answer we received from Southern is that as we suspected there is not enough work on the ED for everyone to maintain their competence.

In respect of Selhurst depot they claim there is not enough regular ECS movements to warrant route learning in the depot and if they were to teach you the risk of an incident would be high because of the infrequency you would work into the depot.

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.

Your representatives have raised this issue locally and are awaiting a response.

5 442 Driver Training.

We will be discussing this at the end of March or the beginning April once the new course has been validated.

6 Change end times for 442 units.

We have monitored this situation since our visit and have found no instances where the driver has been unable to change ends within the agreed timings.

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.

We are awaiting confirmation from your local representatives as to whether this has been resolved to their satisfaction

8 T & Cs.

Following on from our depot visit we created a draft T&Cs booklet based on our Southern TU produced book. This has been passed to your representatives for their input and comment.

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