

# THE UNSOCIAL MEDIA October 2015

## **GSM-R 3.5 SOFTWARE UPDATE**

Following our article in the September Unsocial Media, we can report that we have held a joint meeting with ourselves, TL Company Council and GTR Management. The issue of the Drivers brief is still to be resolved. We are aware that a notice has been posted at depots but would like to remind you **this notice is not the brief for Drivers, as it only contains certain parts of the brief that is still being discussed.** We will update further on the Drivers brief when we are in a position to do so.

## **SPARE DRIVERS**

Recently, a driver contacted us about a situation where they were booked to start at their original spare booking on time and then booked a turn part way through the spare working. This encountered the driver in working beyond their booked hours for the day in question. This was booked on the Daily Alteration Sheet. We raised this with management and it was explained to us this had been an error. For clarity, if you are spare, left spare at your original booking on time and then booked work part way through the duty that takes you beyond your finishing time, this is incorrect and you are entitled to claim your rostered hours for the day in question.

## **CLASS 377 UNITS SEATS AND DSD's**

The programme to replace the seats and DSD's is underway. Management have provided us with a list of updates. The latest figures show there have been 58 seats and 78 DSD assemblies replaced. This means the seats are on target and the DSD assemblies are ahead of target.

## **CARE FIRST TRIAL**

As you may have read in our monthly agenda minutes, GTR (Southern and Gatwick Express) ran a trial in the Brighton area for all staff who reported sick. This included providing drivers with the Care First Service phone number, should they wish to speak to a Counsellor. This has now concluded and following a review of the trial and low take up, it has been decided not roll this out.

## **D&A FOR CAUSE SCREENING**

A revised method used for D&A For Cause screening was introduced last year. The sample is put in to an "instant test cup". This will give a positive or negative result within minutes. It should be noted that a positive result does NOT automatically mean a failure. It could mean the positive result has been caused by medication etc.. The urine sample will then be sent to a laboratory for detailed testing, in line with the previous method used for D&A testing.

## **CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS 2015/16**

Purley Junction will be blocked from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016. GTR will be operating an altered timetable, based on the following, over this period:

- 24<sup>th</sup> December – normal timetable with early shutdown of services.
  - 25<sup>th</sup> December – No service.
  - 26<sup>th</sup> December – Services to be covered with volunteers.
  - 27<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday service.
  - 28<sup>th</sup> December – Substitute Bank Holiday for the Boxing Day. Saturday service.
  - 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December – Saturday services.
- We have been advised the diagrams on these days will be almost identical to the diagrams on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, apart from a few alterations due to berthing of units.
- 1<sup>st</sup> January – Bank Holiday, Sunday service.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> January – Saturday service.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Sunday service.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> January – Normal Monday to Friday service.

As a result of the cancelled turns, Drivers, may be moved up to a maximum of one hour of their original booking on time and booked a maximum of hour, over their rostered hours for the day. This is the same arrangement used for Christmas period 2014/15.

Drivers on a rostered spare turn (Not due to a cancelled turn) will still be booked in accordance with the spare arrangements.

**FACEBOOK PAGE AND WEBSITE.**  
**Don't forget to register**

[www.aslefsouthern.org.uk](http://www.aslefsouthern.org.uk)