



ARTP
association of railway training providers

Our vision is to be the voice of trainer and assessor organisations throughout the Railway Industry

ARTP Newsletter April 2009

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Chairman's Report

ARTP Board

Since the AGM, I am pleased to welcome Steve Diksa of Bridgeway to the Board. Steve will bring a wealth of experience and energy to move the Association forward and help it to meet its' aims.

European Network of Rail Training Centres

I attended the fourth meeting of the European Network of Rail Training Centres (ENRTC) on the 12th and 13th of March 2009 as the representative of the ARTP along with our President Lesley Hodsdon. This was hosted by SNCF at their offices in Lyon. Other representatives at the meeting included RSSB, Arriva Trains, Amey, MAV Baross Gabor Training Centre, SNCF infrastructure, RENFE, SNCF training department, REFER, Norsk Jernbanskole, NS, Railinfra opleidingen, VR, ÖBB, and representatives of UIC, ERA & EIM.



The key objective of the network, which gathers major European Training Providers, from both the commercial and non commercial sectors, is to contribute to the opening of the European Rail training market, by enabling active professional dialogue between rail training professionals to support interoperability. The Group discussed the report of the results of a survey of training providers. The report provided an overview of the results from the group's analysis (24 training providers) regarding organisational characteristics, areas of training, policies, training methodologies and future co-operation, with recommendation for further steps towards a more detailed benchmarking process.

Other areas discussed included the development of a dedicated website for the network, to underpin the activities and enhance the professional dialogue between the training managers, as well as the network's activities as regards other relevant European Railway stakeholders. This will be coordinated by Roger Luckins of RSSB.



There was also a presentation on an e-learning package by Norwegian Railways covering training on the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS – more information on this system can be found at www.ertms.com).

There was also an interesting presentation by Andy Russell on 2Train which was a benchmarking project on train driver competence (see <http://www.2train.eu/>).



On the second day, there was a visit to one of SNCF's infrastructure Training Centres which was of great interest and included demonstrations of simulators, CBT and training models.

The next meeting is planned for October in Madrid.

Special Interest Groups

The Plant & Standards Special Interest Group (SIG) is well established and performing well with around 12 active members attending the monthly meeting. As reported at the AGM, it is hoped to set-up a Track Safety and Trainer Competence SIG in the near future.

February AGM

Over 30 people braved the difficult travelling conditions to attend the ARTP AGM and Seminar at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre at Euston on Wednesday 4 February.

The AGM

The AGM itself took place during the first part of the morning and the key outputs were:-

- Discounts for the Network Rail Track Safety & Assessment Planning material had been maintained as had the membership discounts with Go Skills and Railway People
- The audited accounts showed a profit of £11,771 with reserves of £54,529
- For 2009 the Annual subscription and one-off joining fee would remain at £495 and £300 respectively (excl VAT)
- Mark Ruddy, Head of Competence at Network Rail, had been co-opted as a non-executive Board Member during 2008 and would continue in 2009 along with the other existing Board Members under the Chairmanship of Andy Crago.
- And in addition, Steve Diksa, previously of Network Rail and now of Bridgeway Consulting was elected as full Board Member for 2009.

Key aims for the Board in 2009 are to:-

- actively raise the profile of ARTP
- encourage professional training and development
- respond to the needs of members
- provide at least 3 newsletters during 2009
- improve the ARTP website
- establish relationships with SEMTA, TfL and Government.

Andy Crago was formally thanked both for stepping in as Chairman in 2008 and coping with what had been a difficult year and for agreeing to continue in the role.

Andy also stressed that the Board would welcome feedback from membership as to what they felt were key issues to address. This would greatly assist the Board in ensuring that its resources were applied in the

areas of optimum benefit to you our members. So please let us have your views!

The Seminar

We were fortunate to have four very interesting and wide-ranging presentations forming the core of the Seminar. They were:-

- Simon Sankey (Network Rail) on training and evaluation at Network Rail
- Vicki Ball (GoSkills) who spoke about the on-going process to review and update the Qualifications Framework
- Lesley Hodsdon (RSSB and ARTP President) who outlined the valuable work RSSB was doing in respect of workforce development and
- Andy Russell from RTI who provided a very interesting insight into a recent research report on adult learning styles.

The presentations are all available on the ARTP website.

This will be an important year for the Association with skills and training issues climbing very quickly up the rail agenda. We look forward to working closely with you to consolidate ARTP's position in this and other key areas of its work. And to repeat the message above, let us have your thoughts on issues or areas where you feel the Board should be devoting its energies.

Network Rail Discounts

ARTP provides NR with its current membership list in advance of its twice yearly issue of materials and this is used to determine who qualifies for the discount. Because the list for the June issue is required in March, and this is very shortly after subscription invoices are sent out the board agreed the following policy:

- The list used for the June issue will be the list of paid up members at the end of the preceding year.
- The list used for the December issue will be the list of paid up members for the current year.

This means that 1 year's fee will always qualify members for 2 discounts and that the process will be transparent and fair to all.

Trainer Competence SIG

At the request of the ARTP board a small group has been formed to look at issues around trainer competence. An initial meeting was held at RSSB in London on Monday 23 March to consider the scope of the group.

The group discussed the factors which had prompted its formation:

- The desire of Mark Ruddy, Head of Competence and Training at Network Rail and non-executive director of ARTP, to establish a competence model for trainers which could have applications in both the Sentinel scheme and within NR, and his request that ARTP be involved in its development.
- The outcomes of recent work in the area by RSSB and its projected "Good Practice Guide for Trainers".
- The need for ARTP to support its members to be recognised as excellent practitioners.

The group recognised that there are already a number of accreditations and standards which are potentially relevant. These are:

- National Occupational Standards for Learning and Development, and NVQs for Trainers and Training Managers
- The Training Quality Standard which recognises excellent providers across all sectors
- RISAS which is specific to the rail industry and currently used in relation to train maintenance but could perhaps be extended to provide a benchmark and accreditation framework for training supply.
- UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service).

It was also noted that the Sector Qualifications Strategy published by GoSkills identifies the need for trainer qualifications specific to the passenger transport sector and that this might become important to members in the future.

A number of areas for action or further investigation were agreed and will be taken to the ARTP Board for further discussion:

- ARTP support to RSSB in the development of a Good Practice Guide, with the possibility of including competence checklists for Trainers and Training Managers to self-assess.
- Inclusion of training supply within the RISAS scheme.
- Clarifications of the NR requirement.
- The possibility of "lighter touch" (and therefore cheaper?) audit for Sentinel Training Centres which can demonstrate they meet agreed high standards.

Plant & Standards Group SIG

The Plant and Standards Special Interest Group meet on a monthly basis with an opportunity to meet fellow members with similar roles or views. The meeting enables them to keep up-to-date with new or amended standards and to review these documents enabling feedback to the applicable stakeholder. This is beneficial both to the members and the stakeholder who has a range of perspectives to enable a holistic approach when developing or amending standards.

Review of Sentinel Assessments

The ARTP Plant Group has recently been involved with the review of Sentinel assessment documentation for OTP Machine and Crane Controller and OTM Crane Controllers. This review process is carried out regularly to improve the quality of the assessments following feedback from Assessors.

Review of Training Packages

Richard Bassett of Network Rail attended the February and March SIG meetings to discuss issues from the training packages for Sentinel Machine and Crane Controllers. This is part of Richard's commitment to meet one month following changes to the training packs to gauge feedback and to see how well they are working.

Changes to the Rule Book

Les Moyles of the RSSB will attend the next meeting on April the 16th to go through the Rule Book changes for June. This is carried out to assist companies understand why and what the rule changes are so that they can brief their staff on the changes.

New Standard

The Group reviewed the new medical standard NR/L2/OHS/00124 which comes into force on the 1st March which affects OTP operators primarily. The new standard requires all OTP operators to meet level 1 i.e. do not have defective colour vision and do not have any medical restrictions. Although the standard applies to Machine and Crane Controllers, a letter has been issued by Network Rail to rescind this requirement providing a risk assessment is in place to mitigate risks.

Accident/Incidents

Each month incidents and accidents involving rail Plant machines are discussed to ensure all are aware of any issues which affect the members and to identify and system failures and possible control measures to prevent reoccurrence.

Location

The meetings are held at Derby. The meeting is open to all members who are interested in Plant or Standards and if you need any further information, please contact the Secretariat at ARTP@riagb.org.uk or Andy Crago at: andy.crago@hydrex.co.uk.

Results of CIRAS Survey

CIRAS recently asked for the assistance of ARTP in the completion of a survey to establish the level of trainers' experience of safety concerns.

Colin Carr joined the board at its meeting on 5 March to thank ARTP for its participation and report on findings. His presentation is available on the ARTP website.

Track Safety SIG

Track Safety Materials Review - Andy McKenna

As I am sure many of you are aware I represent ARTP on the NR review group for the track safety training and assessment materials. Whilst over the years these materials have evolved I am sure many of you feel there are other things that could be added, some could be removed and perhaps there are better ways of getting the point across. In order to widen the sphere of influence it is planned to form a Track Safety Special Interest Group which will meet on a regular basis to discuss materials amongst practitioners. To achieve this I would like to invite members to attend an initial meeting at the Amtrain Fradley training centre near Lichfield on Tuesday 21st April at 10.00 am with a view to holding meetings on a six weekly basis and to establish some guidelines. Please e-mail if you wish to attend andy@amtrain.co.uk and we will make progress from there.

Steve Diksa joins ARTP Board

Some ARTP members may be aware that I was one the founder members of the original ARTP Board back in 1996. I have recently rejoined the Board to further develop and enhance the excellent work that the ARTP has carried out in the past 13 years on behalf rail industry trainers and assessors.

The rail industry, in particular training and competence, has changed significantly since the ARTP was originally formed, and, as stated at the recent ARTP AGM, I feel that there is need for a sea-change - let's get back to basics and consider the



most important person in the training room i.e. "the delegate". We really need to measure the impact of the training delivery and assessment outputs. I would also like to see the ARTP encourage its members to be active members of the Association and not just sit back and let a selective few do the bulk work. ARTP members who have worked with me in the past will already know that I am a committed, energetic individual with drive, will and determination to get things done! I look forward to representing and working with you all.

New Appointment at RSSB

RSSB announced the appointment in March of Andrew Taylor, formerly Training Instructor at Heathrow Express, as a Workforce Development Specialist.

Andrew will be working as a Technical Advisor for the Workforce Development R&D programme and other RSSB activities, managing the Workforce Development Extranet. He has also been running a series of Adult Learning Workshops for stakeholders that will be used to produce a DVD.

netDESIGNS Product