



IRSE NEWS is published monthly by the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers (IRSE). The IRSE is not as a body responsible for the opinions expressed in IRSE NEWS.

© Copyright 2015, IRSE. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the permission in writing of the publisher. Copying of articles is not permitted except for personal and internal use. Multiple copying of the content of this publication without permission is always illegal.

Editor

Ian J Allison

11 Sycamore Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3HZ, UK
Tel +44 (0) 7794 879286
e-mail: irsenews@irse.org

Deputy Editor

Tony Rowbotham

36 Burston Drive, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2HP, UK
e-mail: irsenews@aol.com

Assistant Editors

Harry Ostrofsky (Africa)
e-mail: thehzos@icon.co.za

Tony Howker (Australasia)
e-mail: ahowker@bigpond.com

David Thurston (N America)
e-mail: david.thurston@temple.edu

Buddhadev Dutta Chowdhury (Asia)
e-mail: bduttac@gmail.com

Wim Coenraad (Europe)
e-mail: wimcoenraad@me.com

Priyank Patel (Younger Members)
e-mail: PriyankPatel@tfl.gov.uk

Contributions

Articles of a newsworthy or technical nature are always welcome for IRSE NEWS. Members should forward their contributions to one of the Editors listed above

Production, Typeset & Layout

Mark Glover

e-mail: mark@polumnio.co.uk

Advertising

For advertising rates and deadlines call

Andrew Walker at DVV Media

Tel: +44 (0)208 652 5214

e-mail: andrew.walker@dvvmedia.com

Advertisements are accepted on the basis that the advertiser and agency (if any) warrant that the contents are true and correct in all respects.

Web Site

For up to date information about the Institution or its activities, or to download a membership application form, log on to the IRSE Web Site: www.irse.org

London Office

IRSE, 4th Floor, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, SW1H 9JJ, United Kingdom

Enquiries

MEMBERSHIP OR OF A GENERAL NATURE

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1180

Fax: +44 (0)20 7808 1196 e-mail: hq@irse.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1186 e-mail: training@irse.org

LICENSING

Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 1190 e-mail: licensing@irse.org



www.facebook.com/IRSEUK
www.facebook.com/IRSEOz
www.facebook.com/ian.allison

As many of you will know, Colin Porter stepped down from the role of IRSE Chief Executive at the end of July, after many years of service to the Institution not only in that post but in others as well. At the IRSE Members' Luncheon in June our President Andrew Simmons presented Colin with the "President's Medal" – a rarely bestowed honour in recognition of truly exceptional service to the Institution. At Colin's retirement event in London in July, Ken Burrage (Colin's predecessor in the role) paid a fulsome and well-deserved tribute to the service Colin has given. Colin is not retiring completely, however, because he is taking over from Ken as Chairman of the Licensing Committee.

Replacing Colin in the role of Chief Executive is Francis How, who was the Institution's President in our Centenary year, 2012/13. He is also a long-standing member of the IRSE's governing Council, and for the past two years has chaired the Education and Professional Development Committee. Francis was previously the Technical Director of the UK's Railway Industry Association, which represents the interests of suppliers working in the UK rail industry, where amongst his various responsibilities he spearheaded work on innovation and was a member of the Programme Control Board for the implementation of ERTMS in the UK. His professional expertise is in signal engineering, and he has been a Member and Fellow of the IRSE for many years.

Commenting on his new role, Francis said: "Following Colin in the role of Chief Executive is going to be a real challenge, but it is one that I am looking forward to. I am very conscious of the IRSE's dependence upon not only its staff but also the many members who freely give their time and energy to supporting the Institution and its activities around the world. We also depend upon, and are grateful for, the support of the companies for whom those individuals work. I hope that, in turn, they will continue to find the relationship mutually beneficial, given the IRSE's role in facilitating the professional development of their engineers. Closer engagement between the Institution and employers is a vital theme of our Strategy 2015-2020."

Note: The IRSE's Strategy 2015-2020 was published in the June edition of IRSE NEWS.

The Editor



Front Cover: A Class 158 on a down local train to Carlisle passes Blea Moor signal box on 11 March 2015. This is the remotest operational signal box in England, some 248 miles from London. Due to be resignalled and controlled from Manchester ROC by 2024, but when will it actually happen? Photo: Ian James Allison.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

Victorian Signalling Principles , Robert Baird	2
Mind the Gap , Francis How	14
Indian Level Crossings - An Overview , Rathindra Lal Dam	17
Industry News	18
IRSE Matters	21
Guidance on Application of the IRSE Licensing Scheme	21
IRSE & IRO Joint Seminar on Capability & Competence	21
IRSE / Network Rail S&T Apprentice of the Year Awards	22
Members' Lunch	23
Australasian Section	24
Midland & North Western Section	28
Scottish Section	29
York Section	30
The Deputy Editor's Tale, Tony Rowbotham	32
On the Move	36
Book Review: Resignalling Britain	36
Curiosity Corner	37
Membership Matters	Back Cover