



Railway operations outside of public running times

We have clear rules about the operation of the railway during public running, including the requirement that any driver must be a Full Member over the age of 16 who has been qualified for operating the type of motive power in question, or is under the supervision of a qualified Member as part of their progression to qualification.

However the arrangements for running at other times are less clear. This document attempts to clarify the situation. It is recognised that it may not cover every possible set of circumstances.

In every case all Members and all visitors must sign in on arrival, and sign out when leaving the site.

Private events

Private events may be organised by a Member, subject to Committee approval. These generally involve non-members attending in reasonable numbers and may involve the operation of a train or trains. These must be held when the railway is not open to the public. Rules for such events have been agreed by the Committee and must be obeyed – a copy is annexed. The requirement for committee approval for such events is to ensure compliance, and to avoid clashes with other activities on site. There is no specific requirement for drivers to be qualified by the Society or even to be members, subject to the proviso that the responsible Member exercises strict supervision.

Private running by members

Owners of locos are free to operate when the railway is closed to the public. They are responsible for ensuring that the track is open. Operating from the main top sheds and running only on the Suburban Route should not normally require access to the Signal Box. If owners wish to operate on any different route, they must coordinate with the Signalling Department and if necessary the Permanent Way Supervisor.

Members must not operate by themselves, with no one else on site. This is to ensure that help can be provided in the case of an accident or other serious incident.

Non-member visitors are not prohibited, subject to the numbers being very limited and the Member taking full responsibility for them.. It is suggested that, without prior approval, there should be no more than two visitors for each Member present. Particular care must be taken to ensure the safety of any children present. The Society cannot be held responsible for any incidents.

Security etc

In the above activities, the responsible Member must ensure that the site, including all buildings, gates etc, is secured before leaving. Lights, heaters etc must be switched off. During the event all resources (electricity, fuel etc) must be used economically.

Any damage or loss to the Society's property must be reported to the Secretary and may have to be paid for.

Running days

Private running on days when the railway is open to the public may take place well before public opening hours, eg before 1pm when the railway opens at 2pm. When the railway is open to the public, non-members are prohibited trackside unless for a specific purpose and under the direct supervision of a Full Member.

It is recognised that Members, including Junior Members, may wish to drive immediately before and after public running. This is permitted providing that there are no public passenger carrying trains in operation. Sometimes such trains may still be on track after the official closing time (eg 5pm). Non-qualified Members must be supervised by a qualified Member. If operating after a public running session, arrangements must be made to ensure that Members are available to:

- a) operate points and signals as necessary and to shut down afterwards
- b) return and secure locos and rolling stock
- c) turn off lights, heaters etc
- d) secure the site.

Such sessions should be kept as short as possible. It is not fair to assume that other members (shed staff, signallers etc) will stay on late to help.

Mike Goddard

Chairman

September 2024

Private functions at Mizens

Arrangements for the use of the Station Building and/or site at Barrs Lane for private events

1. Any such use must be approved by the Committee.
2. The date and time of the event must be recorded in the Calendar in the Station Building to avoid conflict with other use. The name of a contact person should be included.
3. The event must be under the control and supervision of at least one Full Member of WMRS at all times. If a train is to be run, at least two Full Members must be on site to oversee operations.
4. One nominated Member must take responsibility for unlocking, leaving the premises in good order, and securing buildings and the site at the end of the event.
5. A record must be kept of all visitors.
6. The consumption of alcoholic drinks is permitted in moderation but the sale of such drinks is strictly prohibited.
7. The organiser is advised to coordinate with the cleaning schedule and to arrange access to the electricity distribution panel in the shop in case of any disruption to the power supply or to switch on external lighting.
8. A modest contribution to the Society's funds should be made.

Approved by the WMRS Committee, 11 August 2021