

## **STANDING FOR RAILFUTURE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - NOMINATION PAPER 2017**

All *Railfuture* members are encouraged to take part in the society's activities, including standing as a director and voting for directors. There are nine elected positions on the Board. Each director retires at the AGM after completing their three-year term and may stand again (there is no maximum time they may serve). The candidates with the three highest votes will be elected for three years from the date of the AGM. Directors who resign before their term expires are not usually replaced until the next AGM – if they are it would be done through co-option based on the skills and experience needed; losing candidates from the last election do not have priority or right to be co-opted. Any co-opted director's term will only last until the next AGM. If more than three of the nine elected positions are vacant then other candidates will fill the remaining terms in descending order of votes. For example, if directors with one- and two-year terms remaining had resigned then the 4<sup>th</sup> placed candidate would be elected for two years and the 5<sup>th</sup> placed for one year.

*Railfuture* has a small electorate scattered across Britain (and a few live abroad). Its elections cannot operate like a general or local election where candidates face intense scrutiny from voters, journalists, and their rivals. In lieu of this the independent Electoral Returning Officer (ERO) is appointed by the Board to ensure fairness to candidates and voters.

*Railfuture* aims to hold friendly elections. It has a strict rule that the only opportunity for candidates to canvass is through an accurate, truthful and verifiable election statement (in the opinion of the ERO) supplied on this nomination form that accompanies the voting papers sent to all members.

Election statements should state what the candidate can offer *Railfuture* NOW AND IN THE FUTURE with examples of their experience and abilities. Candidates should not overstate past contributions.

### **Important Notes:**

1. Please write CLEARLY & LEGIBLY throughout.
2. Nominee, Proposer and Secunder must, at the time of submission, be fully paid up Members of the Railway Development Society Limited (*Railfuture*).
3. Complete fully and return, TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 1 FEBRUARY 2017 to:  
*Railfuture* Returning Officer, 12 Valley View, Great Bourton, Banbury OX17 1QJ, or e-mail a scanned copy to the ERO at [chris.bates@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:chris.bates@railfuture.org.uk) from the email address already registered with *Railfuture*.
4. Nomination papers received after this date will not be accepted. Acknowledgements will be by email. No acknowledgement by post will be sent unless an SAE is provided.
5. **All nominees must read the equal opportunities statement at the top of the next page, and the declaration and notes overleaf and then sign to acknowledge their understanding of, and agreement to be bound by them and to confirm their wish to be nominated.**

We wish to nominate: (name) \_\_\_\_\_

of: (address) \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No\*: \_\_\_\_\_ (\* if known)

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **PROPOSER**

### **SECONDER**

Name:	_____	_____
Signature:	_____	_____
Post code:	_____	_____
Membership Number *:	_____	_____
Telephone Number:	_____	_____
Email:	_____	_____

## **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT**

THE SOCIETY WELCOMES NOMINATIONS FROM CANDIDATES REGARDLESS OF GENDER, ETHNIC GROUP, RELIGIOUS BELIEF, AGE, DISABILITY OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

PLEASE ALSO COMPLETE & RETURN THE ATTACHED EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES MONITORING FORM.

## **CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION**

In addition to declaring their willingness to stand for election, and in order to comply with our Insurer's criteria for providing Insurance, a prospective Director must be able to sign the following declaration:

I confirm that I have not:

- been convicted or charged (but not yet tried) with a criminal offence (other than a motoring offence),
- received an official caution for a criminal offence within the last three years (other than a motoring offence),
- ever been declared bankrupt and/or been a director of a Company which has gone into liquidation, administration or receivership,
- ever knowingly failed to conform to legislation pertaining to Health & Safety at Work activities,
- been disqualified from acting as a director.

Also, no Insurer has ever:

- declined a proposal,
- not invited a renewal,
- cancelled or refused to renew a policy,
- imposed special conditions or requested extra precautions to be taken by me or any partner or director or officer in my business.

I confirm that I will advise the Company Secretary if, during my tenure of office, I become subject to any of the above provisions. I understand that I will be expected to complete a declaration of interests form in order to take up my elected position and that I must follow the prevailing code of conduct for directors and officers of the Railway Development Society Ltd in order to continue occupying it.

## **NOTES ON ROLE OF THE ELECTORAL RETURNING OFFICER, PERSONAL DETAILS & ELECTION ADDRESS OF CANDIDATE:**

In an effort to assist Members to better know and more easily compare the candidates and their relevant experience and attributes, these details should be submitted in a standardised format as answers to the eight specific questions shown below. They must be typed or word processed and, if sent by post, supplied on a separate sheet of paper.

The Board of Directors authorises the Electoral Returning Officer, independently, and at his complete discretion, to reject or edit:

- submissions that contain defamatory remarks about Society Members or Officers (whether specifically named or not),
- statements that might be deemed not to be in the best interests of the Society to appear in print (e.g. relating to current legal proceedings),
- retrospective claims or observations regarding internal events long ago,
- claims that cannot be verified because they may relate to matters not wholly in the public domain.

Candidates must not attempt to gain an unfair advantage by directly communicating with members on the subject of their candidacy. Any candidate who independently initiates or sends to members (especially but not exclusively using personal inside knowledge of email or postal addresses), any

form of electioneering, election material, comments on other candidates or comments on or about the conduct of the election, whether by letter, statement (including verbal) or any form of electronic or printed publication (including email, SMS text or social media), may be disqualified by the Board from the election. Candidates may *individually* respond to questions sent to them by a member.

Please provide the following *brief* information about the candidate. Depending on available space on the ballot literature the ERO may choose not to publish one or more items, but the same set of items will be shown for all candidates. The directors reserve the right to include a statement about the suitability of a candidate. Directors standing for re-election will take no part in any such decision.

- (1) Length of Membership of the Railway Development Society (Railfuture)
- (2) Current and Previous RDS (Railfuture) Branch Membership and Committee Service
- (3) Current and Previous RDS (Railfuture) National Committee/Group Service
- (4) Relevant Qualifications and Work Experience
- (5) Current and Previous Membership of other relevant Organisations with details of positions held
- (6) Participation in other Organisations as RDS (Railfuture) Representative
- (7) Nature and Duration of any association with a Rail User Group (whether or not affiliated to RDS (Railfuture))

Election Address (Maximum of 300 words)

Any submission that exceeds this maximum will be returned to the candidate for resubmission (if time permits) or will be truncated/edited by the Electoral Returning Officer.

**I confirm that I have read and fully understood:**

- a) **the role, duties and responsibilities of the Electoral Returning Officer in the conduct of elections**
- b) **the content of the Equal Opportunities Statement, the Candidate's Declaration and the Notes on Candidate's Personal Details & Election Address, and that I agree to be bound by them and consent to my nomination to stand for election**
- c) **the code of conduct required of directors (published at [www.railfuture.org.uk/DL753](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/DL753)) especially collective responsibility.**

**I further acknowledge and confirm that If elected I am bound by the decision of the Board that all directors expenses (claimed and/or waived) will be published in full on the website at the end of each Financial Year.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **BANKING AND INSURANCE REGULATIONS**

All of Railfuture's banks and insurer's require us to notify them of any change of director (regardless of whether that director has any authority to use the bank account). From time-to-time they may require proof of identity and residence for all, or any, director. This may necessitate a visit to a branch of each bank.

Banks have the powers to suspend Railfuture's bank accounts if they have any concerns about one or more directors. Likewise our insurers may suspend or terminate our insurance cover. In the event that this cannot be resolved the Board may have no choice but to remove the director.

For info there have been recent instances where banks have threatened to close accounts owing to the political, rather than criminal, activities of a director etc. where these activities have nothing to do with the organisation. Press reports suggest it mainly relates to individuals who have attracted the interest of security services in UK or USA.

Directors will be required to familiarise themselves with the conditions in the policies and be aware of the Insurance Act 2016 and other legislation.

## **INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO COMPANIES HOUSE**

All directors of RDS Ltd need to be registered with Companies House. It is Railfuture practice that they also become directors of all its subsidiary companies (Railfuture Ltd and Railwatch Ltd).

Directors will need to submit personal information to the Company Secretary, who will register them at Companies House. This is done electronically without using the director's signature. In order to do this 'personal proof of identity' information will be required, although this will only be used to access the Companies House online portal and will not appear in public.

A new director's term of office commences when they are announced at the AGM but they cannot take up their duties until they have been registered with Companies House. Election candidates are not normally informed of the results of the election until the AGM or the day before it (to allow for email address groups to be changed). Therefore to speed up the Companies House registration this information may be requested by the Company Secretary prior to the AGM, including for candidates who are not elected. In the latter situation the information would be destroyed.

Railfuture has no control over the information about directors that Companies House will put into the public domain. This is generally limited to full name and date of birth. On some, but not all, public records part of the date of birth may be anonymised to reduce the risk of identity theft.

JA/2016-09-10.