



Rail User Group Awards 2015

Rewarding Rail User Groups

Let the oxygen of publicity breathe fresh life into your campaigning for railway development!

Awards will be presented at Railfuture's November conference, this year in Bristol, as they were in London last November, Oxford the previous year and Birmingham in the inaugural year. Railfuture's fourth Rail User Group Awards will again aim to recognise and reward the various achievements over the past year among the country's 300 RUGs in fulfilling Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for the railway and rail users.

For some general clues to what's involved you can do no better than draw on the experience of the first three years' RUG Awards. The key website links are www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Groups or www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express or www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards and also www.railwatch.org.uk/backtrack

Railwatch no.143 for April **2015** promoted this year's Awards, on p.7, as did Rail User Express in its 29 March and 3 May issues.

The **award categories** for **2015** are:

- 1 & 2 - Best newsletter - Gold and Silver awards [not available to last year's winners]
- 3 & 4 - Best website - Gold and Silver awards [not available to last year's winners]
- 5 - Best campaign
- 6 - Best new group
- 7 - Best individual RUG campaigner [Railfuture members only]
- 8 - NEW for 2015 - Best social media promotion
- 9 - Judges' Special Award

The closing date for your submissions is 23.59 on Tuesday 1st September 2015.

There are **no** application forms. Just one nomination in any category will be sufficient for the nominated **newsletter, website, campaign, new group, social media promotion, or individual** to be considered; as in previous years these awards will not be decided by popular vote but on merit by a panel of independent judges. The same person or group can nominate in more than one category. RUGs and individuals can nominate their own **newsletter, website, campaign, new group, or social media promotion**, as well as others; there will be no self-nomination accepted in category 7! The **Judges' Special Award** is reserved to the sole discretion of the judging panel, which as in previous years we plan to include our Vice-Presidents.

For **best newsletter** and **best social media promotion**, please confirm your wish to be considered for an award by sending an email to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk or a letter, and in either case please post a paper copy of your latest and up to the three other most recent newsletters, or disc/memory stick etc, to **Roger Blake, 70 Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16 0DX.**

Please **do NOT email the newsletters** themselves otherwise you will overload Roger's Inbox!

P.T.O.

A lesson from previous years: Roger very strongly advises the use of padded envelopes for postal submissions, and the use of Signed-for Delivery.

For **best website**, which will be judged at any time during September-October, again please send an email or letter confirming your entry, with a link to your website, to Roger Blake as above.

For **best campaign, best new group, and best individual RUG campaigner**, please email or post your nominations to Roger with your submissions of up to 200 words each. A limited selection of supporting evidence can be sent to him by post, or by email if just plain text.

All submissions must please:

- identify the individual making the nomination,
- indicate whether the nomination is personal or on behalf of a named group and if so in any particular capacity,
- include a full postal address and at least one telephone number where possible.

The intention is that these awards are open to Railfuture members and RUGs affiliated* to Railfuture, with eligibility to entry being one of the benefits of membership. However, we do recognise that many currently non-affiliated groups and their members do sterling work in a wide variety of ways which should not be allowed to pass unremarked. Such groups should nevertheless be able to enter the Awards competition by identifying at least one currently-subscribing Railfuture member, by membership number or postcode.

*The Directory of Rail Users Groups on the national website shows affiliated RUGs with an 'A'

The national website www.railfuture.org.uk has details of how to join Railfuture, including online payment using Paypal. As in previous years, the prizes will include a year's subscription to Railfuture, so that will be a 'free introductory offer' for non-member RUGs whom we trust will then renew their affiliation a year later.

All nominees will have their current membership status (individual or affiliated RUG) confirmed together with date of expiry of any current subscription. Non-members are asked to confirm a wish to apply for individual or RUG membership if a prize-winner. Railfuture wishes to be inclusive and while all membership applications are ultimately at the discretion of the national Board of Directors, it is very rarely withheld.

With apologies for all the terms and conditions (at least not in unreadable small print!), please feel free to raise any queries with Roger Blake as above. There's now a month's **LESS** time this year to make your preparations for nominating. This is so that one of our Vice-Presidents may be able to pay you a visit during September/early-October while they are in your area.

And finally, **book no later than Monday 31 August** at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences to benefit from the Railfuture members' early-bird-discounted Bristol conference fee of just £20.00 (includes refreshments and buffet lunch). Be there to collect your framed RUG Award, have the occasion photographed for your own local publicity, and maybe have the further opportunity [available only to conference participants] to earn yourself a prize for correctly guessing one of the Award winners.

Best of luck, and may Bristol be as awarding an experience as it was for those who came to London, Oxford and Birmingham!

Appendix:

Railwatch issue no.132 for July **2012** introduced the inaugural RUG Awards on pages 16-17, and *Railwatch* issue no.134 for December **2012** illustrated the winners on page 2. Detailed coverage of the winning **2012** submissions can be seen by downloading the *slideshow of winners* from the Railfuture website here: www.railfuture.org.uk/article1326

Railwatch no.136 for July **2013** flagged the second year's Awards on p.16. The winners were covered in *Railwatch* no.138 for December **2013** on p.2. Full coverage of the winning **2013** submissions can be seen by downloading the *slideshow of winners* from here: www.railfuture.org.uk/article1392-RUG-Award-winners-2013

Railwatch no.140 for July **2014** promoted last year's Awards on p.6. The winners were covered in *Railwatch* no.142 for December **2014** on p.16. Full coverage of the winning **2014** submissions can be seen by downloading the *slideshow of winners* from here: www.railfuture.org.uk/article1515-RUG-Award-winners-2014

Roger Blake, June 2015

