

Railfuture Ltd (formerly The Railway Development Society Limited)

Election of Directors for 2018/19

The Board of Directors is legally liable for the running of the company. Railfuture Ltd must abide by the Companies Act, General Data Protection Regulation (from 25 May 2018, but currently the Data Protection Act), Insurance Act, Health and Safety at Work Act, Lobbying Act and many other pieces of legislation. It also has a legal duty to act in the best interests of the members, which primarily means ensuring that Railfuture is financially well-run, is not exposed to unnecessary risk, and satisfies our insurers and banks. Candidates must be committed to performing this role if elected. Primarily, of course, they must work constructively and harmoniously as part of a team.

Although Railfuture exists to campaign for better services over a bigger railway, the responsibility of the Board of Directors is a managerial and strategic one. They manage the company to enable high-quality, modern, professional and effective campaigning work, where relevant to the aims of the company, to be done by Railfuture volunteers, and to make available funds to do so where beneficial to members, properly focused/managed, and value-for-money. It is not the immediate responsibility of the directors to campaign, although many do so within their branch activities, and it is not necessary for every director to have a deep understanding of the railway.

The board needs a variety of knowledge, understanding and skills amongst the directors that include: company management, project management, finance/accountancy, corporate governance, data protection, legal, human resources, information technology (especially websites and databases), marketing as well as railway matters, both as rail users and professionals working within the rail industry.

In 2018 there are three vacancies for a three-year term and one vacancy for a one-year term. The fourth placed candidate will be elected for one year. There will then be nine directors.

More details can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/Elections.

List of current directors (three-year terms with chair appointed from amongst the directors):

Chris Page – Chair *	Allison Cosgrove – Vice Chair and Passenger Director
Jerry Alderson – Finance & IT Director	Stewart Palmer – Director of Corporate Governance *
Roger Blake – (Rail) Infrastructure Director	Wendy Thorne – Supports Corporate Governance Director *
Chris Hyomes – Communications Director	William Whiting – Freight Director

Jerry Alderson is managing the changes necessary to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation. Allison Cosgrove also has responsibility for supporting Railfuture's 14 branches, aiming to visit around half of them each year. Wendy Thorne also supports the new Company Accountant, Trevor Davies, in preparing budgets and annual accounts on behalf of the Finance Director. Those marked "*" are seeking re-election. The fourth vacancy arises because Charlene Wallace reluctantly resigned in October 2017 because of pressure of work in her day job.

Candidate Details and Election Addresses

All candidates were asked to answer questions 1 to 7 (maximum 100 words) and submit an election address of not more than 300 words.

- 1) Length of membership the Railfuture Ltd
- 2) Current and previous Railfuture Ltd branch membership and committee Service
- 3) Current and Previous Railfuture Ltd national 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 Railfuture Ltd representative
- 7) Nature and Duration of any association with a rail user group (whether or not affiliated to Railfuture Ltd)
- 8) Election address

IAN BROWN – Proposed by Jerry Alderson; seconded by Chris Page

Personal Details

- Q1. 4 years
- Q2. London and South East Branch member
- Q3. Railfuture Vice President since 2011. Railfuture Board member (2014-7). Railfuture Director of Policy (2014-7), Policy Advisor to the Board (2017-Date), including consultation responses. Chair; Railfuture European Passenger Group (2017-Date). Regular column contributor to Railwatch (2011-Date)
- Q4. A career in the Railway industry (BR, TfL, Network Rail, Crossrail, Scotrail, Greater Anglia). Please see statement. Awarded a CBE for "Services to the Rail Industry" by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2012 New Year's Honours list. Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport. National Rail Awards and Light Rail Awards judge (2012-Date)
- Q5. Not a member of, and no conflicts of interest with other rail campaigning groups
- Q6. Participation in various ad hoc external groups and DfT meetings (eg fares working group), on behalf of the Board
- Q7. Not a member of and no conflicts of interest with RUGs. Member of Railfuture RUG Award judging panel, visiting and encouraging RUGs.

Ian Brown - Election Address

I retired in 2014 following a career in the rail industry with British Rail, Transport for London and Crossrail.

At TfL, as MD London Rail I was responsible for rail operations and development of the DLR, Tramlink, the London Overground and Crossrail sponsorship and the interface with National Rail.

I was elected to the Railfuture Board in 2014 to support the drive to ensure Railfuture connects with stakeholders and industry players, undertaking the role as Railfuture Director of Policy with stewardship of Railfuture's groups. The principal aim was to get Railfuture respected so that our campaigning is listened to by government and the industry. Railfuture is now a regular valued contributor to industry consultation including franchise specifications.

Following the three-year term I did not put up for re-election last year owing to intensive activity joining franchise bid teams - Scotrail and Greater Anglia. This certainly provided an insight into how the current national rail industry thinks and works and with maintaining contacts in the industry.

Nevertheless I have continued to support Railfuture as VP, award judging, writing regular articles in Railwatch and continuing support to Railfuture as Policy Advisor to the Board and Chair of the European Passenger Group.

Railfuture is increasingly becoming a force to be reckoned with by stakeholders, and members are becoming increasingly informed on effective campaigning for sustainable rail developments. This makes it all worthwhile.

If elected to the Board the aim is to maintain all these Railfuture activities but also contribute to Board discussions with contributions on how the industry works, maintaining contacts with government, TOCs, Network Rail and TfL and supporting the branches. This includes contributing to good governance ensuring that what Railfuture does is effective and relevant to Railfuture members.

TREVOR GARROD – Proposed by Robert Stripe; seconded by John Thompson

Personal Details

- Q1. Since 1978
- Q2. East Anglia – Branch Secretary till 1986. Currently Committee Member
- Q3. National Executive, then Board till 2001, then 2005-2013; 2015-16. General Secretary 1986-2001. Have served on Passenger Group, International Group and various other specialist committees which no longer exist.
- Q4. Commuted to work by train for a total of 24 years.
- Q5. East Suffolk Lines Community Rail Partnership (Line Group Treasurer)
- Q6. European Passengers Federation. Chairman 2002-15, then President 2015-17
- Q7. East Suffolk Travellers' Association, Chairman since 1997. Helped form many other local users' associations and reopening campaigns.

Trevor Garrod - Election Address

Organising meetings, conferences and visits; producing books, reports and newsletters (electronic and paper); conducting and analysing surveys; giving radio and television interviews; meeting professional and political decision-makers; adopting a station and promoting services - you name it, I have done it, and still do, in this country and in the rest of Europe.

It is important for the Railfuture Board, as key decision-making organ of a voluntary body, to contain members who are active campaigners and in close touch with branches and affiliates.

We should seek advice from outside experts where appropriate; while retaining a democratic structure, free of control-freakery.

Our policies and actions should concentrate on the practical issues facing travellers as we press for a more attractive rail network with a bigger market share. That includes access to and from stations to provide seamless journeys - a project which I have recently led for the East Anglian Branch.

Railfuture can afford to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses. Yet members engaged in European work have been refused any contribution to such expenses in 2017, while money was spent on a 'disciplinary hearing'.

We need open democratic debate and a reasonable contribution to volunteers' expenses.

Electoral returning officer statement: Trevor Garrod was removed from the Board in 2016, by a vote of the Board, for a breach of the Code of Conduct for Directors. The details were set out in the insert sent with Railwatch 149 in October 2016. This can be read at: www.railfuture.org.uk/member/?file=1505.

CHRIS PAGE – Proposed by Richard Tyler; seconded by Roger Goring

Personal Details (Q5 and Q7 = none)

Q1. 7 years (joined 2010)

Q2. Member of London and South East committee since 2011. Started L&SE Surrey Division in 2012

Q3. National Chair since 2016, National Vice Chairman 2013-2016. Director since 2012. Member of Finance and Internal Affairs Committee 2012 – 2013. Member of Finance and Corporate Governance Group 2013-2016. Head of Marketing Media and Communication Group 2012-2016. Corresponding Member of Policy Group 2011-2013

Q4. BSc (Hons) Physics. ACCA Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance. 2011-2012 IT Project Manager, Centrica - Internet-based home security service. 1999-2010 IT Programme Manager, Dell - Global Online store, with teams in US, Europe & Asia. 1994-1999 Head of IT, Mid Kent Water - Responsible to CEO for IT projects & systems. 1992-1993 Project Manager, Kvaerner - Asset Management System for Piccadilly Line fleet. 1985-1992 Project Manager, Ferranti - Computer systems for defence applications. 1972-1985 Technical Author, Ferranti

Q6. Observer on Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee. Uckfield Transport Hub Working Group

Chris Page - Election Address

I want a successful rail industry which grows sustainably. I support initiatives which make rail more attractive, including value fares, clear ticket choices, improved connectivity, quicker journeys and efficient customer service. I campaign for changes which enable rail expansion, including improving competitiveness, identifying suppressed demand, and developing the network.

I joined Railfuture so that I could work with like-minded people to achieve these goals. I campaign actively for reopening Uckfield - Lewes and electrifying the Uckfield and North Downs lines in my area, by building relationships with politicians and stakeholders and engaging public support.

I contribute to Railfuture responses to consultations and encourage members to write fresh website content to attract rail users and new members, thus promoting a professional appearance to the stakeholders we wish to influence.

I have represented Railfuture at meetings in Westminster and negotiated a collaboration agreement with Young Rail Professionals which will bring us new members from the rail industry. During four years as director and then two years as chair I have gained the respect of my fellow directors. Each director now has a specific role as part of our strategy to move Railfuture forward.

As chair, it takes a lot of time and effort to reach consensus on key issues. I am happy to devote that time to include members in agreeing a realistic position on key issues, promote our position professionally, and improve our internal communication to make Railfuture more successful. I organise the annual Branches and Groups Day, which encourages members to work together.

If elected I can continue using skills which I gained as a senior programme manager to encourage the Board and members to work together to develop Railfuture as an effective campaigning organisation which is respected by governments, rail industry and public, so that it will survive and grow.

STEWART PALMER – Proposed by Wendy Thorne; seconded by Bruce Duncan

Personal Details (Q6 = none)

- Q1. Vice President since 2013, member since 2014
- Q2. Wessex Branch member
- Q3. Current Board member, chair of Governance Working Group, member of RUG awards group, Board liaison for Devon and Cornwall and Wessex Branches
- Q4. BA (Hons) degree from Exeter University. Founder member of the Institution of Railway Operators. Over 37 years in the railway industry from junior management to Managing Director of South West Trains
- Q5. Trustee of 2 registered charities, chair of one and head of finance committee of other
- Q7. Advisor to Salisbury-Exeter Line RUG (SERUG) for last 2 years. Member of Railfuture RUG Awards Group for 3 years, which has involved local visits to User Groups.

Stewart Palmer - Election Address

I am seeking re-election to the Board because, having spent over 37 years in the railway industry, I believe that I can continue to provide useful rail industry knowledge to Railfuture as a campaigning organisation.

In my 3 years on the Board I have worked with others to encourage Railfuture to adopt modern professional standards and to try to build better relationships between the Board, Working Groups and Branches with our members and external stakeholders. I have attended many events, conferences and meetings all around the country, promoting Railfuture as an informed, constructive and positive force for change. I led the successful referral to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) concerning the potential loss of cheap fares from Exeter, following the takeover of South West Trains by First/MTR. I have been active in supporting the Rail User Group (RUG) awards for Railfuture.

I have worked consistently to make Railfuture more relevant to rail users, for example by leading work on developing realistic plans for train service improvements and potential station re-openings, focusing on issues that are of concern to actual and potential rail users. Railfuture will only survive and have influence if it attracts new, younger, active supporters. To do that, Railfuture has to adopt relevant, achievable policies and positions that provide value for our members and lead to a bigger and better railway. I believe that my involvement thus far has demonstrated that I can help bring that about.

WENDY THORNE – Proposed by Stewart Palmer; seconded by Chris Page

Personal Details (Q2 and Q5 = none)

- Q1. 5 years
- Q3. Acted in an advisory capacity during 2013; subsequently elected in 2014 to the Railfuture National Board serving as Deputy Director of Corporate Governance. Also a serving member of the Governance Review Working Group
- Q4. Fellow member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) and a Licensed Accountant. A member of Disciplinary Committees of a number of professional bodies.
- Q6. Previously a Director and Trustee on the Governing Council of AAT. Chaired a number of Boards, panels and working parties with particular focus on disciplinary matters, regulation and compliance and member services'. Also held positions of Secretary and Chair of the local Bristol Branch of AAT.
- Q7. Treasurer of Portishead Railway Group for the past seven years.

Wendy Thorne - Election Address

Members of Railfuture have a wealth of knowledge and experience which is to be admired. Volunteers share their enthusiasm and skills at numerous events and meetings across the country and give their time in abundance. The role of the Board is to harness that enthusiasm, channelling it into the areas of greatest impact by providing leadership. During my tenure I worked hard to make the Board more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the organisation.

There is still much to be done to ensure Railfuture embraces positive change to remain a highly respected campaigning organisation. We face many challenges, not least our quest to reach out to rail users, encouraging them to join our membership base, alongside continuing to get our voice heard in relevant places and being sought for our informed opinions.

Being re-elected would enable me to continue working to help shape the organisation further. I know the challenges and I have identified a number of ways in which our offering can be improved having been involved this year in the areas of Governance, Finance and Editorial along with starting to review the format and content of our conferences and meetings. Most recently I have been involved in seeking new marketing and membership expertise. It is the latter that presents us with the best opportunity to gain new members, trial different ways of working and allow us to utilise our current and prospective knowledge base to best effect. The rewards will be an increase in members, resources, talent and exposure in the rail industry.

Although there is no quick fix, I am willing to dedicate the time and effort to achieve our aims. These are exciting times and I welcome the opportunity to continue with these projects, ensuring Railfuture is indeed fit for the future.