

19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF RAILFUTURE LTD

Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AU
(held in the Holyrood Suite) on Saturday 13 July 2024, starting at 11.00
(Registration from 10.00, free refreshments from 10.30)

Railfuture has chosen Edinburgh for this year's AGM because the Levenmouth railway line is due to reopen on 2 June and the tram extension to Leith and Newhaven opened in 2023. For those interested in the Glasgow Subway the new Stadler trains are in service (although at the time of writing not at weekends).

The AGM venue has easy access from the station. The Holyrood Hotel is about 20 minutes' walk from Waverley station (via the Market Street exit – not Princes Street).

The photo shows the outside of the hotel. The Holyrood Suite holds more than 40 people with ample space.

Registration is not mandatory but if you hope to attend it will be helpful if you can register on the website (preferably – you will need your Railfuture Number and PIN, a reminder of your PIN can be sent by email) or by completing and posting the enclosed form. You can also change your mind.



Railfuture will provide free refreshments before the AGM starts. To help us plan catering and avoid unnecessary costs, it would be highly appreciated if we know approximately the numbers by Friday 5 July.

A map of the area is shown on page 3 of this flyer. An optional buffet lunch will be provided at a cost of **£14** (this should be good value as Railfuture will be subsidising it by £2). Lunch must be purchased in advance by Friday 28 June (either online at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/ with a Debit/Credit Card or PayPal or by sending a cheque – see postal details on the 'feedback form'). There are nearby cafés (e.g. on the Royal Mile, although this tourist hotspot is not cheap). Please don't consume your own lunch at the venue.

The formal Annual General Meeting (AGM), which will be held prior to lunch, is open to fully paid-up members or the proxy that they have registered at least 48 hours before the event. There will be no admission for members whose subscription is not current, and no payments will be taken on the door.

We are planning to provide remote viewing of the AGM via Zoom. This can be technically tricky to manage, and we cannot guarantee the quality; there is a very small risk of total failure. There may be an opportunity for those watching remotely to submit questions (via chat). Although the Articles of Association now allow remote voting, it has not been arranged at the time of writing. It is important to attend in person if you wish to take part.

There will be two guest speakers in the afternoon. **Cllr Scott Arthur** will talk about **Edinburgh Trams**. A public consultation on a new tram line is expected in the late spring, so this will be an exciting time for the development of the tram system. **ScotRail** have been approached to speak but have not yet confirmed.

The afternoon session will close with the presentation of Railfuture's annual Rail User Group Awards (please see www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG-Awards).

The AGM is expensive to stage (both for room hire and complimentary refreshments). Please advise us of whether you will or will not attend. It is not binding, and you can change your mind, but it is helpful to know.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting of **Railfuture Limited** will be held at **11.00** on **Saturday 13 July 2024** at **Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AU**

AGENDA

10.00-11.00 Registration (Tea and coffee available from 10.30)

11.00-12.30 AGM Formal Business (currently paid-up members and proxies only)

1. Welcome (with apologies for absence)
2. Remind attendees of the standing orders adopted at the 2016 AGM.
These will be available from reception or can be viewed at www.railfuture.org.uk/display1216
3. To read and approve the minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting of Railfuture Limited held on Saturday 15 July 2023 in London — www.railfuture.org.uk/display3625 (public version) or log into Self-Care on the website using your Railfuture number and PIN to view full version
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Honorary President's address (Christian Wolmar – invited and will attend if he is available)
6. National Chair's report (Chris Page)
7. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2023 (Jerry Alderson, Director of Finance & IT)
The Independent Examiner's report is contained within the summarised and full accounts
8. Re-appointment of the Independent Examiner (Newsham Hanson, based in North Somerset)
9. To record that there was no ballot for Board Directors as the number of candidates was fewer than the number of vacancies
10. Appointment of Honorary President and Vice-presidents
11. Motions from members
12. Chair – review of the meeting and looking forward to the year ahead

By Order of the Board,

Date 02/03/2024, Trevor Davies, Company Secretary

Correspondence address: 14 Ghent Field Circle, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3UP

Registered office: Edinburgh House, 1-5 Bellevue Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7NP (legal correspondence only)

12.30-12.45 Member of the Year 2023 – organised by Wendy Thorne, Railfuture Director. Subject to any nominations having been received by 1 July (send to wendy.thorne@railfuture.org.uk).

12.45-13.30 Lunch — This is provided at the venue for those who paid £14 for it in advance. If you have brought your own lunch, then please consume it outside.

13.30 Afternoon Session (open to the public)

1. Welcome
2. Guest speakers from the rail industry (Cllr Scott Arthur for Edinburgh Trams, plus one other)
3. Rail User Group Awards – organised by Roger Blake, Railfuture Director

15.30 Thanks and Chair's closing remarks

AGM PACK INCLUDED WITH RAILWATCH / SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

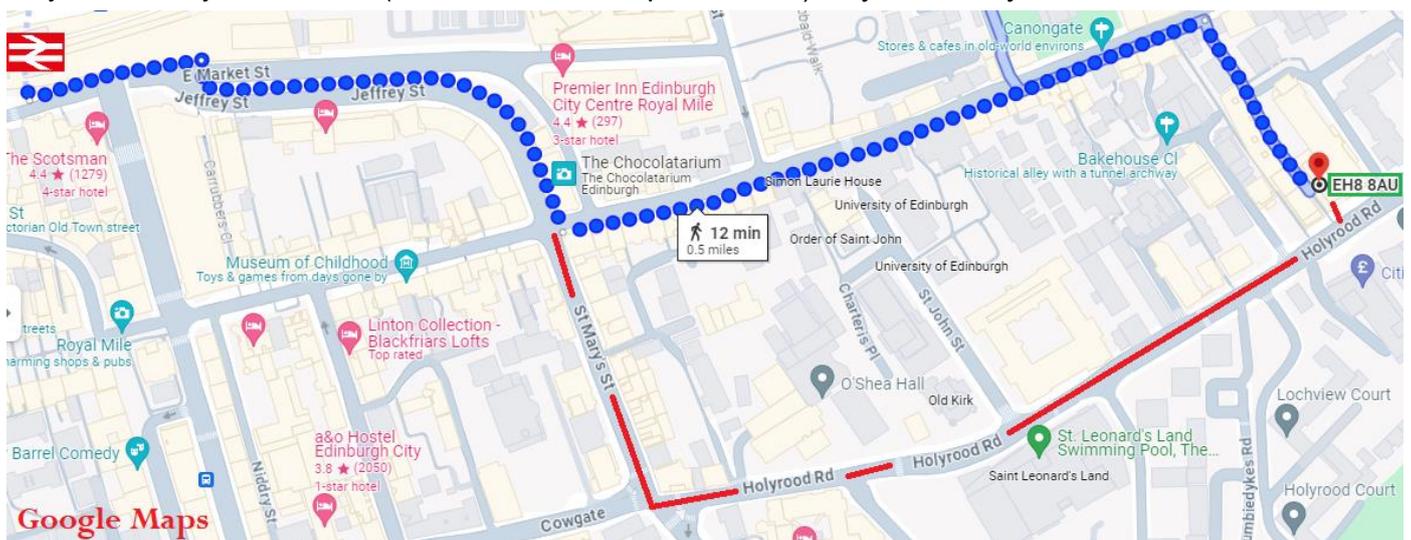
In addition to this four-page notice you should have received a two-page feedback form including attendance (page 1) and proxy voting form (page 2) – both can be completed online (you can repeat this if your intentions change). Please do register this if you plan to attend (or to give your apologies).

The 2023 accounts have been prepared and are now with the Independent Examiner, after which the directors will approve them. You should receive the four-page summary accounts with the July 2024 issue of Railwatch. From April the summary can be viewed on the website at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3631 with the full 'statutory' accounts that are sent to Companies House at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3632.

Our mission is to be the number one advocate for the railway and rail users

Location of Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Street, Edinburgh EH8 8AU

The venue is close to the Scottish Parliament, which is at the Holyrood Palace end of the Royal Mile (beyond the right-hand side of the map; the other end is Edinburgh Castle beyond the left-hand side). It is very close to Dynamic Earth (science centre and planetarium); beyond is Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat.



From Waverley station take the southern exit for Edinburgh Castle onto Market Street. The Google map above shows (in blue dots) the *shortest* walking route (in terms of distance). However, it suggests walking along the Royal Mile, which will be very busy with tourists, so it may not be the *quickest* route.

For an easier route on foot from Waverley Station, taking up to 20 minutes: Exit (south – Edinburgh Castle side) via **Market Street**; cross the road and turn into **Jeffrey Street**. At the traffic lights (red line), continue forward into **St Mary Street**, passing a Travelodge on your right. At the second set of traffic lights, at the junction with Cowgate and Pleasance, turn left into **Holyrood Road**. The Marriott Edinburgh Holyrood Hotel is situated on the left about 400 metres from the traffic lights. Use EH8 8AU on a smartphone app.

More information can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences/

If you have any queries, where the answer cannot be found on the website, please contact Lloyd Butler by email at lloyd.butler@railfuture.org.uk or at **14 Ghent Field Circle, Thurston, Suffolk IP31 3UP**

Advice on Hotels and public transport

Hotel accommodation: It is very expensive to stay in Edinburgh during July (and higher still in August). It will be much cheaper to stay outside the city, such as in Musselburgh. As well as hotels, consider B&Bs, inns and AirBnB. There are frequent, fast cheap trains from Glasgow so staying to the west of Edinburgh near the railway (such as in Falkirk) is worth investigating.

Paying for local transport: English bus passes are not valid in Scotland. However, within Edinburgh bus and tram journeys cost £2 per trip. The buses operate a similar contactless system to London, which is capped at £4.80 per day (TapTapCap) for unlimited use of the buses. Tap your card when you board the bus. Cash is also taken. If you wish to use the trams, then you need to purchase a ticket before you board. You can buy a £5 'day ticket' at a tram stop or on the bus, which can be used for both buses and trams (but not to the airport – only to the Ingliston P&R tram stop). Sightseeing bus tickets not valid on normal buses.

Travelling on LNER from London: Please be aware that in February LNER withdrew all off-peak flexible tickets for journeys between London, Newcastle, Berwick-upon-Tweed and Edinburgh. Railfuture has argued against this. If you cannot get an advance fare, then book an off-peak fare to Edinburgh Haymarket where the flexible off-peak fares still exist and simply alight/board at Waverley.

Photographs: Railfuture has an official AGM photographer and will publish photos of attendees only with their consent. No other photographs should be taken on the premises without approval in advance and individuals should be asked for permission before being photographed. Anyone showing their face on Zoom is deemed to have given consent.

Literature: only literature from Railfuture (and invited guests) may be displayed in or around the venue.

AGM MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The AGM is an opportunity to discuss and assess what we have done over the past 12 months, focusing on Railfuture's *policy, strategy and organisation*, and to look ahead and guide our rail campaigning over the coming year.

Motions for possible discussion must be sent to **Chris Page, Chair**, chris.page@railfuture.org.uk or by post to 'Clara Vale', Thibet Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 9AR to arrive by **29 June 2024** with the signature of the proposer and seconder, who must both be current members. They should be in typed format. Motions sent to a different recipient cannot be considered.

Amendments to motions should be sent in writing or by email, with proposer's and seconder's name, before the day of the meeting. At the Chair's discretion, further written amendments may be accepted by 10:45 on the day. You should also check Railfuture's current campaigns on our website, which set out our existing policies – see www.railfuture.org.uk/campaigns.

The Chair has the right to send, before the meeting, copies of any motion(s) to any branch, group or officer whose work it may affect. Motions on local issues should normally be debated at branch AGMs but may also, in exceptional cases, be put to the national AGM. Emergency motions may be put to the meeting at the Chair's discretion. To allow PowerPoint slides to be produced containing the emergency motion they should arrive at least three days before the AGM.

Motions should be CONCISE (preferably not more than 100 words). A motion will be considered only if the proposer or seconder attends the AGM in person to speak on them (three minutes is allowed) and/or answer questions. Motions without a seconder will not be accepted. Any member proposing two or more motions must indicate order of priority (motions other than his/her first one will be put only if time allows).

A Motions Committee will review all motions received prior to the AGM. If the substance of the motion can be achieved to the proposer and seconder's satisfaction, then it will not be discussed at the AGM. A statement from the Motions Committee will be read out at the AGM detailing the decisions reached.

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD

The directors are disappointed that no new candidate chose to stand for election this year. As Wendy Thorne will stand down in July, there will be a vacancy. Members with suitable skills and experience are encouraged to consider standing next year (with possible co-option this year) and enquire via the national Chair, Chris Page – see www.railfuture.org.uk/elections for more about the election process.

In the interests of openness, the election statements of the two candidates who stood again can be read on the website at www.railfuture.org.uk/display3633. This document lists the current directors and also explains their responsibilities.

MISSING OUT ON RAILFUTURE NEWS? USE EMAIL?

We would appreciate knowing your latest email address - please email renewals@railfuture.org.uk.

RAILFUTURE NEEDS YOUR HELP

We need more active volunteers both within Railfuture's 14 branches (see map, campaigns and other details at www.railfuture.org.uk/branches) and at national level. There is plenty that we would like to do but do not have enough volunteers. We need help with social media, event management, finance, marketing, editorial/design, video making, IT (PowerPoint and Photoshop) and much more. Contact details can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/Contact+Us.

ENCOURAGE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN

It is important that Railfuture has a large and diverse a membership as possible. Please encourage others to join. Details at www.railfuture.org.uk/join.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY DIRECT DEBIT

In 2022 Railfuture introduced direct debits (using GoCardless to manage payments. It has been both successful and popular. More information about how it works can be read at www.railfuture.org.uk/renewal/. To switch please email Lloyd Butler at renewals@railfuture.org.uk.