

The Railway Development Society Limited

Election of Directors for 2016/17

The Board of Directors is legally liable for the running of the company, RDS Ltd, which is the legal name for Railfuture, and must abide by the Companies Act, Data Protection Act, Health and Safety at Work 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 and is not exposed to unnecessary risk.

Although Railfuture exists to campaign for a bigger and better railway, the responsibility of the Board of Directors is to manage the society to enable high-quality, modern, professional and effective campaigning work, where relevant to the aims of the society, to be done by Railfuture volunteers, and to make available funds to do so where appropriate 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 web-sites and databases), as well as railway matters, both as rail users and professionals working within the rail industry.

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

List of current directors (chairman elected annually, others for three-year terms):

Chris Page – Vice Chair

Jerry Alderson – Director of Finance & Corp Gov

Roger Blake – seeking re-election

Trevor Garrod

Stewart Palmer

Ian Brown – Director of Policy

Allison Cosgrove – seeking re-election

Chris Hyomes – seeking re-election

Wendy Thorne

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 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 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))
- 8) Election Address

ROGER BLAKE – Proposed by Ray King; seconded by Lloyd Butler

Personal Details

1. c. 30 years
2. Branch : L&SE branch member, Committee 2006+, Vice Chairman 2007+
3. Board Director 2009+, Railwatch Editorial Group 2010+, deputy head Infrastructure and Networks Group 2014+, TOC Liaison on Passenger Group 2014+
4. Chartered town planner 1973+, Hackney Council 1985-2015, Principal Transportation Planner responsible for Public Transport Liaison 1997-2015.
5. Railway Study Association, Transport Planning Society, CfBT, FoE, CTC, National Trust, Spa Valley Railway, Lavender Line, Great Central Railway, North London Railway Historical Society, Brunel Museum Rotherhithe, Trustee/Company Director Skillshare International 1982+
6. London Overground Passenger Group
7. Nature and Duration of any association with a Rail User Group (whether or not affiliated to Railfuture): co-founder/member mid '90s+ Cambridge Heath and London Fields Rail Users' Group; member Barking-Gospel Oak Line User Group 2007+, Marshlink Action Group 2008+, Chingford Line Users Association 2009+, Bexhill Rail Action Group 2013+

Roger Blake - Election Address

National Board of Directors leads a company with Objects in its Memorandum of Association expressed as “encourage and promote”, “support”, “influence”, “co-operate”. I see the role of company director as helping ensure that the national Board sustains and develops a sound organisational and financial framework for Railfuture, within which that 'encouragement, promotion, support, influence, and co-operation' can be pursued, whether by national specialist groups, regional/national branches, and individual members locally.

I offer knowledge and experience on two fronts – working life in public sector planning and transport policy and projects, especially public transport in general and rail development in particular; and parallel lifetime of voluntarism in wide variety of third sector organisations including amenity, transport and rail campaigns groups, and especially a quarter-century as Trustee/Director of an international development charity. There may be transferable lessons, and personal skills, in good governance for non-governmental organisations.

I hope to continue contributing to enhancing the effectiveness, credibility and positive reputation of Railfuture at national level, and from that foundation to harnessing and supporting informed and constructive activism of our members regionally and locally.

In our campaigning for a bigger better railway – an expanding and improving railway – I believe opinion is not an adequate substitute for knowledge, assertion is no substitute for evidence – and that the 'D' in RDS is for Development, of the railway, our organisation, and our own skills.

ALLISON COSGROVE – Proposed by Jane Ann Liston; seconded by Barrie Forest

Personal Details

1. 8 Years
2. Scottish Branch – 8 years
3. Member of Passenger Group (3 years); Board member (3 years); Chair Scottish Branch (2 years)
4. Member Board of the Scottish Human Rights Centre; Chair, Tyne Esk LEADER Local Action Group, distributing European funding to rural projects in East/Midlothian (7 years); Chair, Standing Orders Committee Amnesty International UK (2 years); Employment as a Legal Officer within East Lothian Council; Degree in Classics, qualification in Legal Studies
5. Vice Chair, Dunbar and East Linton Area Partnership (Transport Representative); Vice Chair Dunpender Community Council (Transport Representative)
6. Board Liaison, Railfuture North East
7. Secretary, Rail Action Group East of Scotland – 10 years

Allison Cosgrove - Election Address

During my three years as a Board member I have realised that Railfuture represents a vastly different number of user groups and individuals around the country, and I have been privileged to meet many of them at our Conferences and AGM. This brings a greater understanding of rail issues across the UK and the work that our members do to make things happen.

I am keen to improve our membership and have encouraged the Scottish Committee to take part in Model Rail events where we can meet our members, find out their concerns, and encourage new members to join us. This is a fantastic way to recruit members and it's always interesting to meet rail supporters and listen to what they tell us.

Our members also need to know what we are doing and why they should stay in Railfuture, and I have attended local user group meetings around Scotland, advising them how Railfuture can help them and keep in contact. User groups can be isolated and feel cut off from other rail users, and I want them to know that Railfuture is a resource that can help them.

Within the Board, I am currently amending the Standing Orders to ensure that Railfuture meetings meet modern needs, and have also contributed towards the Code of Conduct for Board members.

I want to see Railfuture continue its progress towards a modern, inclusive organisation, and am prepared to work hard to attract new members so that we are viewed as the national voice of the rail user.

CHRIS HYOMES – Proposed by Chris Page; Seconded by Frederick Wood

Personal Details

1. 33 Years
2. Yorkshire Branch membership Secretary 1985-1998, Yorkshire Branch chairman 2008-2014, Yorkshire Branch Media Spokesman 2008 onwards
3. Railfuture Cycling officer 1998 onwards, Corporate Governance Review Group 2012, Railfuture Board member 2013 onwards, Director responsibility for Health and Safety 2013 onwards)
4. Qualified Automotive Engineer CAE, MIMI, Level 3 member of the Institute of supply chain management, MSCM, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health managing safely Health and safety Course
5. None
6. West Yorkshire BTP
7. Long-term member of, The Furness Line Action Group, The Lakes Line Rail User Group, The Huddesfield Penistone Sheffield Rail Users Association, Director of the Don Valley Railway

Chris Hyomes - Election Address

I have been an active pro-rail campaigner since 1982, cutting my teeth with the Friends of the Settle to Carlisle line association in their fight to keep the Settle and Carlisle line open. It was through my work with the friends that I became a member in 1983 of Railfuture or the Railway Development Society as it was then known.

I became Yorkshire Branch Chairman and Media spokesperson in 2008. Since that time I have built up a very good and close working relationship with many representatives of Yorkshire based media to the extent that I am now often called up on to provide advice and background information before they decide to publish or broadcast a Rail based story.

On joining the board three years ago I quickly learnt that as a director you need to have both campaigning and business management skills I am fortunate in having over 30 years' experience in both disciplines, from within my working life.

One of the biggest issues facing Railfuture is how we grow our membership base, making it more representative of today's rail users. One way I believe this can be done is by the branches becoming more proactive and high profile and as a board member I would continue to ensure that the board encourages and supports our branches and specialist committees. One of the areas I am keen to help branches develop is social media.

I consider myself a regular rail user as opposed to a railway enthusiast and as such I have always and will continue to focus my campaigning efforts on making our railway network easier and better to use. I would also like to see wider electrification and simplification of the current fares and ticketing.

IAN MCDONALD – Proposed by Norman Bradbury; Seconded by Nigel Perkins

Personal Details

1. About 36 years
2. Formerly Secretary London & SE Branch Committee
3. Former Board Member, currently member of Policy Directorate sub-groups (focussed on International, Infrastructure and Passenger related work).
4. MILT/MCIT. Formerly bus service planner and public relations assistant for London Buses; customer services advisor for South Eastern and Southern railway companies and British Rail (South Eastern).
5. Formerly Secretary of Transport 2000 London local groups. Transport campaigner in several organisations
6. Railfuture delegate to European Passengers' Federation.
7. None.

Ian McDonald - Election Address

I have been a transport campaigner for some 36 years, mainly with Railfuture, but also with Transport 2000, Green Party, and other organisations. I was principal editor of Railfuture's re-issued book, 2Britain's Growing Railway2 produced in 2010 (A-Z of Line Re-openings), with update being planned now for 2016, and produced policy papers on many topics including Electrification, Eurostar, other international rail services, and the HS2 project, representing Railfuture at relevant conferences. I am a member of the groups working to convince Ministers to continue to invest significantly in railways, with some success in recent years, as well as with TOCs on proposed franchising bid contents, timetable changes, and with NR on infrastructure updates and programming. Our efforts for more electrification have finally paid off.

I am concerned that we should listen to any expressed branch concerns about our rail campaigning work, and ensure that our funds are well used to help campaigns where justified. We badly need to recruit more young members and motivate them to join.

We have helped to make impact on political and public awareness of the extent of carbon emissions in transport and costs of increased traffic congestion, and can be proud that we have successfully raised our profile with more press coverage on fare increases, electrification programmes, reopening closed lines, and investing in high speed rail as an alternative to more airport runways, and motorway construction. I have played a leading role in preparing some of our position papers, consultation submissions, and press releases. I will continue to help press Railfuture campaigns and agreed collective policies if Government and transport bodies lose momentum.