

The Railway Development Society Limited

Election of Directors for 2015/16

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.

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

David Berman – Chairman – not seeking re-election	Chris Page – Vice Chair – seeking re-election
Jerry Alderson – Director of Finance & Corp Gov	Ian Brown – Director of Policy
Roger Blake	Allison Cosgrove
Chris Fribbins – seeking re-election	Chris Hyomes
Philip Shelton – not 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 (including your age)
- 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

Chris Fribbins – Proposed by David Berman; seconded by Norman Bradbury

Personal Details

1. c. 10 years.
2. Branch : London and South East (Branch Committee 2011-present, Secretary 2011-2014, Kent Division organiser 2013-present)
3. Board member 2012-2015, Policy Group 2010-current, Passenger Group (Head of Passenger
4. Worked for Network Rail 2008-2013, District/Unitary Councillor, Current Chair of Parish Council
5. Rail Passenger Committee (Southern England) – ministerial appointment 2001-2005
6. Kent Community Rail Partnership (& Medway Valley Line CRP)
7. No formal associations

Chris Fribbins

Election Address

Having completed my first term as a director I can see real progress, and have played my part, in increasing the organisation's credibility within the rail industry and local, regional, national and specialist media. Further work is needed to increase this further so that more of our efforts are effective and we can grow our membership for a stronger future. Much of this is in our own hands and we have to improve our collaborative working between individuals, branches and the national groups and board further.

I will aim to continue the increase in opportunities for individuals, branches and groups to get involved – in fact it is critical to the future success of our organisation. It can sometimes be disappointing that some of these fail to get through or get the attention, action and responses required.

Trevor Garrod – Proposed by Stephen Frank Wilkinson; seconded by Nigel Perkins

Personal Details

1. 36 Years
2. East Anglian Branch. International Group. Previously Branches & Users' Groups Committee. Publicity Group.
3. National Committee 1978-1986; General Secretary 1986-2001; Board 2006-2013
4. In continuous full-time employment since leaving education till retirement in 2011.
5. East Suffolk Travellers' Association – Chairman since 1997
6. European Passengers' Federation
7. Member of several other local users' groups

Election Address

As Chairman of a successful local public transport users' association and an influential federation of public transport users' bodies in 20 European countries, I know what makes the voluntary sector tick. Railfuture is an experienced voluntary body which grew steadily until the start of this century and then lost members.

As a Board member I shall support all measures to increase membership and to involve members in democratic decision-making. We must avoid control freakery and instead strike a sensible balance between "singing with one voice" and encouraging local initiative.

Of course in any organisation there is sometimes a need for confidentiality, but there must also be an end to decision-making behind closed doors and members must be kept informed and trusted. The internet makes that easier and cheaper than was the case 20 years ago.

Railfuture should devote more resources to funding the reasonable expenses incurred by our volunteers and also fund essential admin work (which is not necessarily the same as employing people)

Ian McDonald – Proposed by Howard Francis Thomas; Seconded by Norman Bradbury

Election Details

1. About 35 years
2. Formerly Secretary London & SE Branch Committee
3. Former Board Member, currently member of International & EU Group, and Policy Directorate Group
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 35 years, mainly with Railfuture, but also with Transport 2000, Green Party and other organisations. I was principal editor of Railfuture's re-issued book "Britain's Growing Railway" produced in 2010 (formerly A-Z of Line Re-openings), with update being planned, and produced policy papers on many topics including Electrification, Eurostar, other international rail services and the HS2 project, currently my principal ongoing task. I am a member of the relevant teams working to convince Government 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 in infrastructure updates and programming. Our efforts on Electrification have finally borne fruit.

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 members to work in our leading groups.

We have helped to make some impact on political and public awareness about carbon emissions and increased traffic congestion and can be proud that we have successfully raised our profile with more press coverage recently on fare increases, the electrification programme, reopening closed lines and investing in high speed rail as the alternative to more airport runways, motorway construction and increasing traffic congestion. 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.

Chris Page – Proposed by David Berman; Seconded by Jerry Alderson

Personal Details

1. 4 years (joined 2010)
2. Member of London and South East committee since 2011; Started L& SE Surrey Division in 2012
3. National Vice Chairman since 2013; Director since 2012; Member of Finance and Internal Affairs Committee 2012 – 2013; Member of Finance and Corporate Governance Group since 2013; Head of Marketing Media and Communication Group since 2012; Corresponding Member of Policy Group 2011 - 2013
4. 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
5. None
6. Observer on Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee; Uckfield Transport Hub Working Group
7. None

Chris Page

Election Address

I want a successful rail industry which grows sustainably. Therefore I support initiatives which make rail more attractive, including value fares, improved connectivity, quicker journeys and efficient customer service. I campaign for changes which enable rail expansion, including improving competitiveness, identifying suppressed demand, developing new lines and futureproofing potential routes.

I joined Railfuture so that I could work with like-minded people to achieve these goals. I am campaigning actively for reopening Uckfield - Lewes and electrification of the Uckfield and North Downs lines in my area, by building relationships with politicians and stakeholders, engaging public support at local events, using Twitter and our website.

I contribute to Railfuture responses to consultations, compiling the complete response for the Initial Industry Plan and the CP5 Delivery Plan.

I have brought the Railfuture website up to date, creating the new Rail User Help pages, focussing on a shortlist of viable reopening campaigns, and encouraging branches and individual members to contribute new content. These changes make the website more relevant to rail users, attractive to potential new members and promote a professional appearance to the stakeholders we wish to influence.

If elected, I can continue using the skills which I gained as a senior programme manager to encourage members to work together to develop Railfuture as an effective campaigning organisation which is respected by government, rail industry and public, so that it will survive and grow. I ran the Have Your Say Survey which showed us what members and potential members want from Railfuture. I then organised the Branches and Groups Day, which took this valuable feedback and created an action plan, to which all the delegates committed. I will drive the action plan and report on progress during the coming year, to ensure that we improve how Railfuture works and become more successful.

Stewart Palmer – Proposed by David Berman Seconded by Jerry Alderson

Personal Details

1. Vice President since 2013. Member since 2014
2. Wessex branch
3. Rail Industry Finance Team (2013 - present).
4. BA(Hons) degree from Exeter University. Founder member of the Institute of Railway Operators. Over 37 years in the railway industry from junior management to Managing Director of South West Trains.
5. None
6. None.
7. None as a member, many relationships over a long period as a manager in the rail industry

Stewart Palmer

Election Address

I have spent over 37 years in the rail industry working all over Britain, mostly in operations management, ending up as Managing Director of South West Trains, before retiring in 2009. My various roles brought me into contact with users, passenger and freight operators, employees, politicians, Civil Servants, trade union officials, user groups and many other key stakeholders. I have an in depth understanding of how the current rail industry works and is financed, as well as a detailed knowledge of operational principles including train service planning and resourcing. I have been used to working in complex environments where balancing the conflicting aspirations of the various parties is vital. I have been involved in Railfuture for some 2 years with Norman Bradbury on the Rail Industry Finance team, to help Railfuture understand the complexities and impact of taxation of industry costs. I have also advised the Wessex branch on a long-term strategy for rail in the Isle of Wight. I am involved as a trustee of 2 charity organisations not related to the rail industry and serve on the committees of 2 retired railway staff associations. I have a deep love of the rail industry and firmly believe that a successful rail industry is key to both economic growth and a more environmentally sustainable way of life in Britain. I think my knowledge and understanding of the rail industry will help Railfuture to be even more effective if I were elected to the Board.