

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

The 14th Annual General Meeting of
Raillfuture Ltd (formerly the Railway Development Society Limited)
will be held at

**Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AU
on Saturday 12 May 2018, starting at 11.00**

(registration and free refreshments from 10.00 onwards – we are in the Salisbury Suite)

The Macdonald Holyrood Hotel (<http://www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/macdonald-holyrood-hotel/>), phone 0131-528-8000 for general enquiries) in Edinburgh is a prestigious 4-star hotel, close to Holyrood Park. It's a 20-minute walk from Edinburgh Waverley railway station. An easy walking route is via Market Street, Jeffrey Street, St Mary Street, Cowgate and finally into Holyrood Road. A map is shown on page 2.



Alex Hynes

GUEST SPEAKERS

Alex Hynes is the Managing Director of the **ScotRail Alliance**, which is a partnership involving Abellio ScotRail and Network Rail, intended to improve performance through co-operation between the rail operator and the rail infrastructure company. He will talk about "The ScotRail Franchise – Four Years On."

John Finnie MSP, is a Green Party member of the Cross-Party Group on Rail in the Scottish Parliament. He will speak on the benefits of devolution of rail to Scotland.

Followed by **Fraser McDonald** and **Norman McNab**
from the Friends of the West Highland Lines.



John Finnie MSP

The AGM 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 lapsed members and no payments taken on the door.

Lunch: Raillfuture is not offering a buffet lunch this year. However, the hotel has a bar where lunch can be bought. 'Our Dynamic Earth' across the road has a good café and there are several other cafes in Holyrood Road. The Scottish Parliament, just 100 metres away, also has a very good café as does Holyrood Palace also 100 yards away. A Pizza Express is close by and a nearby Tesco Express will sell sandwiches.

The hotel does not allow people to eat food on their premises that has been brought from outside.

AGM AND BOARD ELECTION INSERTS INCLUDED WITH RAILWATCH

In addition to this four-page notice you should have received the following:

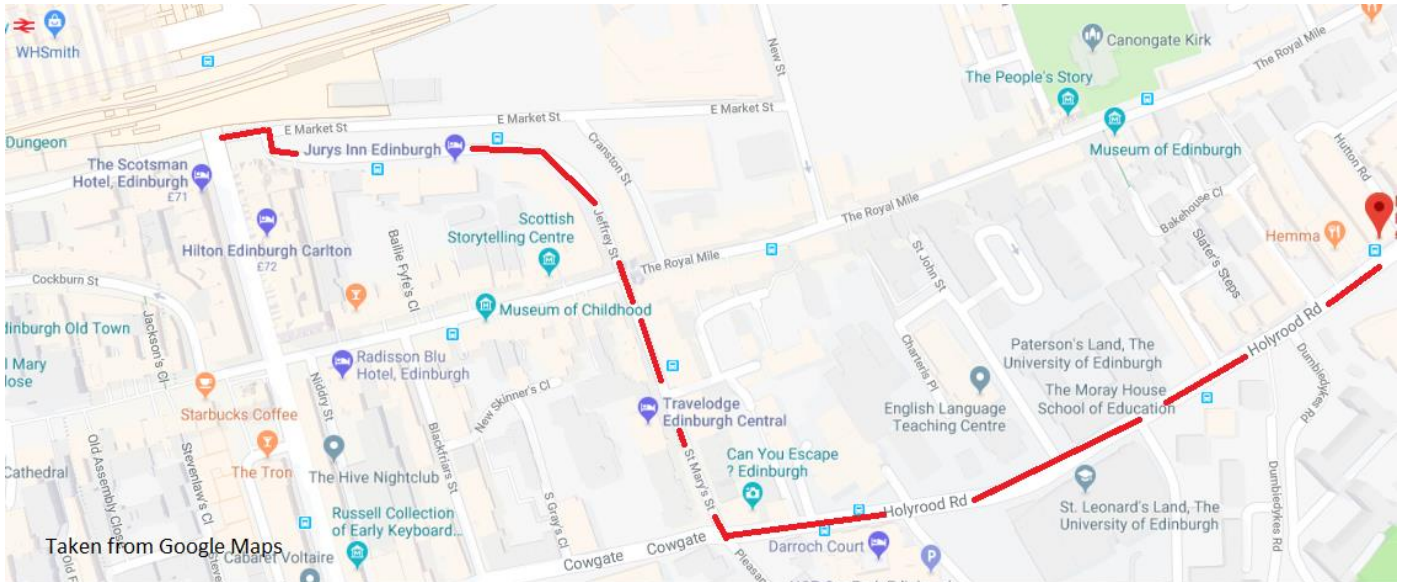
- Four-page feedback form including proxy voting (page 3) and attendance form (page 4) – both can be completed online. Pages 1-2 are changes to the Articles of Association proposed by directors to allow:
a) flexibility on membership rates to introduce offers and new member types to attract new members;
and b) give affiliated Rail User Groups more equal rights with other members, correcting an anomaly.
- Four-page election statements – there are five candidates standing for the Board of Directors
- Two-page ballot paper – first page explains how to complete it. Voting can be completed online instead
- Four-page summarised Annual Accounts for 2017. This contains most of the information that is in the longer accounts sent to Companies House (a link to this is provided in the summarised accounts).

Please note: the election is managed by the Electoral Returning Officer, Chris Bates. He should only be sent election correspondence. All other correspondence should go to the Company Secretary, Lloyd Butler, at **24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND** or lloyd.butler@raillfuture.org.uk.

www.raillfuture.org.uk www.raillfuturescotland.org.uk www.raillfuturewales.org.uk www.railwatch.org.uk

follow us on **Twitter:** [@Raillfuture](https://twitter.com/Raillfuture) [@Railwatch](https://twitter.com/Railwatch) **Instagram:** Raillfuture

AGM Venue Directions



Directions on foot from Waverley Station: *About 20 minutes' walk.* Exit (south – Edinburgh Castle side) via **Market Street**; cross the road and turn into **Jeffrey Street**. At the traffic lights, continue forward into **St Mary Street**, passing a Travelodge on your right. At second set of traffic lights, turn left into **Cowgate**, keep left on to **Holyrood Road**. The Macdonald Holyrood Hotel is situated on the left about 400 metres from the traffic lights. Postcode EH8 8AU if using a mobile app.

By bus: Lothian Buses Service 6 stops at the foot of the Mound at nn:15 and nn:45 each hour.

AGM MOTIONS

The Annual General Meeting is an opportunity to discuss and assess what we have done over the past 12 months. You may therefore comment on, or raise questions about, the reports submitted. If the question is a very detailed one, it would be best to submit it in advance, in writing.

The AGM is also an occasion to look ahead and guide us all in our rail campaigning over the coming year. This is one reason why motions – on organisation, policy and strategy – are submitted. Motions for discussion must be sent to the **Company Secretary at 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND** to arrive by **28 April** with the signature of proposer and seconder, who must be current members. They should be posted in typed format or, preferably, emailed to lloyd.butler@railfuture.org.uk. For legal reasons 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 13:00 on the day. You should also check the policy folders on our website, which set out our existing policies – see <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Policy>.

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. This is purely to ensure well-informed discussion at the meeting.

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 need to 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).

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of **Railfuture Ltd (formerly The Railway Development Society Limited)** will be held at **Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AU** at **11:00 on Saturday 12 May 2018**

AGENDA

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

11.00 Morning session

1. National Chair's welcome
2. Welcome by Depute Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Councillor Joan Griffiths
3. Introduction by Allison Cosgrove, Chair, Railfuture Scotland (host branch)
4. Guest speakers (Q&A after each speaker's presentation):
 - 11.15 - Humza Yousaf, Scottish Government Minister for Transport and the Islands
 - 11.45 - Alex Hynes, Managing Director of the ScotRail Alliance
 - 12.40 - Fraser McDonald and Norman McNab from the Friends of the West Highland Lines.

13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH (PLEASE GO OUT FOR LUNCH. DO **NOT** CONSUME YOUR OWN FOOD ON THE HOTEL PREMISES)

14.00 Afternoon session

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 downloaded at www.railfuture.org.uk/DL1216
3. To read and approve the minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Railway Development Society Ltd held on Saturday 20 May 2017 - www.railfuture.org.uk/DL1673
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Honorary President's address (Christian Wolmar)
6. National Chair's report (Chris Page)
7. To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2017 (Jerry Alderson, Director of Finance & IT plus one or more of Wendy Thorne, Director, David Harby, Finance Officer and Trevor Davies, Company Accountant)
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 note the results of the election ballot for Directors (Chris Bates, Electoral Returning Officer)
10. Appointment of Honorary President and Vice-presidents
11. Railfuture presentation
12. Special Resolution – An amendment to the Articles of Association proposed by the directors
13. Motions – to consider motions on Railfuture policy, strategy and organisation. These will be distributed at registration. Advance copies can be obtained (see booking form). Amendments should be given in writing, with the names of the proposer and seconder, to the Chair
14. Chair – review of the meeting and looking forward to the year ahead.

By Order of the Board, 1 December 2017

Lloyd Butler, Company Secretary

24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND.

Photographs: Railfuture has an official photographer for the AGM 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.

Literature: only Railfuture's own literature is to be displayed in or around the AGM venue.

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

Visit www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences for details of Railfuture's upcoming national conferences and to book online using your credit/debit card or PayPal account using PayPal's payment service. More than 60% of attendees at Railfuture's conferences now book online.

Future Railfuture Conferences

The **Railfuture summer conference** will be in **Carlisle** on **Saturday 23 June 2018**. The venue is the Hallmark Hotel, Court Square, Carlisle CA1 1QY. It is next door to Carlisle railway station.

A flier was sent with the December 2017 issue of Railwatch before all speakers had confirmed. The following are now confirmed:

- Representative from Story Contracting (talking about reopening landslip at Eden Brows on the Settle & Carlisle line)
- Mark Rand, Past Chair, Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line
- Simon Walton, Chair, Campaign for Borders Rail
- Dawn McGough, Community Rail Manager, Community Rail Cumbria
- The former Rail Minister, Paul Maynard, had agreed to speak. The conference is in the diary of his replacement, Jo Johnson, but he has not yet confirmed that he will be attending
- Mayor of Carlisle, Trish Vasey, has been asked to open the conference but not confirmed.

As always, the 'early bird' cost is £25 including refreshments upon arrival and a buffet lunch. From 1 May onwards, the price is £30. There is a discount for anyone who joins Railfuture at the same time as booking, and they are entitled to the members' 'early bird' rate as well. See website page.

The **Railfuture autumn conference** will be in **Reading** on **Saturday 10 November 2018**. The venue is Hotel Novotel Reading Centre, 25b Friar Street, Reading RG1 1DP.

Please note: because of the new GDPR legislation (see the important "YES!" leaflet asking for your consent to be contacted by Railfuture) conference fliers will no longer be sent with Railwatch. Details of the conference will be on the <https://www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences> website page.

The prices are the same as Carlisle, and the 'early bird' offer for members ends on 31 August.

Dates for your diary

The 2019 AGM will be held in Cardiff on Saturday 18 May 2019. The summer conference will be in Darlington on Saturday 22 June 2019. Following feedback the Board is considering holding only one national conference each year, in September, and feedback on this idea is welcome.

We need help

Railfuture has recently engaged the services (at a discounted rate) of a freelance marketing expert to raise our awareness and advise us on how to be more attractive to new members. However, with limited funds, we need more active volunteers. Can you help Railfuture?

We need help with finance, marketing, editorial/design, video making, IT especially PowerPoint and PhotoShop including for one-off jobs, and much more. Lloyd Butler manages our skills register – if you can help then please let him know: lloyd.butler@railfuture.org.uk.

Visit our website and social media

The Railfuture website has a wealth of campaign material, which members might find helpful.

There are more than 1,000 documents built up over the last 15 years, some even older. A list can be found at www.railfuture.org.uk/sitemap. We have 150 newsletters from the 14 branches (see www.railfuture.org.uk/branches for a list of them), recordings of 145 radio interviews, 150 submissions to consultations and so on. That is in addition to more than 1,000 articles.

A list of our 23 Twitter accounts can be found at <http://www.railfuture.org.uk/branches/?twitter>.