



Rail User Group Awards 2014

Rewarding Rail User Groups

Let the oxygen of publicity breathe fresh life into your campaigning for railway development!

Awards will be presented at Railfuture's November conference, in London this year, as they were in Oxford last year and Birmingham in the inaugural year. The third Rail User Group Awards will aim to recognise and reward the various achievements over the past year among the country's 300 RUGs in fulfilling Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for the railway and rail users.

For some general clues to what's involved you can do no better than draw on the experience of the first two years' RUG Awards. The key website links are www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express and www.railwatch.org.uk/backtrack

Railwatch issue no.132 for July 2012 introduced the inaugural RUG Awards on pages 16-17, and *Railwatch* issue no.134 for December 2012 illustrated the winners on page 2. Detailed coverage of the winning 2012 submissions can be seen by downloading the *slideshow of winners* from the Railfuture website here: www.railfuture.org.uk/article1326

Railwatch no.136 for July 2013 flagged last year's Awards on p.16. The winners were covered in *Railwatch* no.138 for December 2013 on p.2. Full coverage of the winning 2013 submissions can be seen by downloading the *slideshow of winners* from here: www.railfuture.org.uk/article1392-RUG-Award-winners-2013

The **award categories for 2014** are:

- 1 & 2 - Best newsletter - Gold and Silver awards
- 3 & 4 - Best website - Gold and Silver awards
- 5 - Most effective campaign in 2014
- 6 - Most effective 2014 new group
- 7 - Most outstanding individual RUG campaigner in 2014 [Railfuture members only]
- 8 - Judges' Special Award

The closing date for your submissions is 23.59 on Tuesday 30th September 2014.

There are no application forms. Just one nomination in each category will be sufficient for the nominated **newsletter, website, campaign, new group** or **individual** to be considered; as last year these awards will not be decided by popular vote but on merit by a panel of judges. The same person or group can nominate in more than one category. RUGs and individuals can nominate their own **newsletter, website, campaign** or **new group** as well as others; there will be no personal self-nomination accepted in the seventh category! The **Special Award** is reserved to the sole discretion of the judging panel, which as last year we plan to include our Vice-Presidents.

For **best newsletter**, please confirm your wish to be considered for the award by sending an email to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk or a letter and in either case post a paper copy of your latest and up to the three other most recent newsletters to...

Roger Blake, 70 Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16 0DX.

Please do NOT email the newsletters themselves otherwise you will overload Roger's Inbox!
A lesson from previous years: Roger strongly advises the use of tough envelopes for postal submissions, and the use of Signed-for Delivery.

For **best website**, which will be judged at any time during October, again please send an email or letter confirming your entry, with a link to your website, to Roger Blake as above.

For **most effective campaign in 2014, most effective 2014 new group, and most outstanding individual RUG campaigner**, please email or post your nominations to Roger with your submissions of up to 200 words each. A limited selection of supporting evidence can be sent to him by post, or by email if just plain text.

All submissions must please:

- identify the individual making the nomination,
- indicate whether the nomination is personal or on behalf of a named group and if so in any particular capacity,
- include a full postal address and at least one telephone number where possible.

The intention is that these awards are open to Railfuture members and *RUGs affiliated to Railfuture, with eligibility to entry being one of the benefits of membership. However, we recognise that many currently non-affiliated groups and their members do sterling work in a wide variety of ways which should not be allowed to pass unremarked. Such groups should nevertheless be able to enter the Awards competition by identifying at least one currently-subscribing Railfuture member, by membership number or postcode.

*The Directory of Rail Users Groups on the national website shows affiliated RUGs with an 'A'

The national website www.railfuture.org.uk has details of how to join Railfuture, including online payment using Paypal. As in previous years, the prizes will include a year's subscription to Railfuture, so that will be a 'free introductory offer' for non-member RUGs whom we trust will then renew their affiliation a year later.

All nominees will have their current membership status (individual or affiliated RUG) checked together with date of expiry of any current subscription. On-members are asked to confirm a wish to apply for individual or RUG membership if a prize-winner. Railfuture wishes to be inclusive and while membership is at the ultimate discretion of the Board of Directors, it is very rarely withheld.

With apologies for all the terms and conditions (at least not in unreadable small print!), please feel free to raise any queries with Roger Blake as above. There's more time this year to make your preparations for nominating. May London be as awarding an experience as it was for several who came to Oxford and Birmingham!

And finally, **book no later than Sunday 31 August** at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences to benefit from the Railfuture members' early-bird-discounted London conference fee of just £27.50 (includes lunch and conference report). Be there to collect your RUG Award, have the occasion photographed for your own local publicity, and maybe have the further opportunity available only to conference participants to earn yourself a prize for correctly guessing one of the Award winners.

Best of luck!

Roger Blake, July 2014