

# It's all go for Railfuture

The rebranding of the Railway Development Society as Railfuture is paying off with new interest in our activities from the media.

Chairman Peter Lawrence has spearheaded Railfuture's message in the media, helped by Paul Krebs, Alan Bevan and Keith Dyall as well as many individuals in other branch areas.

Kate Tudor-Pole is now working full-time in our London office, with Alix Stredwick working one day a week.

The staff team is enthusiastically supported by a team of volunteers.

We have launched a programme of regular press releases, backed by Alix's monthly one-page *Railfuture Campaigner*, which aims to brief both the media and key members of Railfuture.

The second *Campaigner* in mid-November dealt with the future of Railtrack, pointing out, among other things, that

Railtrack did get some things right! Key members also now receive an emailed *Update* on internal affairs produced by Paul Krebs.

Any member who has an email address can receive *Campaigner* and *Update* by sending a request to Paul Krebs at: paulkreb@csi.com

We hope later to be able to offer a paper version of the two publications to members who do not have email.

The national executive cleared the way for further action at a meeting on 10 November by approving a new committee and officer structure for the society.

Also approved was a policy guidelines produced by Richard Pout and a draft Railfuture strategy adopted which will be circulated to branches and committees.

General secretary Mike Crowhurst and policy adviser Richard Pout have produced submissions to the Strategic

Rail Authority on franchising, to the transport select committee of the House of Commons, and to the Government's social inclusion unit. There have also been a series of lobby meetings.

President Michael Caton, chairman Peter Lawrence and Peter Davies met Rail Regulator Tom Winsor. Michael Caton and Peter Lawrence saw the Confederation for British Industry while another Railfuture delegation had talks with the British Transport Police.

Railfuture member Robin Whittaker has also produced a thesis on the *Network Effects of Railway Systems* as part of his PhD work at the University of Westminster.

The national executive meanwhile has decided to put the revised RDS constitution to the annual general meeting next year.

With luck, the society may have a new membership system to replace the ground-breaking

system which has been, for several years, maintained by computer officer Trevor Jones.

Railfuture branches have also been very active. An excellent four-page pamphlet *Enhancing the Rail Network in the North West* has been produced by the local branch and sent to opinion formers. It was presented to the NE in November.

## Wensleydale

Norman Bradbury would like to thank all those members who responded to the Wensleydale railway share appeal. Because of your generosity, Railfuture will have 1,900 shares at £1 each.

Norman reports that his wife was highly amused by the first letter in response. Because of a word processing error, it was addressed to Normal Bradbury.

## National draw

The winners of the Railfuture national draw were: 1 Mrs E D Corp, Cheltenham £400 (ticket 09198), 2 M Yates, Woking £200 (20316), 3 David Pratt, Leeds £100 (15980), A Hodgson, Dronfield Woodhouse £50 (30640).

Runners-up prizes: M E Bell, Gateshead (05725), Tim Wakefield, Cambridge (13324), R Hazel, High Wycombe (14213), C Tremeer, Morpeth (17043), P Gray, Northallerton (18590), Chris Wright, Milton Keynes (26299).

## Station survey

Passengers at Stowmarket station, Suffolk, were unanimous in calling for more reliable trains as a way to encourage more rail use. More than 80% thought cutting fares would also be a key to encouraging new passengers. The findings resulted from a survey carried out by Liberal Democrat district councillor Mrs Wendy Marchant who is vice-chair of the Suffolk rail policy group.

She commented: "Not only do we have high basic fares but a bewildering array of over 90 different types of ticket."

In Cumbria, Liberal Democrat Neil Hughes thanked many voters who switched to him because he supported plans to reopen Shap station on the West Coast main line. Although a Conservative was elected to the county council seat, Mr Hughes said: "I am more determined than ever to win support for public transport improvements and to get Shap station reopened."



## NOMINATION FORM

Railtuck, the unique information resource for Britain's railway customers, needs your help. To increase Railtuck's coverage of the country, and help Railfuture into the bargain, we need your nominations for eating establishments located near railway stations. Simply complete this form, or a photocopy, and send it to the address below:

**Cafe Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Post Code:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **Station:** .....

**Directions from station:** .....

**Opening hours:** .....

**Brief description and sample meal:** .....

**Your name:** ..... **Railfuture member?** Yes/No

Send the form to: Railtuck, 13 Shirley Road, Enfield, Middx EN2 6SB. Or fax to 020 8351 0343. Or visit our web site at [www.railtuck.co.uk](http://www.railtuck.co.uk)

*Deltic Computers, a one-stop shop for all your IT needs, is proud to support both Railtuck and Railfuture*

