Young Rail Professionals
Corporate Membership
2022-2023
WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

I’m delighted to have been elected as National Chair for the Young Rail Professionals for 2022/23. Consistently delivering development and networking opportunities has been a challenge throughout the pandemic, however, I am proud of how YRP has shown resilience and adapted its offering to ensure the future of our industry remains engaged. Looking forward, YRP faces new challenges as the rail industry undergoes dramatic change with the formation of Great British Railways (GBR). A major challenge also lies in our ageing workforce causing a skills gap. Although the challenges will continually evolve, YRP remains focused and committed to delivering our mission to “Promote, Inspire, Develop”.

Young Rail Professionals provides a unique service to our industry, built on the belief that our collective success is dependent on the quality of our workforce. We provide all railway businesses with an equal platform to inspire and develop our young professionals and future leaders, ensuring our workforce fulfils its potential to be world-leading in capability, capacity and diversity.

As a corporate member, your support allows us to work with an annual operating budget to fund our ambitious initiatives and further grow our organisation in support of our vision. Over 2022/23, it is our ambition to:

- Deliver 100+ professional networking and development opportunities for young people, including a variety of online webinars, onsite visits, and leadership development workshops.
- Celebrate and Promote Young Professionals, Apprentices & Mentors through our Annual Dinner,
- Deliver a European and Domestic Development Tour through Young Rail Tours,
- Reach 3,500+ young people over the course of this year’s RailWeek,
- Deliver 3 working trips to heritage railways,
- Develop a 5-year strategy for the future of YRP, incorporating involvement with the GBR Transition Team, refreshing our brand towards the Net Zero Agenda, and actioning positive and lasting change associated with the Industry Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Charter.

Not only does your support help us in delivering the above initiatives, it also demonstrates a strong commitment to recognising the contributions of young people to the industry, as well as to the future of rail. I invite you to join our family and play your part in securing the future of this great industry’s workforce.

Thank you for taking the time to consider a corporate membership with YRP and I hope to welcome you to the YRP family in due course.

Best wishes,

Fiona Westcough
National Chair, Young Rail Professionals

WHAT THEY SAY...

The Young Rail Professionals provides a vital link between those in the early years of their rail career and established leaders, giving them access not only to an invaluable peer to peer network, but also to a vast network of individuals who all recognize the need to encourage and nurture talent and enthusiasm. Having access to such support cannot be quantified, especially as it crosses all elements of the railway community.

- Lucy Prior MBE, Business Engagement Director at 3Squared Ltd

The YRP is a magnificent organisation that represents the industry’s future leaders. A one of a kind organisation, that brings together professionals from a variety of different backgrounds both professional and social with the one aim of inspiring people, developing each other and promoting the industry. YRP gives all those who are keen to develop and grow the opportunity to do so, the only limitation is your imagination and your drive, YRP does the rest.

- Mohanad Ismail, Senior Systems Consultant, WSP

It’s a forum where you can speak honestly and without prejudice about the challenges that we’re facing and what we can do about them. From site visits to technical workshops, sessions on mental health and wellbeing, and the summer BBQs, every event is inclusive, informative, and helps you to build a network of rail colleagues and, more importantly friends.

- Ashleigh Lopia, Local Operations Manager, Network Rail

YRP has provided me with superb personal and professional development, and unparalleled opportunities to learn and network across the rail industry.

- Michael Herries, Railway Electrical Engineer, TfL

Porterbrook is proud to continue its sponsorship of the Young Rail Professionals, who do so much to help inspire and develop the next generation of railway leaders. Our apprentices and graduates also benefit from YRP membership, which offers the opportunity for Porterbrook’s leaders-of-tomorrow to meet with industry peers drawn from across the entire railway.

- Kate North, Head of HR, Porterbrook

“YRP is an invaluable organisation, providing young people with the opportunity to network and learn from their peers from across the industry. It is supportive, innovative, and from operators to engineers, and everyone in between, helps to inspire and develop our next generation of railway leaders.”

Sir Peter Hendy CBE, Chair, Network Rail & London Legacy Development Corporation
WHO WE ARE

Young Rail Professionals (YRP) was founded in 2009 to PROMOTE the railway industry as a great place to work and to INSPIRE and DEVELOP the next generation of railway talent. YRP brings together people from all aspects of the industry, whether they are involved in engineering, asset management, train operations, strategic planning, maintenance, franchising, regulation, marketing, human relations or otherwise.

With that in mind, it is important that our events and initiatives are as accessible as possible to people across the industry, including those new to rail, junior in their rail career or simply interested in rail (despite currently working in a different field). Diversity is celebrated in every way and there is no age limit attached to becoming a member – generally, our events are aimed at members with 10 years or less experience in the rail industry, however we welcome greater experience in the form of speakers, sponsors and mentors.

In Summer 2016, YRP pioneered a new pan-industry initiative which brought the rail industry in all its guises closer to schools, colleges and universities: Rail Week. The success was so great that Rail Week has become YRP’s yearly flagship event - celebrating, and educating people on, the diverse and rewarding career opportunities available across the rail sector. The ultimate aim - to bridge the rail sector’s looming skills gap and inspire the next generation of rail professionals.

Previous Rail Weeks have seen YRP collaborate with an impressive array of organisations from across the rail sector - donating their time and resources to give young people, parents, teachers and careers advisors the opportunity to learn about the brilliant projects, facilities and range of jobs in our industry. Events have included open days, depot and station tours, train simulators, presentations and engineering demonstrations, all alongside an annual series of “Welcome to Rail” events hosted by YRP’s regional committees. In parallel, YRP has created a dedicated Rail Week website, brimming with information about routes into rail, railway apprenticeships and how to become a YRP ambassador, and providing interactive educational games, videos and activity packs, made available by our collaborators.

In Summer 2021, YRP took a different format due to COVID. Our contributors brought the railway to kitchens and living rooms across the UK by placing fresh emphasis on technology. We had virtual depot tours, webinars, downloadable activities, engineering insights, Q&As, games, social media events, competitions and educational videos. Our tagline “Think virtual. Think online. Think live or pre-recorded. Think outside the box.” drove innovation and new ways of bringing learning opportunities to young people.

Highlights included Network Rail’s ‘a day in the life of a Network Rail engineer’ events, Freightliner’s virtual depot and freight train tours, webinars and panel discussions on equality, diversity and inclusion from Community Rail Lancashire, Jacobs, Railway Industry Association and Women in Rail, a ‘routes into rail’ discussion and a virtual hackathon with Rail Delivery Group, career insights in the form of podcasts and online case studies with DB Cargo, a session on working in rail and practising your faith (from new Rail Week participant, Muslims in Rail) and resource packs from Success at School.

Rail Week will return in October 2022. We hope 2020 and 2021’s challenges will be a thing of the past. But, having now drawn on the power and potential of the internet and digital tools for Rail Week 2020, we are keen to develop a hybrid offering of online and in-person activities during future Rail Weeks. Watch this space...

For more information about Rail Week, including ideas on how you and your business could work with us to host events, become an Ambassador and pledge support, please visit www.railweek.com or email us at hello@railweek.com.

WHAT WE DO...

Some of our amazing initiatives...

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Please read on to learn more about some of our current initiatives and recent events - there has never been a more exciting time to become a Corporate Member!
Having successfully run two international technical tours to the Netherlands and Munich and hosted young rail professionals in the UK from Germany, France and a CCRC study group from China, YRP is keen to build on its existing international relations, alongside developing new opportunities for its members to visit and learn from railway networks around the world. We are currently exploring opportunities to share our knowledge and experience with our French and Irish counterparts. We are also enthusiastic attendees at a range of international events and conferences, such as the European Young Engineers (EYE) Conference, the International Railway Safety Conference and the IRSE Aspect Conference.

This year we have embarked on a new and exciting project, in partnership with I MechE, IET and IRSE – Young Rail Tours (YRT). YRT strives to provide an affordable, accessible and inspirational technical tour programme for young professionals working within the UK rail industry.

It has so far organised tours to Scotland and Japan, and has ambitious plans for future tours over the next five years to link-up future leaders of the UK rail industry with colleagues around the world, building life-long relationships that will benefit the global rail community.

YRP is proud to partner with Railway Children to engage our members in fundraising activities to help this wonderful charity support street children, bringing hope and rescue to those in need. YRP also supports the charity in key projects and promotion of their cause, including Rail Aid (where we have a place on the committee). Railway Children has a programme of events including climbing the Three Peaks, skydiving, cycling from London to Paris, fundraising quiz nights and running marathons. For more information about Railway Children, please visit www.railwaychildren.org.uk.
To inspire our members and enhance their careers, YRP delivers regular networking and development opportunities, including technical seminars, presentations, site visits and socials, at both regional and national level.

Spurred on by the challenges posed by COVID, we have expanded our offering over the past 24 months to deliver a fantastic programme of webinars to the YRP community spanning an impressive array of subject matters.

Topics covered recently include the current status of the UK rail industry and future visions, rail programmes in the North, the rail freight industry, TPE’s introduction of the NOVA fleet, decarbonisation, cross-industry initiatives and projects, maximising data, promoting innovation, artificial intelligence, human factors in rail, disruption, digital innovation and fleet, decarbonisation, cross-industry initiatives and projects, maximising data, promoting innovation, artificial intelligence, human factors in rail, disruption, digital innovation and fleet, decarbonisation, cross-industry initiatives and projects, maximising data, promoting innovation, artificial intelligence, human factors in rail, disruption, digital innovation and fleet, as well as providing young rail professionals with unique development experience and track work. Engagement with this project encourages our members to embrace the railway in all its forms and promotes the idea of giving something back to the industry we have all grown to love – whilst, of course, having lots of fun!

Last year we were scheduled to head back to Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway in November 2018, our heritage railway programme has gained impressive support and momentum over the last couple of years and is now one of our most treasured initiatives.

As well as providing young rail professionals with unique development experience and track work, engagement with this project encourages our members to embrace the railway in all its forms and promotes the idea of giving something back to the industry we have all grown to love – whilst, of course, having lots of fun!

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are very proud to have signed the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Charter to support equality, diversity and inclusion in the UK railway industry. The Charter is a commitment to work together to build a more balanced higher performing sector and has been backed by over 100 organisations. We are looking forward to proactively acting, encouraging and monitoring our commitment to take forward our organisation.

“Separately, this year YRP has launched a Diversity and Inclusion programme, which I have asked to make recommendations for change to our Executive Committee. Activities, including monitoring and implementing changes, will be measured against the terms of the Charter and will ensure YRP holds itself to the highest standards in EDI, and is open and transparent in doing so.”

YRP 2020/2021 Chair, George Chilcott, said: “I am delighted to announce that YRP has signed up to the RIA and WR EDI Charter. The principles of the Charter are closely aligned to YRP’s values, and our commitment to these principles shows a willingness to continually evolve our business to improve equality, diversity and inclusion in both YRP and the wider industry as we promote, inspire and develop the next generation of railway talent.”

We organised a couple of Heritage Railway themed webinars, the highlight of these focused on the impact of COVID-19 on heritage railways. We invited a panel of three senior figures from the heritage railway industry to speak about how COVID had affected their organisations and answer questions from the audience. Streamed live in early May, this was an incredibly uncertain time for railway heritage with no immediate prospect of reopening to the public and many of the issues discussed still threaten the industry today.

We took advantage of the 2020 as a time to engage with additional Heritage Railways, and hope to deliver a wider variety of events across the country as soon as possible.

Please keep an eye out for updates on our website and in our newsletter for further information on this programme and future events.”
How to Join as a Corporate Member

We have several Corporate Membership levels, from an annual commitment of just £2,675 increasing to £10,710, all of which offer benefits to your organisation and your staff.

Silver Supporter Level - £2,675**
- Announcement of your Corporate Membership via YRP website and social media
- Recognition across YRP website, with a linked company profile on Corporate Members page
- Recognition by logo at YRP events
- Invitation for one to the Annual Corporate Membership Dinner
- 10% discount off one table at YRP Annual Dinner
- Opportunities for your staff to help support and deliver YRP events and become YRP Ambassadors
- 20% discount for your company representatives to attend regional YRP Summer BBQs and Christmas Parties when booked in advance
- Opportunity for company new stories, that chime with YRP mission and values, to be shared on our website
- Electronic Corporate Membership display certificate
- Electronic Corporate Membership badge which can be displayed on email footers or used across your company social media

Gold Level - £7,225**
- Inclusive of Silver level benefits*

PLUS:
- Announcement of your Corporate Membership via YRP website and social media is accompanied by your company logo
- One complimentary table at YRP Annual Dinner
- Access to YRP representative for ongoing relationship opportunities
- Opportunities to raise the profile of your career opportunities through YRP website, including static link to your careers page
- Additional invitation to the Annual Corporate Membership Dinner (2 attendees in total)
- Access to a senior YRP representative to support/speak at one Early Careers event within your company
- Opportunity to place a pop-up banner for your company at our in-person events
- Access to YRP Merchandise (as available) for your company events and initiatives

Platinum Level - £10,710**
- Inclusive of Gold level benefits*

PLUS:
- Opportunities to raise the profile of your career opportunities through YRP social media
- Additional invitation to the Annual Corporate Membership Dinner (3 attendees in total)
- Position as judge on YRP Awards panel
- One complimentary table at YRP Annual Dinner, plus up to two additional tables at half price.
- Other dinner benefits:
  - table(s) in prime position(s)
  - silent content on overheads screens
  - full page company profile in dinner booklet
  - thank you acknowledgement during Chair’s speech
  - table compliment

* With the exception of the YRP Annual Dinner benefits, which are specific to the level of membership and not cumulative.
** All prices are exclusive of VAT.

For more information on becoming a Corporate Member, please contact chairsoffice@youngrailpro.com

Your Corporate Membership allows us to work with an annual operating budget to fund our ambitious initiatives and further grow our organisation. YRP thanks you in advance for your support!
Every year YRP hosts a dazzling black-tie dinner and awards ceremony to showcase and celebrate the achievements of young professionals working throughout the industry, as well as to inspire them to become the future leaders of rail.

The event is attended by some of the largest and most influential organisations and individuals from across the rail industry, and thus presents an incredible opportunity to network and socialise with like-minded professionals of all ages, who understand the importance of supporting and investing in the future of the industry’s workforce.

Through the customary presentation of the prestigious YRP Awards, YRP recognises individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the rail industry, through their outstanding achievements, extraordinary enthusiasm and inspiration to others.

Past venues have included The Roundhouse, Derby and The Brewery, London. Unfortunately our 2020 and 2021 dinner had to be postponed due to COVID. However, not to be defeated, we made alternative plans to move the event online and held a virtual awards ceremony instead, without the dancefloor and photobooth, but still with the tuxedos, sequins, awards and – at the discretion of our attendees – glass of fizz!

Speaking about the event, YRP 2020-22 Chair George Chilcott said: “Whilst I would have liked to present the YRP awards in the usual way at our annual awards dinner, I am really pleased we were still able to take the time to recognise all the nominees, short-listers, finalists and winners for their achievements over the last 12-18 months. The online presentation proved a popular event, and the event recording has been widely shared through YouTube – showing us the level of interest the industry has in its young brightest and best is as strong as ever.”

For 2022, we’re back! The venue is the stunning Emirates Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester, with keynote speaker Mark Thurston, Chief Executive of High Speed Two Ltd. By hosting the Annual Dinner in Manchester, YRP will play its part in showcasing the wealth of upcoming opportunities within the North West and wider region, where it hopes to attract a large number of skilled young people in order to deliver major upgrades to the rail network in the North of England.

For more information, and to buy tickets for future dinners, please keep an eye on our website.

YRP is a great network of people at similar stages in their careers. I have made genuine friendships that will carry on through my professional life.

Milda Manomaityte, Senior Technical & Policy Manager, Railway Industry Association