

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Steering Committee

ISSUE 1, 28 August 2013

Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to produce our first Newsletter and give you an update on the progress we have made since our launch in April. It is an exciting time for us and Women in Rail is clearly going from strength to strength.

Thanks to everybody who was able to join us for our launch event. It was a tremendous success, with prominent individuals and representatives from across the rail sector joining us in London to pledge their support and encouragement. The event led to subsequent articles in the industry press and various newsletters which is a fantastic achievement.

Also, a **big thank you to everyone who has supported us so far!** We have many initiatives planned for the months ahead (including building our own website) and are currently looking for sponsors to help us going forward, so if you are interested in becoming more involved then just let us know using the numbers and/or links below. Sponsorship can be in kind (office space, purchasing specific items etc.) or monetary, and all donations, of whatever amount, will be greatly appreciated and put to good use.

The Steering Committee of Women in Rail*

**Adeline Ginn, Anna Walker, Caroline Wilson, Clare Burles, Jenine Hulsmann, Jodi Newsome, Loraine Martins and Maria Dean*

Out and about

We have been very busy engaging with other like-minded groups such as the SmallPeice Trust, Young Railway Professionals, Women in Transportation, National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering, Women In Science and Engineering and Rail Safety and Standard Board to discuss the synergies between our organisations and identify ways we can work together to improve diversity in the sector, open the pipeline and bring more women and young female graduates to the industry.

ASLEF and TUC

We met with ASLEF and TUC to discuss how we can work together to tackle some of the core issues facing women working within the sector. We are currently discussing a joint event in 2014 on the benefits to employers of supporting flexible working.

Working with DfT

We had a very productive meeting with Clare Moriarty, Director General for Rail at the Department for Transport, on 28th June and have committed to work with the DfT to help identify inspirational women. The first step was to call for nominations for the Queens' Honours.

Mentoring

We have been working hard to lay the groundwork for an October 2013 launch of our Women in Rail Mentoring Programme. Following a successful trial in the spring, 74 mentors and 112 mentees have signed up to the Programme which is fantastic! The closing date for participation has now passed and we will shortly be sending out questionnaires to all applicants to ensure mentees are matched with a mentor who best meets their needs. All mentors and mentees will be trained so that they have the necessary skills. The mentoring relationship will start in earnest in October. The Mentoring Programme is lead by Loraine Martins and Clare Burles, supported by a Working Party comprising representatives of Bombardier, East Midlands Trains, Network Rail, Northern Rail and Porterbrook.

Rail Research UK Association

Jodi Newsome attended a Rail Research UK Association event on 15th and 16th July, "Next Generation Rail: Inspiring the Future of Rail Professionals" where she spoke to young delegates about the new and exciting challenges of the rail industry and lent her support in the competitions. Here is a picture of Jodi and her winning team. It was a fantastic event!



Network Rail Infrastructure Projects

Adeline Ginn attended the Network Rail event on 19th June, *“Building the Foundations of Diversity for IP – Women in IP”*. She gave a speech to reiterate Women in Rail’s commitment to working with organisations all around the UK to improve diversity in the sector.

Government Equality Office

Women in Rail were actively involved in the Twitter activity generated by the GEO’s celebration of the 100th *Think, Act, Report* sign up on 31st May. We tweeted on the great work done by the GEO and reiterated our support to the *Think, Act, Report* initiative.

3 new awards at the RBA

We are extremely proud that our discussions with Woodhouse and the work undertaken by Women in Rail in the last few months have resulted in the creation of three new awards at the Rail Business Awards in February 2014, namely *“Rail Engineer of the future”*, *“The Diversity and Inclusion Award”* and *“Women in Rail Award”* – please do vote when the nominations are announced.

Twitter

We now have 211 followers, including, amongst many others, Thérèse Coffrey MP, Mary MacLeod MP, Meg Munn MP and Clare Moriarty.

The Royal Academy of Engineering

Adeline Ginn has been approached to sit on the Diversity Leadership Group set up under the umbrella of the BIS-funded Diversity Programme run by The Royal Academy of Engineering. The Group is action focussed and aims to increase the diversity of the engineering workforce in the UK. Women in Rail is very excited to be part of this initiative.

What you told us

We are extremely grateful for those who gave feedback on the launch event. This has all been taken on-board and will be used to shape our future events and activities.

One frequently made request was for regular communication. We will therefore be providing a quarterly newsletter, like this one, as well as more frequent updates on LinkedIn and Twitter for our followers.

There were also requests for a wider range of viewpoints at future events: we have started contacting potential speakers from both within and outside the rail industry to ensure a variety of opinions at our event and workshops.

Update from a friend...

An Inspirational Journey have updated their website. The new website can be found on www.aninspirationaljourney.com

What next?

We have two workshops coming up:

- ***“Furthering the success of women in the rail industry: building your self-confidence”*** which will be held at the National Railways Museum in York on 9th October 2013 from 4pm to 6pm, followed by networking and drinks until 8pm. This interactive session will address why we may lack self-belief, help us to appreciate that everyone at some stage in their working life experiences self-doubt and importantly, the event will identify what we can do to build our confidence.
- ***“Furthering the success of women in the rail industry: the art of effective networking”***, a joint workshop between Women in Rail, Young Railway Professionals and Dentons which will be held at Dentons London office on 20th November from 6pm to 9pm. This will be a fun evening where we will be taught how to make cocktails whilst discussing ways to get comfortable with networking and improve our communication skills.

Women in Rail



BOMBARDIER

**C L I F F O R D
C H A N C E**

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

