

## 2017 ISSUE – WINTER

Dear colleague,

We are delighted to enclose our Winter Newsletter where we reflect on what an amazing year it has been for Women in Rail.

Over the last few months, we have worked hard to continue to support women in the UK railway sector, raise the profile of our industry and outline the amazing benefits a career in rail can offer. Encouraging talent development and retention, changing perceptions, celebrating the success of our colleagues and shaping the focus of the media, politicians and industry leaders, have been our key objectives.

In this Winter Edition, we reflect on a busy and successful year and look forward to continuing our work, with you, men and women in rail, in 2018!

The Women in Rail team



### 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 - Women in Rail Annual Conference



On 1<sup>st</sup> December, Women in Rail (WR) held its annual conference, in collaboration with NSAR. The theme of the conference was “Leading by Example”.



Speakers included **Crowley Woodford** (Partner, Ashurst LLP) who spoke about gender equality at law, **Michelle Russell** (Senior Analyst, NSAR) who presented the results of the August WR/NSAR Diversity survey, **Natasha Zulkifli** (Executive Vice President, Prasarana Malaysia Berhad and Founder Director of the WR Malaysia Group) who spoke about the Malaysian rail industry and her work as leader of WR Malaysia, **Faye Jaques** (Fundraising Manager, Railway Benefit Fund) who highlighted the findings of the WR/RBF Return to Work survey conducted in the summer, **Liz Dimmock** (Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Women Ahead) who explained why mentoring is essential to personal growth and her current work with the WR team designing the algorithm for the WR Mentoring Programme 2018, **Mark Carne** (Chief Executive Officer, Network Rail) who outlined why diversity matter and how getting more women in the railway is key to better performance, **Laurent Troger** (President, Bombardier Transportation) who argued that the railway needs a “feminine touch” (or input) and that the change in working practices will give women have an opportunity to be more pro-actively involved in decision making and **Rajinder Pryor** (Engagement Lead for the Digital Railway Programme, Network Rail) who related her personal story on how gender equality hurts us all.



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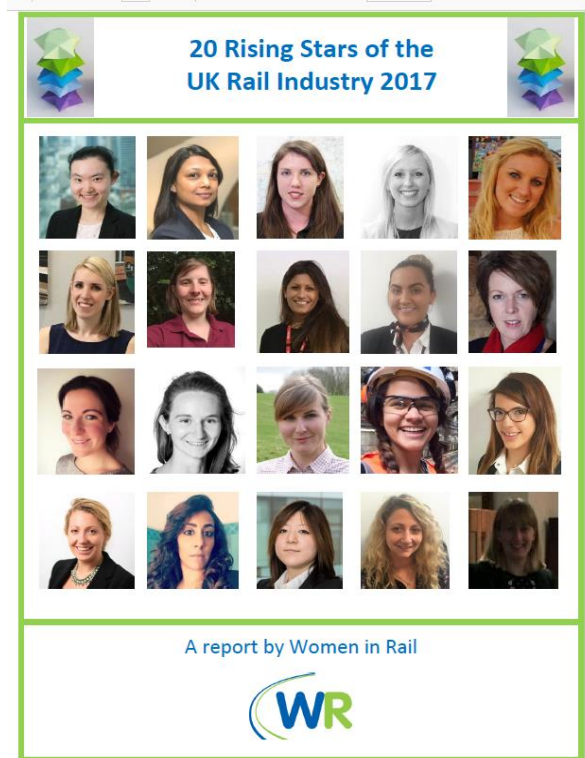
Over 130 men and women attended the conference and the feedback has been fantastic. A big thank you to all the speakers and to Ashurst Solicitors for hosting the event!

## August 2017 – 20 Rising Stars of UK Rail

In August, as part of our commitment to showcase female role models in rail, we announced the winners of the 20 Rising Stars of Rail Awards 2017.

These prestigious awards reflect those women who are in the early stages of their career but have already made an impact to their peers and colleagues by demonstrating outstanding technical abilities, personal values and proactive thinking.

This year, we received an overwhelming response in nominations from men and women across the country's rail sector, making it quite a challenge to narrow the winners down to 20. We are proud of our winners and hope that our efforts will continue to resonate our aim to showcase and support female talent and inspire younger women to join the UK railway sector.



In **June**, we hosted our second **Big Rail Diversity Challenge** which saw 45 teams of 10 (5 men and 5 women) go head to head in physical and mental challenges at the Peterborough Arena.

In **May**, in partnership with NSAR and the Department for Transport, we hosted an extremely well received – and competitive - **Quiz Night**. Quizmasters were Judges Malcolm Brown (CEO, Angel Trains) and Neil Robertson (CEO, NSAR).



On **27<sup>th</sup> October**, we had men and women of the UK Rail industry supporting **The Big Pink**. It was terrific to see so many people dressing in pink and baking cakes to support such a worthy cause!

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## Networking events and Empowering Workshops

WR continued to host networking events and empowering workshops for our members in London and the regions: **North West, Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Midlands** and the **South!**



In **August** and **October** respectively, we were very proud to launch **WR Malaysia** and **WR South** and increase to six the number of WR Regional Groups. Next year, we are looking to launch WR Scotland and Wales. Throughout the year, our Regional Group leaders and their teams have worked relentlessly to champion the work of WR across the UK. They have received tremendous feedback for their relentless energy, passion and outstanding work. A big **THANK YOU** to all these amazing women!



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## Women in Rail - Mentoring Programme 2018

We have received over 500 applications, a record number, for the WR Mentoring Programme 2018 which will become a benchmark in excellence for other industries to follow!

We are currently undertaking the matching process and mentors and mentees will be notified of their pairing in January 2018.

We are very proud of the WR Mentoring Programme, designed to help women and young professionals working in the UK railway industry receive advice and support from a more senior industry professional in their development, personal growth and confidence, thus ensuring they have the necessary tools to further their career and realise their full potential.



You can find more information here:  
<http://womeninrail.org/mentoring/mentoring-information/>.

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## The Judges



**Clair Mowbray**  
Chief Executive,  
National College  
for High  
Speed Rail



**Gordon Wakeford**  
Managing Director,  
Siemens Mobility  
Division UK and  
Chair of the Rail  
Supply Group



**Jodi Savage**  
Sales Account  
Manager, Wabtec



**Karen Boswell CBE**  
Chief  
Administration  
Officer, Hitachi  
Rail and Managing  
Director, Hitachi  
Rail Europe



**Malcolm Brown**  
Chief Executive  
Officer,  
Angel Trains



**Neil Robertson**  
Chief Executive,  
National  
Skills Academy  
for Rail



**Paul Plummer**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Rail  
Delivery Group



**Sir Peter Hendy**  
CBE,  
Chair of  
Network Rail



**Peter Wilkinson**  
Managing Director  
- Passenger  
Services,  
Department  
for Transport



**Polly Payne**  
Director General,  
Rail Group



**Rath Hannant**  
Director General,  
Rail Group



**Sabrina Ikhaddaden**  
Signalling Project  
Engineer,  
Bombardier  
Transportation and  
former National  
Chair for Young  
Rail Professionals

## WOMEN IN RAIL AWARDS – 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Women in Rail is delighted to launch its first award ceremony, the Women in Rail Awards, on the evening of Thursday 19 April 2018 at the stunning 'Underglobe' beneath Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, London SE1 9DT.



### Individual Awards

- Women in Rail Female Apprentice of the Year Award
- Women in Rail Rising Star of the Year Award
- Women in Rail Award
- Inspirational Man of the Year Award
- Inspirational Woman of the Year Award

### Team Awards

- Women in Rail Diversity & Inclusion Award
- Women in Rail Top Employer Award
- Women in Rail Best Graduate or Apprenticeship Programme of the Year Award
- Women in Rail Highest Gender Balance Board Award

The Awards mark the fifth anniversary of the official launch of the Women in Rail group and aim to showcase and reward individuals and companies (large or small) who have made a significant contribution to improving diversity and gender balance within the UK rail workforce in the last five years.

The purpose of the Awards is to showcase the good work and role models so please nominate a man, woman, team or organisation who, in your view, has made an outstanding contribution to the UK railway industry in the last 5 years. Nominations are open and will close on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**NOMINATE COMPANIES, COLLEAGUES AND/OR TEAMS NOW!**

Website: [www.womeninrail.org](http://www.womeninrail.org) LinkedIn: [www.Linkedin.com/groups/Women-in-Rail](http://www.Linkedin.com/groups/Women-in-Rail) Twitter: @womeninrail

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**Wishing you all a great Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!**