

Memorandum of Understanding between RBF and BTPF

This Memorandum outlines the agreement between the respective organisations to work collaboratively and in partnership for the benefit of our members, supporters, beneficiaries and the wider rail community.

Background

There are obvious overlaps and synergies between both the RBF and BTPF organisations in terms of the shared history of supporting railway staff.

Traditionally, RBF has provided support to retired and ex-rail staff who fall upon hard times through its grants programme. BTPF has provided a wider service providing social and welfare support and a voice to representative retired rail staff.

It is evident that given the structural changes to the Rail Industry both organisations have sought to adapt to the post-privatisation environment and the general fracturing of the Industry, with mixed success.

Developing a partnership to support retired staff.

RBF will:

Promote its services: through developing materials regarding the support it can provide to BTPF members and retired staff generally, including its grants programme, advice support including on-line and mobile app services. There is the potential to co-brand these, which in turn can add value to the BTPF service offer.

Advertise its offer through branches: there are 48 current BTPF branches servicing its 8,000 members who fund raise and organise things on a federated basis. RBF would offer to ensure that branch officers are regularly updated on RBF developments and where appropriate/practicable attend BTPF meetings to present these to the membership.

Support BTPF centrally to engage with its members: This would include supporting BTPF to update its website and establish forums and social media to allow it to better communicate and support its membership particularly those that are isolated or cannot attend branch meetings. Initially this would simply be a hosted session at RBF Offices showing BTPF/John what is potentially possible through the website.

BTPF will:

Support RBF in advertising its services through circulating materials, and utilising the BTPF network to support this including partner networks eg RPMI

Facilitating communications with branches and officers

Supporting RBF fundraising campaigns eg Xmas and calender card sales.

If agreed; for a media and press campaign advertising the partnership to be agreed that would include RPMI/Penfriend, Rail Media and potentially a short video/social media piece

Future Developments

RBF is keen to develop more holistic, face to face services that can support more socially isolated ex-rail staff through engaging with current rail companies and employers in rail related and localised activity. We would be keen to develop these local projects with the support of BTPF members and would look to pilot these in established rail towns eg Derby/Crewe/Doncaster.