

# Biographies for Directors Subject to Election or Re-election

## For Re-election

### Peter Ronald Binks JP, FCIPD

I have been a WyvernRail director since 2022, undertaking the role of the company's Personnel Director. During this time, I have brought all contracts of employment into full compliance with employment law and introduced numerous employee and volunteer policies and procedures essential for complying with statutory and other requirements.

By way of background, I was previously the HR Director of a large engineering company in Derby, International Combustion, HR Director to a hotel group, Christian Guild Hotels, and consecutively for 25 years was engaged by the Ministry of Justice as a member of the Employment Tribunal service.

It has been my pleasure to utilise my long HR experience in supporting WyvernRail and offer myself for re-election in this post.

### Neil Ferguson-Lee

Neil has been a director of WyvernRail since 1993 and Chairman since 2022. In this time, the company has developed from 'six people sitting at a kitchen table' into a PLC with a turnover in excess of £34m. Since becoming Chairman, Neil's main contribution to the role has been to strengthen the Board of Directors and this can be seen by the biographies of the other directors joining the Board and seeking re-election.

Over the past three years, Neil's attention has been divided between restructuring the railway's management, growing the business and, for much of it, coping with the effects of the Duffield landslip. Often acting as the public face of the railway, Neil fronted the appeal for funds in 2024 to help the railway build past the site of the landslip and was also heavily involved in negotiations with regulators, insurers and local authorities. This work is still ongoing as attention now moves back towards improving the facilities of the railway as a whole.

Neil's career has been mostly in Information Technology, working as a high-level consultant with a variety of manufacturing companies in several continents and continues to do so today with an American company in support of a major manufacturer of computer hardware with a global presence.

When Neil joined WyvernRail, he had just become a father and in the past three years he has had the pleasure of becoming a grandfather. Living in Wirksworth, the railway is a continuous presence in his life and the sound of trains travelling up and down the Ecclesbourne Valley is a continuing source of pride for him.

## For election

### Kevin John Hall

A previous WyvernRail Board member who was a part of the railway when it first secured the line, Kevin is an accomplished business leader with over 30 years of experience spanning technology, and corporate governance as well as local government.

Known for his strategic insight and collaborative leadership style, Kevin has held senior executive roles across both private and publicly listed companies, driving growth, innovation, and operational excellence.

Prior to joining the board of WyvernRail, Kevin served as Chief Executive Officer at eBECS Limited, which he grew from an initial team of four into a company spanning three continents.

Leading many transformative initiatives that enhanced company growth and shareholder value, Kevin leveraged a buy-out process with DXC plc, before managing DXC's Microsoft practice across UK & EMEA.

Kevin has also been heavily involved in local politics and has in the past been mayor of Wirksworth and County Councillor for the local ward.

His expertise includes corporate strategy, risk management, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder engagement and he holds a master's degree in business administration (MBA).

As a board member, Kevin brings a forward-thinking perspective, a commitment to governance excellence, and a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing modern businesses.

### John Philip Birkett Marshall

John is a transport enthusiast and lives in the North East, where he was based whilst spending 28 years in practice as a solicitor, and latterly partner and senior partner, of a large national law firm. He was a key part of the team leading a transformational merger which doubled turnover to in excess of £100m and created a Top 20 UK law firm .

Since 2017, he has built a second career as a portfolio Chair and Non-Executive Director and Trustee. He currently chairs a major NE Housing Association with 18,000 homes, NE Chamber of Commerce, the destination and inward investment body for Newcastle and the wider region known as Newcastle Gateshead Initiative, Destination NE England, as well as being Chair of two charities, Newcastle United Foundation and St Chad's College in Durham University. John is also Deputy Chair of an NHS Trust and its fleet subsidiary and an Academy Trust based in Northumberland

John has always had an interest in heritage railways and has been brought in to add his non-executive and legal experience to help the Board take the railway forwards.

### Thomas Tait

Tom brings a unique blend of corporate leadership and public sector experience to the Wyvern Board. With a successful career spanning both the NHS and the independent health care sector, Tom is a proven expert in healthcare development and management of services to people with learning disabilities.

His academic background includes 18 years as a university lecturer and researcher in Bradford, Sheffield, and Leicester, where he published numerous articles. In 2002 Tom authored the highly regarded book, "Caring for People with Learning Disabilities." This text became a recommended resource for both university and vocational students, showcasing his broad knowledge and experience in his field.

Transitioning from academia, Tom was appointed Corporate Development Director for a major independent healthcare provider. In this role, he was instrumental in leading marketing and acquisition strategies. A highlight of his tenure was helping to commission one of the first independent hospitals to provide specialist support for people with a forensic history and learning disabilities. He was subsequently promoted to Director, where he contributed to the organisation's strategic direction.

After a six-year retirement, Tom has enthusiastically re-joined the WyvernRail Board. His extensive experience in marketing and publicity will be invaluable as he supports the Directors, staff, and volunteers in their mission to develop the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway into one of Derbyshire's most popular tourist destinations.