

GO-OP Co-operative AGM 2019 Election Profiles

Martin Bond

I worked for thirty years for British Rail and Railtrack. I was mainly within the Operating Department (first with the London Midland Region and later directly with the British Railways Board) and concerned with the computer control of rolling stock and trains. Working for Railtrack I was involved in the implementation of a number of computerised systems, mainly concerned with operations and engineering.

Outside of my employment I have been an active member of my local rail user group, and was Chairman for a number of years. This has given me an insight into the demands and expectations of passengers.

These experiences have enabled me to play an active part in the work of achieving our goals. This together with my belief in the ethos of co-operative ideals I believe makes me a suitable candidate to continue to work on the board.

At board meetings I usually act as chairman.

Jo Burroughs

Jo has been a Director of GO-OP since July 2016. Having joined The Midcounties Co-operative in 2015, Jo is currently Head of Financial Planning & Analysis. Before joining The Midcounties Co-operative, Jo was a Finance Business Partner at Millward Brown; and before that Financial Controller at Blacks Leisure Group. She developed her skills in financial management during the seven years she spent at Lloyds Pharmacy, where she started out as an Assistant Accountant and became the Commercial Financial Controller.

Jo represents The Midcounties Co-operative, the UK's largest independent co-operative and is responsible for the day-to-day financial responsibilities of GO-OP. Jo joined GO-OP at a very exciting time. She was very keen to be part of a social enterprise that could genuinely make ground-breaking change. As a regular user of this stretch of the rail network, Jo also has a personal interest in seeing the route develop. Having only joined the co-operative movement in 2015 with a large retail Society, Jo was keen to get involved with a completely different co-operative organisation and learn more about how she can make a difference and learn new skills as GO-OP builds for the future.

Alex Lawrie

Alex is an expert social enterprise advisor with twenty years' experience in legal structures, financial management, community share offers, property development and project management. He is employed by Somerset Co-op Services CIC as their lead development worker.

He is the author of the Somerset Rules - a new and unique governing document for multi-stakeholder co-operatives (suitable for co-op societies, community benefit societies and community interest companies), combining the accountability and democracy of co-ops with the social reporting and investment opportunities associated with social enterprise. He

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is also the author both of *Simply Finance* (Co-operatives UK, 2010) and *Empowering the Earth* (Green Books, 2000).

He has managed several community share issues enabling over £1M of social investment for two Housing Co-ops, Somerset Co-op Community Land Trust, Lightweight Community Transport, the Ecological Land Co-operative and others. In addition to GO-OP, he is also a director of The Development Co-op, The Ecological Land Co-op and Somerset Co-op Community Land Trust.

Alex holds a BA in Politics & Parliamentary Studies and is a SFEDI Accredited Social Enterprise Advisor. Most recently he has gained a Masters Degree in Strategy, Change and Leadership from Bristol University.

Alex Lawrence-Berkeley

Alex Lawrence-Berkeley is 41 and lives in Frome. He is Chief Executive of Level Five Supplies, a supplier of technologies used in various applications including driverless cars and robotics. Before this role, he worked in media for a decade (including 5 years at the BBC, which he left in 2011), and has worked on a number of technology projects both in broadcasting and transport technology, as a project manager and marketer. In his spare time, he plays Cricket for Frome and Badminton for Somerset county. He is married with two teenage children and a cat.

Alex is a company director and business owner, and his marketing and specialist transport technology expertise means he's ideally placed to support the Board in its establishment of practical executive and back-office functions in operations and marketing, with a view on practical, sustainable innovation within the organisation.