

NEDGroups

Aim

NEDGroups are designed for senior independent executives who either are NEDs or want to be and have the personal and professional attributes so to do and who want to:

- learn more about being a non executive director (NED)
- meet other NED's
- develop their networking contacts

NEDGroups do not find jobs except, perhaps, as a result of the networking. In this context, networking is important.

The Focus

The Groups' focus is on the 2,000 mid and small cap companies outside the FTSE 100 and 250 and including the AIM although many members operate at SME level. For those who are actively and seriously seeking NED appointments in this target area, NEDGroups should be of value.

The Groups

Meeting three times a year, each NEDGroup consists of up to forty specially invited top executives introduced by the sponsors. Each Group meets in the early evening at an appropriate venue. The sponsors continually invite views on how the value of the NEDGroups might best be developed.

The meetings explore current issues in the NED market and provide an opportunity to exchange information and ideas with the other members.

Guest Speaker

There is a Guest Speaker who usually has personal experience of working as a NED or employing NEDs or is otherwise an authority on matters affecting NEDs. Information about previous guest speakers follows.

Each meeting starts at 6.00pm with drinks, followed by a light supper at 6.45pm and then a speech and discussion. The end is at 8.15pm - so it is not a late night - although many linger in discussions.

Membership & Costs

Membership of each Group is by invitation from one of the sponsors and a contribution of £45 (plus VAT) is requested to cover the cost of supper and wine.

NEDGroups' sponsors are:



John Collier
Clive & Stokes International
Executive search at
www.cliveandstokes.co.uk
jc@cliveandstokes.co.uk • 020 7828 9900



Charles Russam
Russam GMS
Interim Management Providers at
www.russam-gms.co.uk
charles@russam-gms.co.uk • 0845 658 1717

Previous Speakers – since 7.2.2005



Linda Holbeche - Head of Leadership Development at The Work Foundation (led by Will Hutton) who has recently conducted a research project on the role of NED's. Linda has written numerous books and articles and is a well known speaker in the people and organisation field.

Tony Hales - Chairman of British Waterways, Workspace Group plc (the leading provider of small business space in London and the South East) and NAAFI Limited. He was previously Chief Executive of Allied Domecq and a non-executive director of HSBC Bank plc and Welsh Water plc. Tony is also a non-executive director at Aston Villa Football Club

Rob Morgan - a senior advisor with HgCapital, the private equity house, specialising in the business services sector. A former Executive Director of FTSE100 Hays plc, Chairman of Orbis plc, an AIM listed local authority services group and a non-executive director of Match Group plc, a leading staffing and healthcare staffing and services business.

Gerald Russell - a former Ernst & Young senior partner, - and has been chairman of the firm's Non Executive Director Programme and vice chairman of the Audit Committee Chair Forum (Ernst & Young's joint initiative with the CBI). He was also chairman of both the Audit & Assurance Faculty of the ICAEW and the Audit Quality Forum. Gerald will be President of the ICAEW in 2010/11.

John Pierce - Chief Executive since 1999 of the Quoted Companies Alliance which is a not for profit organisation dedicated solely to fighting for the interests of the smaller quoted company sector - that is companies outside the FTSE 350 but including those on AIM and PLUS. He is a chartered accountant and also has wide experience as finance director and managing director of listed companies.

Professor Colin Coulson Thomas - Professor of Direction and Leadership at the University of Lincoln and is the author of over 40 books and research reports and has held many non-executive Directorships

David Renton - a Managing Director of Hawkpoint Partners Ltd, the leading corporate finance advisory firm. David spoke about the funder's views on NEDs.

Ric Piper - held senior finance roles in ICI, Citicorp and Logica, becoming Finance Director of Logica UK and then Group Finance Director of WS Atkins. His other former directorships include being Chairman of Granby Oil & Gas from its IPO in 2005 to its trade sale in 2008. He is currently a Non Executive Director of Matchtech Group and SGL Vietnam Development, both listed on AIM, and Chairman and Non Executive Director of a number of privately owned businesses.

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Previous Speakers – since 7.2.2005



Gavin Casey - Gavin followed a career in the City of London - COO of Smith New Court and CEO of the London Stock Exchange - by making investments in a variety of listed and unlisted companies and by taking up NED/Chairman positions in them. He is currently chairman of a further private equity-backed business, in information management, and retains a significant equity interest in a number of other companies. Gavin called his fifteen minutes - The Owner Eye - Three Roles/Three (Entirely Different) Challenges.

Paul Williams -- As a top Group HR Director - most recently with Smith & Nephew for the last 10 years - Paul Williams has had both strategic and practical involvement with Directors' remuneration issues and with Remuneration Committee processes. His view is that Board-level remuneration should be focused more on the development of sustainable long-term strategic objectives and less on short term financial metrics. Paul spoke about his research paper presented to the Performance and Reward Centre (PARC) Forum.

Professor Russel Griggs - spoke about "The NED market at SME levels". Russel is the current Chairman of the CBI UK SME National Council and a Member of the UK Government Small Business Forum - UK Govt SME Advisory Group, of the UK Government Small Business Financial Forum and of Lord Mandelson's Advisory Group on SME's and Banks during the current credit crisis. In Scotland, he is a member of the Minister for Enterprise & Energy's Small Business Consultative Group and Chairman of the Scottish Government's Regulatory Review Group and he is also a member of PHASS - Scotland Committee of HSC.

Derek Scott - Gave us his views on the economy and what might be happening in the coming months. Derek is a member of the advisory board and economic consultant to Vestra Wealth LLP, a non-executive director of Liberty Syndicate Management Limited, Managing Consultant at Europe Economics and visiting professor at Cass Business School. He was formerly economic adviser to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. He is a regular media commentator and recent contributions include The Evening Standard and BBC Newsnight with Jeremy Paxman. He is the author of "Off Whitehall" (I.B. Tauris 2004) a book on the economics and politics of Europe

Professor Andrew Chambers - Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Committee at the ACCA and much admired author, was our Speaker on 3rd February 2010. His topic was "Corporate Governance - how can NEDs get the assurance they need?" and was an instructive and engaging mix of law, opinion and anecdote.



Previous Speakers – since 7.2.2005



Jeremy Hanley - a former member of Parliament for Richmond & Barnes from 1983-97, and a Government Minister for over 7 years, Sir Jeremy Hanley was our Speaker on 16th June 2010 with the entertaining topic "James Hacker - myth or reality" - and offering some insights into what might or might not be happening within our new Government and how these might impact of the life and times of the NED will doubtless make for a great evening.

Richard Wilson - Senior Partner with Ernst & Young and Chairman of the E&Y Independent Director Programme and Co-Chairman of the Audit Committee Chair Forum. On 24.11.10, he spoke about "Topical Issues for NEDs", drawing from their regular "Insights for the Independent Director" and, more broadly, their highly regarded ITEM Reports which are necessary reading for all NEDs.

Stephen Cork - Senior Partner of Cork Gully. Cork Gully was one of the leading insolvency firms, until they went into PwC. Stephen headed-up the insolvency side of Smith and Williamson and acquired this splendid name from PwC last year. On 15.06.11, Stephen spoke about the 'Tips and Traps for NEDs in Insolvency or Near Insolvency Situations'.

Tim Foster - is a Partner in lawyers and specialises in Bribery law. Tim was accompanied by one of his Partners, Ben Turner, which we thought would add more weight in the Q&A Session which, paradoxically, was less about the law and more about the tricky situations NEDs are having to find their ways through as, maybe, unexpected arbiters and authorities on their Boards.

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