

Board of Directors



Expertise

The Board and its Committees are considered to have an appropriate balance of skills, experience, independence and knowledge to enable them to discharge their respective duties and responsibilities effectively. The Directors have a wide range of backgrounds with a variety of skills and experience.

Paul Smith

Chief Executive Officer

Date of Appointment
20 January 2015

Background and Career

Paul has experience in mobile payment technology as Managing Director of EZ-Pay Limited, a pre-paid MasterCard organisation. Beginning his career in the global software market, he later joined Phones4U in 1998, where he became MD and was an integral member of the management team until the firm's sale for £1.4 billion in 2006. On 1 May 2018, Paul was appointed a member of the FCA's Smaller Business Practitioner Panel to represent the consumer credit sector.

Areas of Expertise

Paul has been responsible for growing the Company organically and by acquisition. His expertise in software and technology has been invaluable in driving efficiencies while maintaining excellent customer service levels.

Stephen Karle

Chairman and Non-Executive Director

Date of Appointment
20 January 2015

Background and Career

Stephen is a Director of Karle & McCleery Limited, a strategic advisory and executive coaching business operating across and beyond the financial services sector. For four years to 2015 he served as Chairman of BCRS Business Loans Limited, an SME lending company supporting regional business growth. He is a former CEO of West Bromwich Building Society and a (non-practising) solicitor.

Areas of Expertise

Stephen's financial services sector experience includes executive, general management and Board roles. He represents Morses Club PLC on the Executive Committee of the Consumer Credit Association.

Andy Thomson

Chief Financial Officer

Date of Appointment
1 March 2009
(Non-Executive Finance Director),
1 March 2016 (CFO)

Background and Career

After graduating from Warwick University (accounting and financial analysis) and qualifying as a chartered management accountant at Cadbury-Schweppes and Tesco, Andy held a variety of senior finance roles in SME's where he has been the most senior finance professional continuously since 1996. Involved in the RCapital acquisition of Morses Club in March 2009, he remained on the Board as a Non-Executive Director with responsibility for financial management. Andy led the finance function during the acquisition and integration of Shopacheck Financial Services in 2014/15, before his appointment as full-time CFO in 2016.

Areas of Expertise

Instrumental in shaping the Morses Club culture to focus on growth controlled by debt quality, Andy's analytical skills are key in the rapid identification of, and response to, financial challenges.



Patrick Storey
Independent
Non-Executive Director

Date of Appointment
14 April 2016

Background and Career

Patrick is a chartered accountant and founding member and former senior partner of Grant Thornton's Financial Services Group. Before retiring from partnership in 2016, Patrick had accumulated 30 years' experience with Grant Thornton focusing principally on regulation, governance and culture in the financial services sector. Patrick is a Non-Executive Director of Arch Insurance Europe, ActiveTrades Plc and Think Money Group.

He is also a member of the Financial Markets Tribunal in Dubai, and is on the Quality Assurance Review Committee for Chartered Accountants Ireland.

Areas of Expertise

Patrick is a recognised specialist in helping financial services firms to achieve their strategic goals by embedding robust and sustainable management, governance and culture frameworks while complying with financial regulations and delivering good outcomes for customers.

Sir Nigel Knowles
Senior Independent
Director

Date of Appointment
14 April 2016

Background and Career

Sir Nigel is a solicitor and Chairman of global legal business DWF Group PLC. Sir Nigel is the former Global Co-Chairman and Senior Partner of DLA Piper, having served as Global Co-CEO and Managing Partner for nearly 20 years. He is credited with DLA Piper's remarkable growth, leading the firm through a series of mergers and taking the firm from its regional origins to the global firm that it is today. He received a knighthood in 2009 in recognition of his services to the legal industry.

Legal Business awarded Sir Nigel a 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in 2015 and he was given the Financial News 'Editor's Choice' award for lifetime achievement in 2016.

Sir Nigel was also the High Sheriff of Greater London from 2016 to 2017, and is on the Council of the Prince's Trust.

Areas of Expertise

Sir Nigel has immense experience of building and leading a worldwide regulated services business.

Joanne Lake
Independent
Non-Executive Director

Date of Appointment
14 April 2016

Background and Career

A chartered accountant with over 30 years' experience in accountancy and investment banking, Joanne has worked at Panmure Gordon, Evolution Securities, Williams de Broe and Price Waterhouse. She is Chairman of wealth management and employee benefits specialists, Mattioli Woods PLC, Deputy Chairman of main market listed Henry Boot PLC, and a Non-Executive Director of Gateley (Holdings) PLC and Green Man Gaming Holdings PLC. These other roles outside Morses Club take up 9.5 days per month of Joanne's time.

Areas of Expertise

Joanne's financial services experience includes Board level roles focusing on strategy and governance, as well as lead advisory corporate finance roles on listings, other public market transactions and continuing obligations.

Peter Ward
Non-Executive
Director

Date of Appointment
1 March 2015

Background and Career

Peter is the Co-Founder of RCapital Partners LLP and retired as an active Partner in 2016. In 2001 he co-founded his own corporate advisory business, Three V Corporate Venturing LLP, to provide fundraising and interim management services. He had previously held senior management positions within the UK commercial and banking division of Royal Bank of Scotland Group for 23 years.

Areas of Expertise

Peter has extensive experience of working with management teams across a broad range of business sectors.