

Board of Directors

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.



Paul Smith
Chief Executive
Officer

Date of appointment
20 January 2015



Stephen Karle
Chairman and
Non-Executive Director

Date of appointment
20 January 2015



Graeme Campbell
Chief Financial
Officer

Date of appointment
1 January 2021

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 £1.4bn 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, and on 1 March 2021 he was appointed as a Board Director of the Consumer Credit Trade Association.

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.

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.

Background and career

Graeme was previously the Chief Financial Officer of BrightHouse (a trading name of Caversham Finance Limited) which provided rent-to-own and cash lending services to the UK consumer market. Graeme became the CFO of BrightHouse in 2018. He joined BrightHouse in 2011 and held a number of roles including Director of Finance as well as Strategy and Digital Director, and Chief Information Officer, during which he spearheaded the financial, IT and emerging digital strategy of the business. Prior to this, he held senior finance roles at Virgin Media and Thresher Group.

Areas of expertise

Graeme brings a wealth of highly relevant sector and financial experience, along with broader digital and commercial skills, which will be invaluable to Morses Club as the Company develops.

Board of Directors continued



Gary Marshall
Chief Operating
Officer

Date of appointment
22 July 2019 as COO.
1 May 2021 as Executive Director

Background and career

Since joining the Company, Gary has been responsible for leading the integration and development of the digital business, Shelby Finance Limited, including the delivery of new platforms which can effectively meet customer demand as the business grows. Gary has also taken on overall responsibility for the Group's IT and Change functions.

Prior to joining the Company, Gary was Interim COO of Sainsbury's Bank, a role he held for almost two years, with a focus on IT, information security, call centres, operations and business change. Prior to this, he held various roles at Aviva plc, including Interim COO of Aviva Ireland and Interim Managing Director of Aviva Life & Pensions Ireland where he quickly digitised the business, turning it around to become the fastest growing insurer in Ireland.

Areas of expertise

Gary has wide-ranging financial services experience, having worked at senior levels in organisations including Egg plc, GE Capital, Aon Ltd, Santander Plc, Vertex, Anglo Irish Bank and Northern Rock. He has extensive expertise in both developing and delivering digitised product offerings, with significant customer-focused experience often in challenging regulatory and market conditions.



Sir Nigel Knowles
Senior Independent
Director

Date of appointment
14 April 2016

Background and career

Sir Nigel is a solicitor and CEO 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 is special advisor on international trade and investment to the City of Sheffield's Mayor, Dan Jarvis, and served as the High Sheriff of Greater London from 2016 to 2017. Until recently Sir Nigel was 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

Joanne is a Chartered Accountant and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment, and of the ICAEW, and is a member of the ICAEW's Corporate Finance Faculty. 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 Honeycomb Investment Trust PLC.

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.



Sheryl Lawrence
Independent Non-Executive
Director

Date of appointment
1 May 2021

Background and career

Sheryl is a Chartered Accountant (FCA), and holds an LLM from the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and an MBA from London Business School. She has held senior executive roles at Barclays, Lloyds Bank, Santander, Coventry Building Society, Nationwide Building Society and Provident Financial Group. Sheryl began her banking career at NatWest Bank in 1996, after 11 years of multi-sector experience with Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC).

Sheryl has been an Independent Non-Executive Director of RCI Bank UK since January 2019, where she is Chair of the Board Audit Committee and Chair of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.

Areas of expertise

Sheryl has extensive experience of designing, integrating, and embedding governance, risk and compliance into the culture, commercial strategies and operations at banks, building societies and consumer lending firms.



Michael Yeates
Independent Non-Executive
Director

Date of appointment
1 May 2021

Background and career

Michael is a career banker and has over 40 years' experience in the financial services industry, serving in the building society, retail bank and investment bank sectors. He has extensive executive, board and NED experience.

Throughout his career he has been heavily involved in business transformation as both an employed executive and then as an independent board consultant advising 40 or so boards. He has international and cross-industry experience and has been involved in policy development for HM Government. Earlier, Michael spent 17 years at Cheltenham & Gloucester Plc, culminating in the position of General Manager, helping to grow C&G from the 16th largest building society into a Global 100 bank and the UK's third largest lender.

Areas of expertise

Michael brings extensive experience of the retail banking sector. He is a change leader with a career track record of leading significant business transformations who has consistently driven double-digit revenue growth and profitability. One of his personal objectives is to make financial services accessible to a wider, less well served, sector of society.



Andy Thomson
Non-Executive
Director

Date of appointment
1 March 2009 (Non-Exec Finance Director), 1 March 2016 (CFO)
Interim CFO from 17 March 2020 to 31 December 2020. Non-Executive Director from 1 January 2021

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 SMEs 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 Shopcheck Financial Services in 2014/15, before his appointment as full-time CFO in 2016.

On 1 July 2019, Andy retired from his role as CFO and remained on the Board as a Non-Executive Director. On 17 March 2020, Andy took on the position as Interim CFO before returning to the role of Non-Executive Director on 1 January 2021.

Areas of expertise

Andy's analytical skills, expert knowledge of the sector and independent-mindedness are key to providing continuity and protecting shareholder interests.



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.