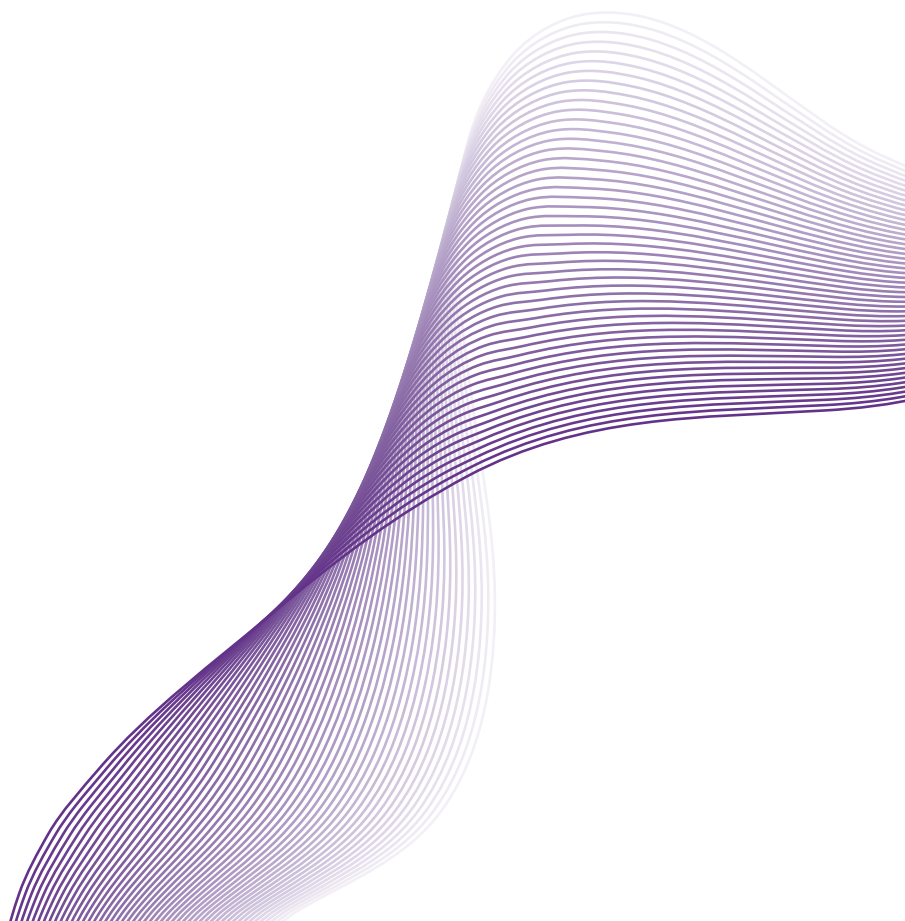


nominet[®]

Non-executive director elections 2009
Candidate statements



VOTE BY INTERNET

1. Go to www.votepopularis.com/nominet
2. Click on the link for Non Executive Director Elections
3. Log in using the Username and password sent to you for this election
4. You must enter a name as authorised to vote in this election on behalf of your organisation
5. Click in the box next to the name for your first preference and a 1 will be entered. Click in the box next to the name for your second preference and a 2 will be entered, and so on until your preferences have been cast. You do not have to use all 8 preferences.
6. Click Submit
7. Check your preferences are correct and click on confirm

VOTE BY POST

1. Cast your votes by entering a 1 in the box next to the name for your first preference, then enter a 2 in the box next to the name for your second preference and so on until your preferences have been cast. You do not have to use all 8 preferences.
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Please do not use both systems or ALL your votes will be disregarded.

List of candidates

Clive Feather	4
Clive Grace	6
Subhi Hashwa	8
Sebastien Lahtinen	10
Nora Nanayakkara	12
Jonathan Robinson	14
Neil Stanley	16
Graeme Wingate	18

Proposed by: Alex Bligh

Seconded by: Hazel Pegg, Glastonbury Online Ltd

Election Statement

Nominet's key purpose is to manage the .uk and ENUM 44 registries and associated DNS. It achieves those purposes best if it is effectively invisible to the general public – if it “just works” without anyone noticing. Therefore the most important job of the executive is to ensure that the Nominet processes run smoothly and the most important job of the board is to ensure they have the ability to do this. As will be seen from my CV, I have both the knowledge of Nominet to help with this and experience from similar situations.

However, beyond this one of the purposes of the board is to ensure that the structure of the company is fit for its purpose. That does not mean that the board should be meddling with the details of middle management but, rather, that the board, membership, and product/pricing structures are correct and do what is needed

I believe that we need changes to the board structure. The board should still contain directly elected representatives – and these should be at least 50% of the total – but we also need financial, legal, and management specialists. That means the ability to appoint non-executives as needed. It does not mean giving up membership control.

However, we also need to look at the membership structure and decide if change is needed. Does the present voting apathy mean that we have too many members who are only joining for the discount? On the other hand, would a smaller membership make it too easy for a takeover by those looking to make a fast profit rather than having the best interests of the entire community at heart? I don't have a simple answer to present, but if elected I promise to look at the matter with an open mind and not to accept any proposal that will harm Nominet or the Internet community.

We need to re-examine the issues behind pricing. Article 19A was introduced to meet a need of the times, but I believe the circumstances have now changed and it is no longer necessary. However, I can see that some people are concerned that removing it would open the way to major price changes and it will be difficult to obtain the necessary majority. Nevertheless, it ought to be possible to return price control to the board and executive while retaining safeguards for the registrars whose business depends on existing pricing models.

Finally, the recent BERR comments on “domaining” have led us to re-examine the secondary market. I believe that trading of domain names can be legitimate, but we must look for ways to prevent abuses and to allow the general public to feel that they can obtain .uk names without being held to ransom. Nevertheless I am committed to the principles of FCFS and not trying to judge the worthiness of registrants.

If elected, these are the objectives I will be working towards: a Nominet that “just works” and whose structure is fit for its purpose in the future.

Note: Mr Feather has indicated that he will not sign the standard Nominet non-executive director contract.

Clive D W Feather

I have been involved with the .uk domain name space since the days of the Naming Committee. I have attended every General Meeting of the company and taken an active part in its governance. I have been an elected member of the PAB since its original formation, apart from one brief hiatus, and have chaired various working groups and taken part in many others.

I have been the technical director of a successful software house and the managing director of a medium-size ISP, as well as being involved in the management of several other businesses. I therefore have the general business experience to contribute to the governance of an organization like Nominet.

I am a director of the ISPA and have previously been a director of the London Internet Exchange (LINX). I was the first industry chair of the IWF and the first vice-chair of the Internet Crime Forum. What these mean is that, as well as commercial experience, I have had plenty of experience at working within organizations that need to balance the interests of a wide range of stakeholders rather than simply follow a commercial aim. Furthermore, LINX is similar to Nominet in that it provides an essential service to the Internet community that is part of the critical national infrastructure, giving me a unique experience and perspective that other candidates will not have had. My history also means that I have a wide range of contacts within both industry and government, such as BIS (formerly the DTI and BERR), Ofcom, and the Home Office.

I have worked in software development for well over 20 years resulting in a deep technical knowledge. I have also done a lot of regulatory work in the Internet and telephony areas. I also have a reasonable legal knowledge: I am in the final stages of a LL.M. in Innovation, Technology, and the Law from the University of Edinburgh. This puts me in the rare position of being able to look at legislative or regulatory proposals and being able to identify potential problems with them because they do not reflect the technical realities. It has also taught me how to “debug” such suggestions and, for example, find and eliminate loopholes in them so that the end result is actually what was wanted.

Overall I have a range of experience of this industry (in the widest sense) and a set of abilities that, if elected, will be of great advantage to Nominet.

Recommended by the Board

Election Statement

I was co-opted to the Board last December, after competitive selection, as an independent NED with skills and experience to help the company, with no conflicts of interest and with a strong focus on Nominet's fundamental public benefit purpose. I am standing for election to further support Nominet and members in the challenge to secure continued self regulation, but also in taking opportunities which exist to strengthen our contribution to the future of the internet.

My Background

My (lengthy) working life has been in public and community service. I now work at Board level, and Chair three organisations – RCUKSSC Ltd, a not-for-profit running shared services for the Research Councils; the Local Better Regulation Office, a governmental body to improve business regulation; and Supporta plc which provides domiciliary care. I advise BT Wales on public policy, and work pro bono for my professional bodies – the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

My Work with Nominet

Since joining the Board I've focussed on corporate governance issues, and on securing continued self regulation of the UK DNS. The risk of Government intervention described in Digital Britain is real. In my view that would not serve the best interests of Nominet, members or the internet. It would inhibit innovation, slow responsiveness to changing needs, add cost, and risk damaging the competitive position of .uk. Success has been built on the founders' vision, the enterprise of registrars, and the professionalism of staff - under self-regulation - and that should continue.

I serve on the Audit Committee and have focussed on Nominet's finances, and I've spent time learning about Nominet's operations so I better understand the business and its policy and commercial environment.

Securing Self Regulation

It is Nominet's success, and the importance of the internet to Digital Britain, that makes Government interested in us. Winning their confidence requires change, and keeping the bigger picture in view. If the Corporate Governance Review is implemented it will keep .uk able to chart its own direction - a considerable prize.

Opportunity as well as Risk

There is also opportunity in adopting the Garratt recommendations. A Nominet with the confidence and commitment of a wider group of stakeholders, and clearer public benefit purpose, can better influence the forces shaping the internet through its broader/stronger voice.

I would contribute to that future purpose through my experience in technology-enabled customer services, my commercial, stakeholder and policy expertise, and my skills in organisational/financial development.

Accountability and Communication

Nominet's members are the heart of its success as the channel to users and to meeting their needs. They should lead the necessary change in Nominet itself. They created it in the first place, and they have most to gain both directly and indirectly by securing an independent future for .uk.

I am very clear that all the NEDs, including 'independent' NEDs, are accountable to the members, and not only at election time. I would welcome opportunities to exchange views via clivegrace@hotmail.com or 07796 892433.

Clive Grace

Profile

An experienced/senior executive and non-executive at Board and Chair level across the not-for-profit/public, commercial, and professional sectors. Public services/policy background. Passionate commitment to high quality, technology-enabled customer service. Works successfully at Ministerial and senior civil servant levels with Government/Opposition, and in complex and sensitive stakeholder environments. Strong strategy, organisational development, financial and forensic skills. Good team builder/developer, and a strong public advocate.

2005 – Present: Portfolio Employment: My Portfolio includes:

- **Public/Not-for-Profit:** I am a Board member of **Nominet**, co-opted last December.
 - I have worked on the corporate governance and regulation issues, and have joined the Audit Committee.
 - I've spent time understanding the Nominet's existing operations and registrar channel.
 - I've been studying Nominet's policy environment, including the national and international policy framework, and familiarising myself with issues such as internet security and abuse.
 - And I've looked at Nominet's own web site and services from the point of view of a user as well as a Board member.
- The initial aim has been to quickly bring my existing expertise to bear on some of the complex issues currently facing the company, its Board and members. But I have also learned more, in a focused and systematic way, to bring fresh eyes to the way Nominet operates and added value to the range of Board deliberations by drawing on my experience in technology-enabled customer service, in membership and professional bodies, and in public services/policy..
- I Chair the **Research Councils' Shared Services Centre Ltd**, taking forward a large/complex shared services venture. I also Chair of the **Local Better Regulation Office**, an NDPB which aims to ensure that the local regulation of business operates to better regulation principles. I serve on a **Corporate Governance (Audit) Committee** of the Welsh Assembly Government.
- **Private/Commercial:** I Chair **Supporta Plc**, a major provider of social care in the UK and I Chair the Wales Advisory Forum to the BT Wales Board.
- **Professional bodies:** I am a member of the Council of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and their former representative on the Financial Reporting Council, and a trustee of the SOLACE Foundation.

2003-2005: Director-General Audit Commission in Wales: Responsible for leading 250 staff in audit and VFM work, and the successful creation of the Wales Audit Office, and left once that was achieved.

1995-2003: CEO, Torfaen Council: Led a staff of 4,000 people. We transformed the Council into a Customer and Community facing organisation delivering services efficiently and with high standards of corporate governance – from 1995 we were the only Council in Wales not to have a finding of maladministration by the Ombudsman.

1998-2003: Chair of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives: Led the Society in work with government, helping to shape legislation by harnessing the experience and knowledge of CEOs to wider policy agendas.

1974-1995: Various jobs in community and public service.

Education and Training: Bachelor's degree in social science, Masters in Government, Doctorate in sociology, Professional Diploma in management, and qualified lawyer.

Proposed by: Mark Healey, KCOM Group Plc

Seconded by: Barney Sowood, Absolute Clarity Ltd

Election Statement

Having been involved with Nominet in various capacities, including serving as a member of the Policy Advisory Board (PAB) for 2 years, I strongly believe Nominet is facing its biggest challenge since its foundation.

Governance Review & Self Regulation

The governance review examines many of the founding principles of Nominet, it gives some suggestions on the changes needed to address the shortcomings of the current structure.

I agree with many of the recommendations, but I still believe we need develop our own set of blueprints agreed with the members and satisfy the wider stakeholder group by having a responsible and realistic plan for implementing the changes needed. Thus, proving that self regulation is possible, the better option and the best way to run the organisation.

If we lose self regulation I can see the registry move to a more rigid model that is less flexible, more expensive, with high barriers and costs to entry. Riddled with complicated procedure and red tape, increasing the cost of compliance from members and registrants alike. If elected I work on stopping that.

Government Influence

The government has the spot light on Nominet at the present time, I will work on preserving Nominet uniqueness and founding principles while satisfying the regulatory and government concerns , using self regulation as the key component in implementing a new structure.

Stakeholders engagement and communication

Communication is key in engaging members and stakeholders at all levels. I will work on engaging the silent majority of members in addition to the active members to help shape Nominets' future existence.

Development

An organisation that has stopped growing is a dying one. I believe Nominet's wealth of expertise and experience is vital in expanding in areas similar to ENUM and any future opportunities that may arise.

Current Board

I fully support the current executive, board and Chairman. Nominet needs the stability through this crucial turning point.

As someone who worked in the industry and holding a wide range of experience from Private sector, Public sector and voluntary sector I believe that I bring a wealth of experience from various points of view to the board of Nominet.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss any of the issues, on subhi+nom2009@subhi.com.

Subhi S Hashwa

Contact subhi+nom2009@subhi.com. Mobile. +44 (0) 7720 441 386

Nationality British

Summary

I have extensive experience working at board level and working with Executives at various organisations in the Private, Public and Voluntary sectors. I have worked in the industry and in other sectors making my varied experience valuable to the board of Nominet.

As part of my daily job I am used to working with various stakeholders (internal and external) on change management, making sure that changes are done without compromising quality and customers and patients satisfaction.

I have served on Nominet's PAB, active on nom-steer and have been keeping up to date with the developments on the scene.

Work Experience

Senior Project Consultant, Meridian Productivity Ltd

Management consultant in healthcare sector, specialising in working with managers on various levels improve the patient experience and reduce waiting times by improving efficiency and processes, with the agreement and engagement of stakeholders internal and external.

Managing Director, Electronic Corner Ltd

Founded E-Corner with its two service provider arms: Arm of the business serves a variety of sectors in many different parts of the world. Services included IT services, technical support and maintenance, procurement, installation and support for infrastructure.

The Retail arm trading in Waverley Railway Station and Blackfriars Street on the Royal Mile, served travellers, businessmen and tourists on the move, providing public access terminals, variety of business services and office-on-the-move facilities, a unique concept first to be found anywhere in a major UK railway station.

Non-Exec Board Member and Chairman, Whale Arts Agency

Served as a board member, later served as elected Chairman of the Management Board at WHALE Arts Agency and WHALE Learning Centre, on the business and strategy planning committee bringing my IT and Business expertise to the Board, representing Whale to various events and meetings with the City Council and Scottish Art Council.

Education

University of Paisley

Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology and Oracle Applications Development

Heriot-Watt University

BSc Combined studies in Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Professional Memberships

Member of Association Of Productivity Specialists (APS) – Certified Productivity Specialist

The Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET/IEE), UK.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineer (IEEE), USA.

The British Computer Society (BCS), UK.

Recommended by the Board

Election Statement

Nominet has been through some difficult times, and the challenges are far from over. Our company structure and the way we do things as an organisation are under intense scrutiny following public disputes within the previous board. As a membership, we need to retain the confidence of the Government that we can be trusted to run an important part of the infrastructure of the UK economy.

My background

Engagement: I joined the Nominet Board two years ago and I have a perfect attendance record. I also consider it important to keep in touch with our customers and stakeholders through attending external events as often as possible.

Experience: My background combines experience of the hosting industry, chairing the board of a growing membership organisation and trying to demystify the world of broadband to consumers, and providing independent advice in plain English.

I believe that my understanding of how the Internet works at a technical level (from DNS to routing) and my exposure to the everyday problems faced by consumers in the broadband world gives me a unique position on the board of bridging the technical-management gap as well as understanding the issues faced both by consumers and ISPs.

Where do we go next?

Recent events which culminated in the Governance Review exposed our corporate structure to significant criticism and we need to address the issues raised; we need to answer the fundamental question "Who is Nominet here for?"

I am committed to a governance model that:

- ensures Nominet remains an **independent** not-for-profit organisation
- retains the **Government's confidence**
- is based on an open **membership** model
- includes a **diverse board**
- ensures **fairness** between all members and registrars

I hope members will play their part and ensure out of the past troubles we can build a Nominet that is even more reactive to needs of all. To provide the best service to registrars, I believe Nominet should be run independent of Government, close to the technical community; but to be allowed to do so, it needs to consider and protect the interests of the UK population as a whole.

Where the Web is going...

The Internet is changing at a phenomenal speed with innovation breaking old business models before they have a chance to adapt. Although domains are at the heart of making the Internet work today, we need to be aware of how evolving technologies can affect our business including the methods of participation people wish to use to interact and how we can adapt and continue to provide registrars with the services they need.

The Registrars...

Nominet would not be where it is today without registrars who form our channel to market and drive usage of ".uk" and ENUM. We need to provide greater support to registrars to combat abusive issues such as phishing, and find new ways to help you promote .uk to your customers. One of our key challenges for the next year is improving our relationships with members and registrars.

Sebastien Lahtinen

Personal Details

Contact nominet@seb.me.uk – tel. 0870 745 4830 – mob. 07747 607 148

Date of Birth 05 August 1979

Nationality British Citizen

Summary I am an entrepreneur with a strong interest in Internet related projects, particularly looking at those which help the community better understand complex problems, in simple terms. I am often known as a 'broadband campaigner' due to the projects I am involved with which help to enable users to make informed decisions about which broadband provider to use as well as mapping out the Broadband Britain 'notspots' and 'slow-spots'.

Skills I bring to the Nominet Board:

- Ability to evaluate information independently
- Understanding the business & technical pressures and drivers of registrars
- Bringing an independent technical understanding to the Nominet Board
- Experience of other not-for-profit organisations
- Network of registrar contacts
- Consumer advice & information background
- Policy background in relation to domain names

I believe my unique background in the Internet industry intersecting both the service provider as well as consumer advice experience, combined with my involvement in membership organisations, gives me a set of skills which complement those of the other board members. I therefore have a link to the industry and a deep understanding of Nominet's systems, whilst not representing any one stakeholder or interest.

Education:

B.Sc. Management (London School of Economics, University of London)
(Including marketing, management, strategy, economics, accounting & finance, law)

M.Sc. Analysis, Design and Management of Information Systems (London School of Economics, University of London)
(Including systems development, security of information systems, privacy and stakeholder theory)

Current Roles:

Director, NetConnex; Internet Service Provider (1997- present)

Co-founder, thinkbroadband; Independent broadband advice site (2000 – present)

Chairman, LONAP; Internet Exchange Point (2007 – present)

Non-Executive Director, Nominet (2007 – present); Chair of Remuneration Committee (2008 – present)

Past Roles:

Commercial Director, LONAP (2004 - 2006)

Chairman, Policy Advisory Body, Nominet (2004 - 2006); Member (2003 – 2007);

Conflicts & Independence:

I have a background in the hosting industry and one of my companies is a member and registrar of Nominet. Nominet is also a member of LONAP, a not-for-profit company I am a director of. I believe these give me an understanding of Nominet's systems, and the surrounding industries, but in financial terms, my external links to Nominet are relatively small and listed in the annual accounts. I have signed the standard form non-executive director contract.

Proposed by: Michele Neylon, Blacknight Internet Solutions Ltd

Seconded by: Mark Boost, Advantage Interactive Ltd

Election Statement

I am standing for election on Nominet's Board as a Non Executive Director. With your support, I'll work with the Board to ensure Nominet is equipped with a viable, realistic and competitive strategy that ensures continued, self-regulating success in the .uk namespace.

As a Non Executive Director, I will fulfill the requirements to bring broad perspective, a range of experience and personal qualities, specialist knowledge of the digital space, and a very large network of contacts in the .uk stakeholder community.

My pledge to you as a Member is that I will focus on:

- Developing a Nominet strategy that reflects the realities of the .uk namespace
- Providing the Board with rounded exposure to the wider stakeholder community and informed feedback for policy development.
- Working with the performance evaluation structure selected to support Nominet's executive management in achieving the company's vision and strategic objectives
- Being a positive, constructive and balanced Member representative so Nominet can develop a corporate governance structure that is capable of handling change and is equipped with a competitive and viable strategy that reflects the realities of the .uk namespace.
- Professional, impartial and objective input with full disclosure of potential interests, as required by Nominet
- Implementing the governance changes needed to ensure that our .uk namespace remains a self-regulated, thriving and dynamic hub for Digital Britain

My time on Nominet's PAB has demonstrated my ability to ensure impartiality and objectivity in strategic discussions and in providing appropriate advice and feedback on key issues. I believe, especially in light of recent issues that Board members must remain focused on high level and strategic objectives, with the goal of implementing the changes suggested in the recent governance review, so that the .uk namespace can continue to benefit from effective self-regulation and a strong and stable .uk infrastructure.

I bring a unique blend of experience in online business, digital media and international domain markets along with in-depth knowledge and strong experience of working within both new media (Sedo/Adlink), not-for-profit organizations (Pilotlight Member) and Nominet's own policy advisory body so I am uniquely positioned to help Nominet achieve long term sustainability and sound governance.

As a Nominet member, I would urge you to vote for me and would be very grateful for your support in considering me for a Non Executive Director role. By voting for me, you can help Nominet prepare to meet the challenges raised by the changing online landscape and governance structures and to leverage the potential unlocked by digital business, both in the UK and internationally.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss my candidacy in more detail, please do drop me a line or call me on 02074009093. You can read more about me, my views and my election campaign at www.nanayakkara.co.uk.

Nora Nanayakkara

As a Non Executive Director, I bring a unique blend of experience in online business, digital media and international domain markets along with in-depth knowledge and strong experience of working within both new media (Sedo / Adlink), not-for-profit organizations (Pilotlight Member) and Nominet's own policy advisory body (PAB) so I am uniquely positioned to help Nominet achieve long term sustainability and sound governance. My formal education includes a Masters in International Business Administration in addition to a BA and on-the-job training in media communications and strategic financial modeling. You can read more about me, my qualifications and experience at www.nanayakkara.co.uk.

As Director of Business Development for Sedo, I was responsible for the launch of Sedo's UK office and the effective design and implementation of Sedo UK's business development strategy. This position also involves developing successful multi-channel communications including media relations and key stakeholder working groups, producing viable business plans and strategy and sourcing and leveraging business partnerships to provide mutual value. As a Pilotlight Member, I provide business consultancy to selected charities to support their social visions and to advise on business planning, setting strategic priorities, effective financial management and ensuring the sustainable management of donations and investments. In addition, I am currently an elected member of Nominet's Policy Advisory Body (PAB), where I am committed to meeting attendance and to ensuring the views and needs of all .uk domain users are represented in a competent and impartial way.

Working alongside a huge range of stakeholders in the .uk domain industry over the last six years, offers me an opportunity for perspective in comparing .uk with other ccTLDs as well as first-hand experience of the effects of Nominet policies on its end-users. This unique background of direct contact with thousands of .uk end-users enables me to capture a broad range of Nominet members' needs and requirements.

I am balanced, pragmatic and approachable in my work and would welcome the opportunity to apply my personal skills of strategic analysis, networking and communications to the Nominet NED role. I would bring strength of character, business leadership, positive tenacity and clarity in my constructive participation in Board discussions.

The role of Nominet NEDs is to bring broad perspective to the organization through their personal qualities, range of experience, exposure to different facets of the core business and their relevant specialist knowledge and contacts with relevant stakeholders. As a Nominet non-executive director, I would fulfill all of these requirements – my network of contacts in the .uk community and in the international domain space is very large and I have very positive relationships with hundreds of key stakeholders from UK-based online sole traders to MNCs, from domain investors to online marketers. My work in PR and marketing has allowed me to develop excellent communication and outreach skills, which I believe, would prove invaluable in achieving stakeholder buy-in for Nominet, so that they may develop out the changes needed to prove long term sustainability and ensure the continued self-regulation of the .uk space.

Proposed by: Matt Mansell, Mesh Digital Ltd

Seconded by: Sarah Haran, Easyspace Ltd

Election Statement

Nominet

Nominet is at a unique point in its history. It is the subject of ongoing government scrutiny and has attracted other attention, sometimes for the wrong reasons. It needs to make changes and it requires clear leadership through that process. The senior management and board must provide that leadership and I would relish the opportunity to work as part of that team.

Nominet is at the heart of the UK internet infrastructure and, in many areas of its business and operation, a world leader. This leading role should and will continue – providing that there remains an effective management team in place, who themselves are able to work with a coherent, experienced and focussed board. I would like to see Nominet in a position where it is again able to focus on the strategic development of its business and operation as well as the major governance related issues.

Non-executive Director Role

As Nominet has outlined, the role of a non-executive director is a serious commitment with legal obligations and it requires a combination of experience, independence and impartiality, as well as the relevant personal qualities and specialist knowledge. I have carefully measured myself against these criteria, and am clear that I can meet them. The role should not provide an opportunity to lobby for a particular niche or commercial interest and I certainly have no intention of treating it in that way.

Governance

The self-regulated approach to Nominet's multi-stakeholder business has, for the most part, served it very well since inception. However, if the model of self-regulation is to survive – and I am strongly in support of it doing so – then an experienced and effective board is vital.

Experience and Continuity

Nominet has emphasised the current importance of experience and continuity within the board. The combination of my sector and commercial experience, together with two prior terms on the Nominet board, put me in an excellent position to contribute effectively from the outset. I am able to offer a combination of experience and freshness of perspective, which should prove to be particularly valuable at present.

Personal Approach

My approach is to be analytical, objective and creative. I do not favour one particular business model, industry sector, stakeholder group or portion of the Nominet membership. Moreover, a key aspect of the domain name and related services industry that has so stimulated me over the past decade has been its capacity for continuous innovation. Nominet must be open minded to all current and future business models within its membership and I am keen to ensure that remains the case.

Summary

I believe that the combination of my prior experience of the registry and registrar sectors, together with my approach, outlined above, make me very well placed to work for Nominet as a non-executive director. Arguably, the timing of my recent resignation from the board of a major registrar places me in a unique position, which I am now very motivated to leverage to the benefit of Nominet.

Jonathan Robinson

Personal Information:

Email: jonathan@robinsonmail.org.uk

Nationality: British Age: 43

Summary

An entrepreneur, senior manager and board director with substantial experience within the Internet services and domain name sectors.

Professional experience

2006-2009 Group NBT (formerly NetBenefit) plc London
Chief Operating Office

- Main board director of profitable, quoted company (circa £40m sales)
- Member of executive management team comprising 6 people
- Responsible for product strategy & development, fulfilment operations and acquired company integration
- Additional responsibilities; industry media relations, M&A

2002-2005 NetBenefit plc London

Business Development Director

- Main board director, member of executive management team
- Responsible for product, software development and technical operations
- Additional responsibilities; commercial media relations, M&A strategy, prospecting and execution

1997-2001 NetBenefit UK Ltd / NetBenefit plc London
Co-founder/CEO

- Appointed MD in May 1997 to manage and develop NetBenefit UK Ltd
- Set strategy as CEO, successfully listed NetBenefit plc on LSE in 1999
- Acquired French subsidiary (1999) and major UK competitor (Q1 2000)
- Full strategic review and implementation Q4 2000 to Q3 2001
- External CEO hired Q4 2001

1995-1996 Rolls Royce Technology Centre Cambridge
Rolls-Royce Research Fellow

- Industry funded research centre attached to the University of Cambridge
- Research programme validation of predictive computer models

1993-1994 Imperial College London

Research Associate

- Commercially oriented research on steam turbine blade surfacing

Additional professional activities

2003-2007 Nominet UK Ltd Oxford

Director

- Consecutive, member elected, fixed term, non-executive positions

2001-Present Afilias LLC London

Director

- Private, for-profit domain name registry and related services provider
- Fixed term, renewable, non-executive position (expires Sep 2010)

1996-1997 NetBenefit UK Ltd London

Director

- Founder shareholder and non-executive director

1998-1999 Internet Council of Registrars (CORE) Geneva
Deputy Chairman

- CORE was a consortium of commercial and other organisations formed to drive the introduction of new gTLDs
- NetBenefit was a founder member of CORE
- Member elected non-executive position

Awards received

3 successive Deloitte & Touche Fast 50 awards to NetBenefit plc

Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year semi-finalist 2000

Education

1988-1991 University of Cape Town Cape Town

PhD Materials Engineering

- Included research undertaken at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, University of California, Berkeley, USA

1987-1988 University of Cape Town Cape Town

MSc Applied Science

- 18 month coursework and dissertation programme completed
- Degree registration upgraded to PhD

1984-1986 University of Cape Town Cape Town

BSc Physics

- 3 year degree with sub-majors in Mathematics and Applied Mathematics

Proposed by: Angus Hanton, Giant Games Ltd

Seconded by: Angie Barrow, ANY-Web Ltd

Election Statement

2009 is a critical year in the history of Nominet. Growth of .uk registrations continues at a spectacular rate drawing the attention of the outside world and in particular the Government. The board of Nominet has a unique opportunity to respond by balancing the interests of all who wish to register and own domains with those of our members. The board therefore needs to provide leadership and a clarity of purpose for Nominet to thrive, and indeed survive.

Neil Stanley is standing as a non-executive director because he is able to help make this happen. Neil has served on many boards in sectors as diverse as medical devices and finance. He was most recently Chairman of a manufacturing business in the motor sports industry. He also spent over a decade in investment banking so has a strong commercial background. Neil is a member of the Institute of Directors and has also completed their "Role of the non-executive director" course.

As a Registrar Neil has a firsthand understanding of the needs of members. Combining this with his broad based commercial and board experience means he is uniquely qualified to join the board of Nominet.

Neil has no fixed agenda for the role and will not seek to represent the interests of any particular group (this would of course be highly inappropriate for any candidate). He simply wishes to ensure that Nominet continues to flourish whilst balancing the interests of all stakeholders.

Neil welcomes further discussion with members via the website www.alamex.co.uk.

Neil Stanley

Work Experience

2008-9 Lombard Odier, Swiss Private Bank

2003-8 Turnaround professional and entrepreneur including:

Chairman of Brookland Speed International Ltd

MD of Domain Bank Ltd

Non-exec of Orthos Ltd

Board member of Fair Finance

MD of Alamex Ltd

Partner of Pembridge Capital, a turnaround practice

1992-2003 Goldman Sachs, Executive Director, London and New York

1986-1990 British Army, Captain, UK and Germany

Education

1990-92 London Business School, MBA

1982-1986 Birmingham University, Double Honours in Engineering and Economics

Graeme Wingate

Proposed by: Robert Prime / Prime

Seconded by: Dale Hubbard / Hubbard-Media

Due to the defamatory content of Mr Wingate's election statement, Nominet have been advised that it should not be published.

Note: Mr Wingate has indicated that he will not sign the standard Nominet non-executive director contract.

Graeme Wingate – About Me

Phone 07900 31 32 31
Email help@greywing.co.uk
Age 30
Family Single no children

Rather than follow the formal education route I decided early on that I would gain experience rather than qualifications. By doing this I have worked for organisations such as BT, The Royal Marines and Walker Morris Solicitors.

The rounded skills I picked up along the way have enabled me to complete my objective of working for myself, which I have been doing for the last 6 years. My current work includes starting new website ideas and selling them as going concerns to big businesses. Another role includes me making props for TV Programs and production companies.

One of these was the site prmc.co.uk which I started as a forum to help youngsters join the Royal Marines. The not for profit site was the first of its kind in the UK for armed forces recruitment. During the 2 years I owned the site I saw the site grow into a massive recruiting success for the Royal Marines, so much so that they asked to obtain it from me. However the aim of the site was to help people join the Royal Marines and not make me money. So I handed the site and data to them free of charge and they have now incorporated it onto the official Royal Navy website. I handed it over free of charge because it was in the best interests of the young lads wishing to join. They asked me to stay as an admin on the site and I still give them my time and advice free of charge.

I am happy in my current role of being my own boss and have absolutely no interest in career progression or employment within any other company. I feel therefore that my qualities of being a Non-Exec Director are strengthened because I can question certain characters without any fear of my future employment or career path being damaged.

I will continue to work for myself and have several ongoing web development projects such as donate.org.uk which is going to be a not for profit charity fund raising site. These projects keep me and my 2 staff busy.

Roles and responsibilities of a non-executive director of Nominet

Nominet's Board is responsible for making strategic and policy decisions and for the oversight of the company. The Board meets regularly to discuss strategic, policy and other issues.

The position is remunerated, and expenses are paid, both in accordance with existing rules and subject to the signing of the Nominet non-executive director contract, which is available on our web site. Board meetings are currently held every two months and take between half and one day each. In addition, non-executive directors serve on Board sub-committees, the Audit and Remuneration Committees. Directors are also expected to participate in strategy meetings and to join in other member events during the year. There is non-executive director representation on Nominet's Policy Advisory Body, which can require up to one day's work every two months.

Being a Board member of a company is a serious commitment, both in terms of time and the legal responsibilities you take on.

About non-executive directors

There is no legal distinction between executive and non-executive directors in the UK. They have the same legal obligations, responsibilities and potential liabilities.

All directors should bring a broad perspective to company and business matters. Non-executive directors are usually selected for their broad experience, independence, impartiality, personal qualities, and sometimes because they have relevant specialist knowledge or contacts with relevant stakeholders. Non-executive directors should be independent of the company's management, its customers, owners and staff, so that they can be objective in Board discussions, and provide supportive oversight of the executive management.

Non-executive directors' focus should be at the appropriate level. They should concern themselves with Board matters and not micro-manage.

The key responsibilities of non-executive directors include:

Contribution to strategy

Non-executive directors should be able to identify factors in the external environment, which will affect the company – they may have more of an external perspective than their executive counterparts. They may be more creative in strategic discussions, as they will typically be less constrained by their knowledge of the business than their executive counterparts.

Oversight

Non-executive directors monitor the performance of executive management in achieving the company's vision and strategic objectives.

Networking

Non-executive directors can help the company by making connections with their own networks of contacts.

Audit

Directors must ensure that the company's accounts are a true and fair reflection of its actions and financial performance, that appropriate internal controls are put into place and are monitored satisfactorily. This duty applies to all directors, whether or not they are part of a formal Audit Committee or have any financial qualifications or experience.

Declaration of interests

Nominet maintains a register of directors' interests, which is reviewed by the company's auditors annually. Directors will be expected to declare all interests, not only in the register, but on an ongoing basis at Board meetings when and if a potential conflict arises.

For fuller information about the role of a non-executive director from the Institute of Directors and Companies House, please see:

<http://www.iod.com/intershoproot/eCS/Store/en/pdfs/roleofnxds.pdf>

<http://www.companieshouse.co.uk/about/pdf/gba1.pdf>

An explanation of Single Transferable Voting (STV)

There are various methodologies that can be used for calculating the results of a poll by Single Transferable Vote. Nominet uses the Hare-Clarke method.

Hare-Clarke is a variation of preferential counting called proportional preferential. In order to be elected a candidate needs to achieve a set quota of votes. The quota is calculated after all the first preference votes have been counted, and is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Quota} = \text{Int} (\text{total number of valid votes} / (\text{number of positions} + 1) + 1)$$

For example:

500 votes are received for 12 seats.

$$500 / (12 + 1) + 1 = 39.4615$$

Quota = 39

Any candidates with votes greater than the quota are automatically elected. If all seats are filled at this point then the election is completed and declared. However if not all seats are filled then the following steps will occur:

1. If the successful candidate(s) has more than the quota, the surplus of the votes that they received will be redistributed based on the preferences indicated on the ballot paper. The votes will be transferred at a value ("the transfer value") which is calculated by dividing the surplus of the candidate from whom the votes are being transferred by the total number of the ballot papers on which those votes are given.
2. At each subsequent stage of the count, the vote on each ballot paper transferred shall be at the value at which that vote was received by the candidate from whom it is now being transferred reduced by the current "transfer value".

At each stage, if no candidate has achieved a surplus of votes, then the candidate with the lowest number of votes will be excluded and their votes redistributed using preferences.

This process is repeated until all candidates are elected or until the number of remaining candidates is equal to the candidates required, in which case they are declared elected.

The ballots will be machine counted, calculations will be at sufficient resolution to make rounding errors insignificant and results displayed with an appropriate number of decimal digits.

Any questions please email elections@nominet.org.uk