The Voting Panel

David Snell
PwC
Panel Chair

David is a partner in PwC's London Mid-Tier Assurance practice with 30 years' service with the firm. He specialises in providing audit and transaction support services to Small and Mid-cap Listed businesses across a wide range of industry sectors.

David's clients include both private and publicly owned companies and he has extensive experience of working with Boards, applying his technical and business knowledge with a pragmatic, solutions-based approach. He has been involved in many successful London IPOs as well as working on acquisitions and disposals for Listed clients.

David regularly presents and writes on topical issues affecting listed companies and has close contact with key advisors including the London Stock Exchange.

Joe Brent
Liberum

Joe joined Liberum in July 2009 as Head of UK Small & Mid-Cap Research, before becoming Head of Research.

Prior to Liberum, Joe was a Managing Director and Head of UK Small and Mid-Cap Research at Citigroup, where he worked for four years. Joe was rated first by Extel in Mid-Cap research in 2012 and 2013. He started his career as an accountant at Deloitte and Touche before joining Cazenove, where he worked for ten years before joining Citigroup.

Joe graduated from Downing College, Cambridge, with a degree in History.

Andy Brough
Schroders

Andy is Co-Head of the Schroders Pan European Small and Mid-Cap Team. His investment career commenced in 1987 when he joined Schroders as a UK Equity Fund Manager, becoming Co-Head of the UK Small-Cap Team in 2002. He joined Price Waterhouse in 1985, where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant.

Andy has a degree in Economics.

Andy Crossley
Peel Hunt

Andy was a small-cap fund manager for 24 years until 2010, the vast majority of that time at Invesco Perpetual, where he was a two-time winner of Manager of the PLC Awards Best Performing Fund. Since then he has been a “gamekeeper turned poacher” and has worked at Peel Hunt, advising corporates, particularly around fundraisings and also executing ECM transactions. He is a member of the London Stock Exchange’s AIM Advisory Group.

Matt Evans
Threadneedle Inv. Asset Man.

Matt joined Threadneedle Investments in October 2013 as a Portfolio Manager in the UK Equities team. He is co-Manager of the Threadneedle UK Smaller Companies Fund, the Threadneedle UK Mid 250 Fund and a range of small-cap institutional portfolios. He is also responsible for stock analysis and idea generation for the wider team with research responsibility for construction, house builders and support services. Before joining Threadneedle Matt was a Portfolio Manager at Legal & General Investment Management specialising in UK Small Caps. He gained a degree in Geography and Sports Science from Loughborough University.

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Arun George
Canaccord Genuity

Arun joined Canaccord Genuity in November 2013 as a Technology Analyst, having previously been part of the Institutional team at Edison. He has over nine years' experience covering the software, hardware and semiconductor industries. He was formerly a Technology Analyst for Altium Securities, Espirito Santo Investment Bank, Noble Group and Clear Capital. He has a dual Masters in Financial Engineering and Industrial and Operations Engineering from the University of Michigan. He obtained his Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. He is also a CFA charterholder.

David Horner
Chelverton Asset Man.

David qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1984 with Touche Ross & Co before joining 3i Corporate Finance Limited in 1986, where he was a Manager giving corporate finance advice. In May 1993 he joined Strand Partners Limited, and in January 1994 was appointed a Director, where he carried out a range of corporate finance assignments identifying, structuring and managing investments in quoted and unquoted companies.

In October 1997 he left to set up Chelverton Asset Management Limited, which specialises in managing portfolios of private companies and small to medium-sized public companies. He was responsible for setting up Chelverton Growth Trust PLC and, since May 1999, has managed the Small Companies Dividend Trust PLC. He co-manages Chelverton UK Equity Income Fund with Dave Taylor.

Ben Jowett
Winterflood Securities

Ben started his career at Winterflood Securities in 1996 having graduated from Loughborough University. After a two-year secondment to Close Brothers Equity Markets in Paris, specialising in European SmallCap, Ben returned to London where he is now Head of Sales Trading at Winterflood.

Marian MacBryde
Makinson Cowell

Marian is a founder Director of Makinson Cowell, which is a capital markets advisory practice and the equity side of KPMG's Capital Advisory Group. Marian has over 30 years' experience in the capital markets having worked as a brokers' analyst for seven years at Hoare Govett prior to the formation of Makinson Cowell. She advises companies in the UK, France and Germany on all aspects of their relationships with investors and spreads her time between New York, the home of the world's largest capital markets, and Europe.

Richard Penny
Legal & General Inv. Man.

Richard joined Legal & General Investment Management in 2003 and is a Fund Manager within the High Alpha Team and the Manager of the award-winning L&G UK Alpha Trust as well as a number of segregated portfolios. Most recently, in May 2014, he was appointed Fund Manager for the L&G Special Situations Trusts. Previously he worked for five years as a Fund Manager for M&G Investment Management and, prior to this, for four years as a Fund Manager at Scottish Amicable Investment Management. Richard has a Masters degree in Engineering and Economics from Oxford University.

Mike Prentis
BlackRock Inv. Man.

Mike is Managing Director and a Portfolio Manager, and a member of the UK Equity team within the Fundamental Equity division of BlackRock's Alpha Strategies Group. He has been manager of BlackRock Smaller Companies Trust plc since September 2002 and joint manager of BlackRock Throgmorton Trust plc since July 2008.

Mike's service with the firm dates back to 2005, including his years with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006. Prior to joining MLIM in 2005, Mike worked at 3i, in both its asset management and private equity businesses.

Mike earned an MA in Geography from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1979. Mike Prentis won the Fund Manager of the Year Award at the 2010 and 2013 PLC Awards.

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Milan Radia
Jefferies

Milan joined Jefferies International in June 2006 and is a Managing Director with responsibility for coverage of the European Software and IT Services sector. He has 22 years of equity market experience. In the last five years, Milan has twice been ranked the Number 1 earnings estimator in Europe for his sector in the Starmine awards, as well as the Number 2 earnings estimator in the UK. Milan was previously at Bridgewell Securities where he was a Director and founding member of the Equity Research team. During this time, Milan was voted Techmark Analyst of the Year and achieved a Top 3 Institutional Investor sector ranking. Prior to Bridgewell, Milan was for four years a Director in the UBS technology equity research group and a senior member of the Number 1 ranked software team. Milan started his career at Prudential Portfolio Managers where he was a Fund Manager responsible for a range of high growth and income unit trust funds in excess of £350m. Milan graduated with a first class degree in Economics from Selwyn College, Cambridge.

Ian Restall
Flathill Communications Group plc

Ian is the founder of the PLC Awards. Throughout his career, Ian has been involved in the quoted growth companies sector. His early career was as a stockbroker, analyst, broadcaster and financial journalist in this area and, since founding The Design Portfolio Marketing Services in 1991 (where he is currently Executive Chairman), he has been active in helping many companies with their investor communication and corporate reporting requirements. Ian is also Chairman of Flathill Communications Group plc, President of The Design Portfolio Marketing Services Inc. and a member of the Investor Relations Society.

Catherine Stanley
F&C Asset Man.

Catherine is Head of the Global Small Cap Equity team at F&C and Lead Manager of the UK Responsible Equity funds. She has been at F&C since 2000. Prior to this Catherine spent nine years at Framlington where she managed both retail and institutional UK smaller company funds. She has an MA (Hons) in Geography from the University of Oxford and is a member of the CFA Society in the UK.

David Stevenson
Amati Global Investors

David is a Fund Manager with Amati Global Investors, an Edinburgh-based specialist in UK mid and small companies, running products including an OEIC, AIM Venture Capital Trusts, and an AIM IHT portfolio service. Previously he was a founding partner at Cartesian Capital, managing UK long-only and long/short strategies, and prior to that he was Assistant Director at another investment boutique, SVM. David started his career at KPMG where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant, latterly specialising in corporate finance, before moving into private equity with Dunedin.

Helen Tarbet
Instinctif Partners

Helen has ten years’ experience in advising quoted growth companies on all aspects of their financial and corporate communications, both with agencies and in-house.

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Caspar Trenchard
Standard Life Inv. Man.

Poacher turned gamekeeper Caspar spent 13 years on the sell side – at Merrill Lynch, Cazenove and HSBC – before becoming a Fund Manager in 2005 with First State Investments. He has been an Investment Director at Standard Life Investments since 2007. Outside of fund management he enjoys football, music and a farm in Italy.

Gervais Williams
Miton Group plc

Gervais manages a number of funds that aggregate to over £1bn, including the Diverse Income Trust plc. He is also Managing Director at Miton Group plc, the independent listed fund management group that has a reputation for offering strategies that are distinctive from most others. His fund management career extends over nearly 30 years including 17 years with Gartmore Group Ltd, where he was Head of UK Small Companies investing in UK smaller companies and Irish equities. He was awarded Investor of the Year by Grant Thornton at its Quoted Company Dinner in both 2009 and 2010. Gervais is a member of the AIM Advisory Council and a Board member of the Quoted Companies Alliance. He is also on the EU Taskforce reviewing why the number of smaller IPOs has declined over recent decades. Gervais published his first book 'Slow Finance' in the autumn of 2011, and his second book 'The Future is Small' in November 2014. He was recently awarded Fund Manager of the Year 2014 by What Investment.

Rhys Williams
finnCap

Rhys is a Director and Head of Sales at finnCap. He has had a 15-year career in the City, initially as a research director, and latterly as a general small/mid-cap salesman.

Dominic Wilson
Zeus Capital

Dominic has been at Zeus Capital since September 2013 to lead the healthcare franchise. Prior to that he was Head of Sales at Nomura Code Securities. He has worked at Arden Partners, Piper Jaffray and Nomura International and was Head of Smaller Company Broking at Greig Middleton becoming Head of Sales when it was acquired by Old Mutual Securities. He started his City career in 1987 as a Healthcare Analyst at Kleinwort Benson in New York.

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Specialist presentations by industry experts

Sustainability

Christina Elvers
PwC

Christina is a Sustainability and Climate Change Consultant at PwC. She has specific expertise in forestry and land use policy, climate fund management and non-financial reporting. She has extensive experience working with both public and private sector clients. She manages the Building Public Trust Awards – Sustainability for PwC. In this role, she oversees a team of analysts who evaluate sustainability reports of companies in the FTSE100 and FTSE250. She is also a Programme Manager for the Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), helping to deliver negotiation support to negotiators from the developing world.

Before joining PwC, Christina worked for an American think tank on transatlantic relations and was based in Brussels. She holds an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College.

Jacqui Machin
PwC

Jacqui is part of PwC's Sustainability and Climate Change consultancy practice. She has a keen interest in corporate sustainability, having studied Environmental Technology at Masters level and having previously worked in the sustainability team of a drinks company. Jacqui works on a number of projects assessing the state of sustainability performance and reporting, and also advises companies on making improvements in these areas.

Investor communications

Julie Wilford
Design Portfolio

Julie is Managing Director of Design Portfolio, a specialist in corporate and investor communications.

Julie's background is in corporate reporting, helping FTSE350 companies craft and present their investment case. She has been working with the PLC Voting Panel for the last eight years to provide background research, benchmarking and expert reviews on those companies nominated for the Best Investor Communication Award.

Julie graduated from Leeds University with a BA (Hons) in Public Relations and French.

Carl Wilson
Design Portfolio

Carl works closely with Design Portfolio's clients, helping them to build their corporate reputation through various digital media channels. Although this is Carl's first year working with the PLC Voting Panel, he has spent many years working closely with FTSE350 companies advising them on their IR profiles and digital communications strategies, exploring new industry developments and identifying those best in class.

Technology

Arun George
Canaccord Genuity

Arun George (also a member of the Voting Panel) gave a presentation in respect of the Best Technology Award.