

Our next NEDgroup Event...

...**will be a debate** held on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at the [East India Club](#).

Arrive a bit before 6.15pm for refreshments and linger after 7.45pm for drinks and a light finger buffet.

You are invited to attend! We ask for a contribution of £49 + VAT, modest enough to bring your own guest if you wish.

Book your place [here](#).

The Motion:

“This House believes that statutory proportionate gender representation in the Boardroom (quotas for women!) is an irrelevance.”

The Chairman:

Barry Gamble

This will be the third debate in our eight year old NEDgroup Initiative – and we’ve always been able to choose sparky topics with authoritative Speakers and lively, insightful, good-natured debate and we expect this to be no different!

The topic at our first debate was ***“This House believes that the Combined Code is not fit for purpose”*** which gave us the material for our submission to the FRC. The second was last year when our topic was ***“This House believes that NEDs do not do enough for Company Profits.”*** As on these previous occasions, we are expecting noise, serious thought and some laughter. We are also hoping, alongside serious review of traditional concepts, for some re-working of current beliefs and also some new thinking.

The evening will be of interest to those who are NEDs, want to be NEDs, to those who hire or “manage” NEDs and also those with strong views – one way or the other – about this aspect of NED work, notwithstanding the unintentional quick-sands of gender semantics!

Order of Debate

- 6.15 Welcome from Charles Russam
- 6.20 Introduction from the Chairman, Barry Gamble, and Indicative Vote
- 6.25 Motion proposed by Gillian Wilmot
- 6.32 Motion opposed by Christine Tacon
- 6.39 Proposal supported by Louis Cooper
- 6.44 Opposition supported by Ian Joseph
- 6.49 Contributions from the floor
- 7.30 Concluding remarks from Christine Tacon
- 7.35 Concluding remarks from Gillian Wilmot
- 7.40 Final vote and Chairman's summing up
- 7.45 Refreshments

Rules of the House

In order to make the Debate a success, the following rules will apply:

1. The time allotted to each speaker will be strictly observed.
2. The Chairman will signal the end of the allotted time for each speaker – and if delinquent in these duties, will be overridden by the touchline timekeeper.
3. No points of information or order from the floor will be taken during a speaker's time.
4. Contributors from the floor will have a maximum of two minutes to make their point and are invited not to "advertise".
5. The Chairman will decide upon whom to call from the floor.
6. Please ensure all electronic devices are switched off.
7. The Chairman's word is final.

Speaker Biographies:**Barry Gamble**

The Chairman of the Debate is Barry Gamble who has been a strong supporter of NEDgroup events from the beginning. He is an experienced Chairman in the publicly quoted, private and charitable sectors. A former editor at large of BoardRoom magazine he writes and comments on corporate governance and the roles/responsibilities of directors. As well as coaching and advising companies, which he sees as the first stage to a full NED role for both company and coach, he is Chairman of Fisher German LLP, Finance Chairman at Tudor Hall School and non executive director of LightwaveRF plc.

Gillian Wilmot

Gillian Wilmot's NED Board career includes Blackwells (retail), Land of Leather (retail) and Admiral (insurance). She writes and speaks on Leadership, Mentoring and the Boardroom and is the Founder & CEO of Board Mentoring which works with CEO's and Directors of leading UK and International companies. Gillian is the Winner of the 2014 NED Awards Unquoted/Private Equity category (Peel Hunt/Sunday Times) www.nedawards.co.uk and listed in the Cranfield 100 Women to Watch in the 2014 Female FTSE Report.

In 2013 she was appointed as NED and Chair of the Remuneration Committee at Nisa Retail, a £1.6bn grocery convenience group and at ELEXON, a company involved in the successful operation of Great Britain's electricity trading arrangement under the Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). In 2012 she was appointed to the Industrial Development Advisory Board (IDAB) which advises UK Government on large commercial investment projects and gives robust independent business advice to Ministers.

Gillian is Vice Chair of IWF UK (International Women's Forum). Gillian's executive career encompasses 30 years at leading companies and Brands including Marks & Spencer, Boots, Avon Cosmetics, Littlewoods and Royal Mail.

Her early career as a Marketing Director included launching the award winning and highly profitable Next Directory in the late 80's and transforming the brand and profitability of Avon Cosmetics in the '90's. At Royal Mail in the early 2000's she was MD of Mail Markets and part of the team that kick-started the transformation and culture change of the business and its return to profitability. She has done two turnaround roles as a CEO and led buyout bids.

Christine Tacon

Christine is a strategist who has delivered business turnaround: her strengths are vision, change management and communication in both a commercial and a regulatory environment. Christine Tacon has a portfolio career combining her commercial expertise with her understanding of the food chain and the public sector. She is a Chartered Engineer with 12 years' experience in sales and marketing of fast moving consumer goods (Mars, Anchor and Vodafone) and ran the Co-operative Group's farming business, the largest in the UK, for 11 years until 2012. She was awarded a CBE for services to agriculture in 2004.

Current positions include:

- Non-executive director of Anglia Farmers farm supply business
- Non-executive director of Met Office
- Member of DEFRA's Strategic Regulatory Scrutiny Panel, looking at future regulation
- Council member of Natural Environment Research Council
- Governor of Harper Adams University (which specialises in agribusiness)
- Member of the Business Advisory Board of Living with Environmental Change
- Chair of the BBC Rural Affairs Advisory Committee
- Member of the UKTI Environment and Water Sector Advisory Group
- Public Member of Network Rail

Christine was appointed the first Groceries Code Adjudicator in 2013 to oversee the implementation of the Groceries Supply Code of Practice between the 10 large grocery retailers and their direct suppliers (3 days/week). The role was reported in the press as "an impossible job but if anyone can do it Christine can", she has made a good start and can demonstrate improvements in behaviour already.

Louis Cooper

Louis Cooper is a Chartered Accountant and Executive Director at the Non-Executive Directors Association – www.nedaglobal.com. He is also the business Owner at Risk & Control Services and an Associate at [Magique Galileo Software Ltd](http://MagiqueGalileoSoftwareLtd.com). The Non-Executive Directors Association was established in 2006 to "represent Non-Executive Directors and ensure they are properly trained and developed." This includes training, recruitment, technical support on governance and remuneration issues and networking opportunities. Benefits of membership include legal updates and preferential rates for liability insurance. Understanding where the non-executive director fits into the corporate governance framework of a company is important on a number of levels, especially for anyone thinking of becoming a NED, the newly appointed NED, the board looking at NED succession planning and individuals, such as company secretaries, whose tasks include assisting NEDs to fulfil their roles effectively.

Ian Joseph

Ian Joseph is Joint Managing Director of Russam GMS and heads up our Search and Trustees Unlimited Practices as well as our Not for Profit business. Prior to joining Russam GMS, Ian was a senior consultant for one of the UK's leading search firms where he worked on a range of high profile executive and non-executive roles including the Chief Executives of the RSPCA and National Autistic Society. He has been a member of various boards over the years and he has served on a number of committees including the Chief Executive Remuneration Committee of the RSPCA. He is a founding board member and Chief Executive of Trustees Unlimited (a joint venture with Bates Wells Braithwaite, Russam GMS and NCVO) and a founding trustee of Cyclopark, an Olympic legacy project and Europe's largest multi-event cycling facility.

Ian holds a Masters degree in Voluntary Sector Management from Cass Business School (City University) as well as the Certificate in Fundraising Practice, from his time in the sector. Ian is a Fellow of the RSA. Ian runs and cycles albeit not very fast these days. He enjoys spending time with his wife and his three sons and he has a long-standing interest in the study of theology