Are you On-Board?

“An organisation’s success or failure depends on the performance of its board, yet the majority of directors have no special training for their role and are unsure about quite what it entails.”

Bob Garatt - The Fish Rots from the Head

... So we created On-Board!

On-Board is a series of unique programmes designed to equip people to contribute to the leadership of an organisation by becoming a board member. The programmes involve interaction with experienced facilitators who have practical board expertise. They communicate these experiences clearly and openly with participating students.

By partnering with organisations like the Association of Corporate Governance Practitioners (ACGP), the Professional Football Association (PFA) and the Birmingham Leadership Foundation (BLF), we have been able to create three outstanding programmes catering for the specific needs of young leaders, footballers and women.

Successful graduates have secured appointments as school governors, local councilors and on boards of national charities and housing associations. Several participants have taken direct action in their continuing professional development and career paths as a direct result of their completion of the course.
The Professional Football Association (PFA), is the main sponsor of the I Am On-Board programme. The Football Association (FA) has also supported the programme and has kindly sponsored the I Am On-Board graduation.

The benefits of creating diverse boards are very clear; however there is work to do in all sectors in maximising this potential and addressing some of the gaps in age, gender and ethnicity. The I Am On-Board programme prepares individuals to take up board appointments after completion of an intensive six-month programme, using the core skills and knowledge of football that the participants have with corporate governance experience.

As the expectation for good board performance increases and with the recent economic challenges experienced as a result of board failures, it has become pivotal that tomorrow's board members are equipped with the tools and the skills to lead and lead well!

As a direct response to this, the governance forum has developed a leadership programme specifically aimed at young leaders and students aged 21-35. The aim? To teach corporate governance and the importance of good governance within organisations to a group of young leaders who will one day govern the world we live in. We are developing the diverse representation of communities on the boards that serve those communities.

We have also delivered On-Board with Edinburgh Napier University who offer industry informed courses combined with the optimum balance of theory and practice to equip graduates for success in today's competitive global job market. 92.3% of their graduates are in work or further study within six months of leaving. To ensure that Napier graduates stand out
from the crowd, the University has partnered with On-Board and the governance forum to equip their students with the edge to lead! Napier students have established the ‘Young Trustees in Scotland’ network and participation of this course further strengthens their objectives. The series of programmes is not only beneficial to those completing it, but to the industry leaders who will recruit the students or appoint them as directors and trustees.

Women Lead On-Board

Gender equality at work and specifically on boards has been highlighted as an area to be addressed by academics, the media and regulators in order to enhance the performance of UK PLC. The widely quoted Lord Davies review set targets for the inclusion of women on the boards of FTSE companies to address this and mechanisms are needed to ensure this becomes a reality!

So... we created Lead On-Board!

The vision of Lead On-Board is to be a major contributor in the achievement of more gender-neutral boardroom presence across all sectors. While the public and voluntary sectors do better with board diversity than the private sector, there is still room for improvement. Appointments in the third sector can be the gateway to FTSE positions and so attention needs to be given to this issue in all sectors.

There is no typical candidate for this programme. We have, however, found that women with senior executive experience in a core functional area like finance, law or human resources can bring that expertise that will enhance board performance.
Each player who has completed the On-Board programme has the potential to bring a wide range of skills to any board. They are all excellent ambassadors and have a great deal of knowledge and passion for the game, which they can now complement with governance knowledge and board skills.

David Barnett

David has had 15 years experience as a professional football player, the majority spent with Midland's and Southern clubs, gaining three promotions including the Auto Windscreens final at Wembley in front of a capacity 90,000 crowd whilst playing for Birmingham City Football Club. He has also over 12 years coaching experience both in England and in the USA and 5 years in Coach Education.

David’s education has been varied covering many aspects such as: Certificate in Applied Management at Warwick Business School, Warwick University and he has also acquired the highest football coaching qualification in England and USA respectively with the acquisition of the UEFA ‘A’ Licence.

Nathan Blake

Prior to retiring in 2004, Nathan played professional football and gained several promotions throughout his career.

Nathan worked as Company Director at Footprints Sports Management Ltd. a mentoring organisation, developing young sporting professionals who wish to make it to the pinnacle of their sport. He has also written for the Trinity Mirror Group's football and other sporting issues and undertaken freelance work for the BBC and Sky Sports.

Nathan is an Ambassador for the charitable organisation StreetGames which is a sports charity that changes lives and work for the BBC and Sky Sports.

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Jamie Bunch

A committed, energetic and innovative professional with solid experience within a professional football environment, Jamie has strong interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to deal with all types of people at all levels. Jamie is skilled in negotiating and developing partnerships with public, private, and voluntary organisations and demonstrates a willingness to work well in a team to produce exceptional results.

The Board Game

The Board Game is an interactive team based educational tool delivered in a fun and stimulating classic board game style. It promotes accelerated learning techniques and practical case studies to consolidate governance knowledge.

An innovative and inclusive way for your entire board to perfect their governance knowledge. As a learning technique, it’s revolutionary!

For more information about The Board Game, contact the governance forum at: admin@thegovernanceforum.com

Jason Roberts MBE

Jason Roberts is a Professional Footballer and Football pundit. In 2007, Jason established and became the first President of the Roberts Foundation, which seeks to improve the lives of youngsters through sport. In 2011, Jason co-hosted the biggest phone in on radio with BBC 5 Live, making him the first Premier League player to have hosted a show while still being a current player and has become a regular contributor on many media outlets including Match of the Day. He has also hosted Sports World Have Your Say on BBC World Service.

In 2009, Jason was awarded an MBE for services to sport, Jason has been a member of the Management Committee of the Players Footballers Association since 2010.

Marvin Robinson

Following a career in football which began at school and continued into his twenties, Marvin Robinson is now building his career in his own right. As CEO of THE HAUSOFGENIUS, a global brand collective that blurs the lines between fashion, art, commerce and technology, he is championing and innovative selection of international and UK based talent in these areas.

His company was voted in the top 100 high potential start up companies in the UK by INTUIT and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in 2012. Marvin is also the Head Designer and Founder at 1AM GENERIC, a contemporary sportswear brand, currently sold internationally through boutiques in 6 different countries, spanning 3 continents.

Marvin was involved in mentoring students at Heath Park Excellence Academy as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week, and assisted them with creative business projects and provided guidance and advice based on his own personal journey.

Ian Taylor

Best known for his time at Aston Villa, Ian Taylor was a midfielder who had a fifteen-year career in the Football League. He left Aston Villa to MAINTAIN life after football. He also coordinates the PFA ‘Making the Transition’ programme which enables players to plan for the future and explore their second career options.

He is now an occasional football pundit for AVTV and can regularly be seen at Aston Villa games. In February 2011, Taylor retired Villa after being appointed club ambassador.

Oshay Williams

Oshay is a former Professional Footballer who after retiring through injury in 1989 became the Community Development Officer for Presto North End. After a brief spell in management, he returned to football coaching gaining a BA Honours in Politics and History and went on to teach in the Further Education Sector before joining the PFA in 1996.

As PFA Assistant Director of Education, his role is to ensure that both current and former members have access to as many educational and training opportunities as possible in preparation for life after football. He also coordinates the PFA ‘Making the Transition’ programme which enables players to plan for the future and explore their second career options.

He also sits on the Executive Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions and is a driving force behind the PFA ‘Achievement through Sport’ project which, with the support of the Union Learning Fund aims to promote the learning agenda throughout the Association.

Well...it seems #hardworkdedication can bring benefits away from the pitch as well... #CorporateGovernance @TheGovForum #GetOnBoard Jason Roberts MBE
We are fully committed to this innovative programme of development for our players. Focusing on governance and boards across football, sport and further afield for our players and ex-players provides a real opportunity. We see this as one of the many areas of support that we provide for our players which will equip them with career opportunities and experiences after their playing careers.”

Gordon Taylor CBE
Chief Executive, PFA

The FA is proud to be associated with the ‘On-Board’ programme which provides former players with another potential route for development after their careers. Where BAME players are successful in attaining board places in the game, it will help to widen the diversity of the decision makers in football.”

Greg Dyke
Chairman, FA

There has never been a greater need to make an impact on boards in the private, public and voluntary sector and attracting people from diverse backgrounds is critical. The success of any organisation is hindered by not having competent and committed board members and although they must work together as a cohesive team, ‘group think’ is a major challenge to be avoided at all costs.”

Karl George MBE
Managing Director, the governance forum
About ACGP

The Association of Corporate Governance Practitioners (ACGP), is the professional body focused on supporting governance practitioners, governance consultants and board members who have a responsibility for corporate governance.

ACGP provides accreditation for the On-Board programmes and all graduates are granted Student Membership on completion of the programme.

Thanks to Prof@Kgleadership @the Governanceforum @PFA 4 the excellent delivery of the #corporategovernance course. Was V‘beneficial Taff Rahman

Interesting people do interesting things...

If you would like to sponsor the programme or apply for the course, then please contact us

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