

New Directors Personal Statements

Jane Tool

Jane is an experienced Non-Executive Director and Chair, who previously worked in financial services for nearly 40 years. She started her executive career at the Bank of England in London, where she worked for 7 years, mainly in the International Division. She then moved to Yorkshire, where, after 18 months working as a Marketing Consultant for KPMG, she re-trained as a commercial and IT lawyer. She then worked for many years in-house at Yorkshire Building Society before briefly going back into legal private practice in Leeds. As Commercial Counsel at YBS, she was involved in most of the Society's new ventures for nearly 20 years, particularly those involving IT. Over the years, she advised all departments across the business and negotiated with all the Society's key suppliers, both large and small. She was also a member of the Society's Information Risk and Supplier Risk Forums. She has been a Director of Leeds City Credit Union for the last 6 years, including 2 as Chair. She stepped down from LCCU last March when her term expired. She is keen to continue her involvement with credit unions and to be involved in the development of mutual financial services and the levelling up agenda.

In her spare time, she is a keen amateur classical musician, playing the cello and piano and singing.

Russell Goodwin

Russell began his career from humble beginnings in a retail outlet specialising in woodturning and woodcarving. During this time, he not only developed practical skills but also embarked on a journey into management. He quickly transitioned into wholesale in Hair and Beauty, where he soon found himself overseeing 15 outlets, managing over 65 staff, and contributing to more than 50% of the group's revenue.

With a strong passion for IT, Russell is a self-taught expert in various areas including Business Intelligence, User Interface design, and Process Flows. Nearly 30 years ago, he made the switch from sales to a full-time IT career, working as a freelancer around the UK and Europe for over 10 years. After settling into permanent roles, he has held Head of IT positions for the past 15 years, working in sectors ranging from construction to financial services, particularly in the insurance industry. Russell is eager to continue sharing his knowledge gained from his diverse career through senior roles that support both business growth and his personal development.

On a personal note, Russell has a keen interest in music and cooking, as well as enjoying social gatherings with friends. He was also an avid scuba diver, having achieved instructor level and previously conducting research to locate shipwrecks for the Egyptian Government's tourist board. Additionally, he has a strong interest in property development, having built a portfolio as a part-time endeavour early in his career. He currently resides in the Yorkshire Dales in a property he converted from a derelict telephone exchange.