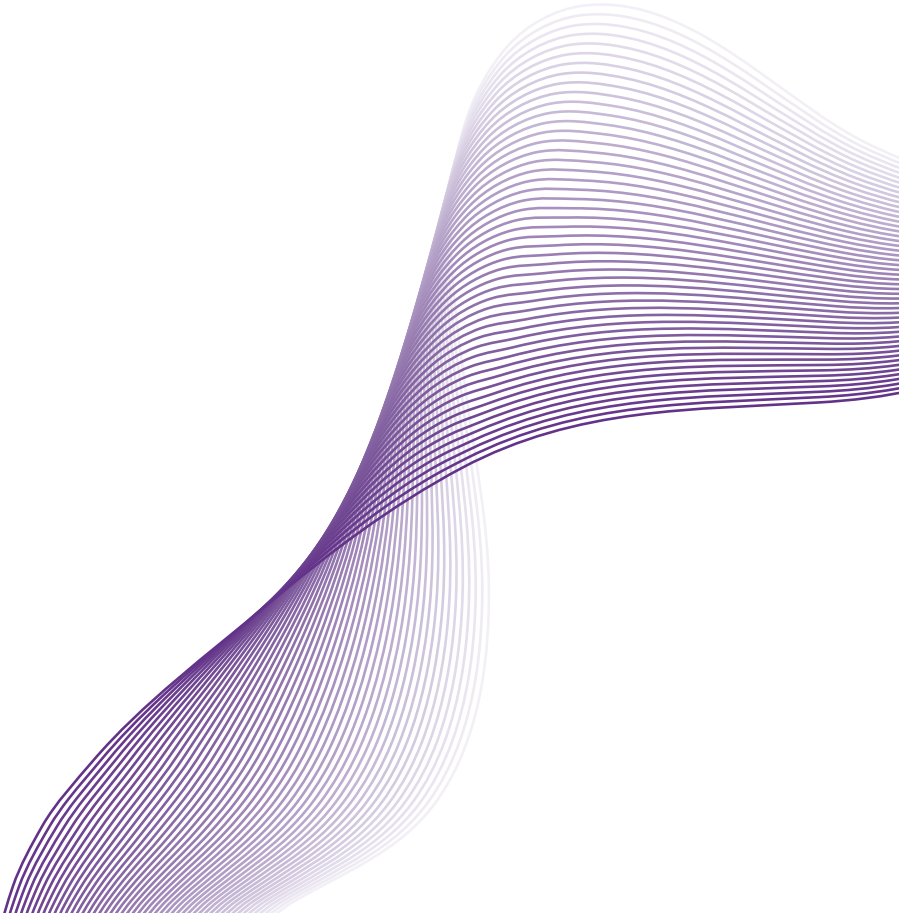


nominet

Election for non-executive directors of Nominet 2006
Candidate statements



List of candidates

Andrew Bennett	4
Gordon Dick	5
Lord Erroll	6
Peter Gradwell	7
Angus Hanton	8
Fay Howard	9

Andrew Bennett

Proposed by: Global Publications Ltd (via Barry Garner)

Seconded by: Chris Holland trading as CHC Internet

Since 1999 I have been an active online 'domainer', regularly taking part in online discussions relating to both the UK and international domain name industries.

Many of you will know me as "Whois-Search", and whether or not you always agree with my comments and suggestions, we all share the same passion for domain names.

I founded "Whois-Search.com" (an online whois service) in 2002, and today it is one of the most popular whois lookup services on the web. Although Whois-Search.com is a free service, I also provide domain name management and consultancy services privately for a variety of customers.

In 2003 I founded "Deleting.co.uk" - the first UK drop list service. This site is still the only one of its kind in the UK domain market. As a result of names being listed on Deleting.co.uk, hundreds of extra domain registrations take place each week.

This year, at the age of 25, I graduated from Staffordshire University with a Bsc (Hons) in Multimedia Computing (sandwich). I am currently studying for a Masters in Interactive Multimedia at the same University.

My main reasons for standing as a non-executive board member are:

- To bridge the growing gap between "domainers" and the wider stakeholder community.
- To ensure "domaining", "dropcatching" and "domain parking" are seen as acceptable business models.
- To find and recommend better methods for Nominet members to communicate and exchange thoughts and idea along side traditional "mailing lists".
- To ensure a complete review of the Domain Resolution Service (DRS) is conducted by the PAB.
- To ensure Nominet's scope develops with the pace of the internet today.

If you have any further questions please email com@andrewbennett.co.uk

Gordon Dick

Board member retiring by rotation and restanding

I have been involved in the internet industry since 1995 and I was first elected to the board of Nominet two years ago. Having sought feedback from a number of Nominet members and Policy Advisory Board members as to whether I should stand for re-election I decided it was important at this time to offer myself for a second term serving the membership.

As a member of the Nominet board I have also served on the Policy Advisory Board and Remuneration Committee for the last two years. Clearly as a board we made mistakes with the handling of proposals for the EGM earlier this year and from that I have learnt and I apologise. I have played a key role in re-engaging the membership to find a consensus on the way forward for Nominet that satisfies both the concerns and aspirations that members have for Nominet. I have been actively involved in member out-reach programs on the future which included meetings around the country over the last few months. I regularly take part in member meetings and other on-line and off-line forums of discussion with members and other stakeholders.

I have always believed that one of Nominet's key strengths is the status as a not-for-profit organisation serving the wider community that allows it to hold the trust of the industry, government and civil society at large.

I do not believe in representing just one type of member but in balancing the diverse needs and interests of all members and stakeholders, which can be very challenging. In doing this Nominet must ensure fairness in policy, strategy, and implementation, taking account of the views of all members and end users large and small. In order to achieve this further work is needed on our communications and consultations.

A timely and thorough review of the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) is already in preparatory stages and it is my desire to see this address the real concerns being raised about the current service.

There are clearly many challenges ahead for Nominet as the worldwide registry markets mature and consolidation occurs. As an industry owned organisation Nominet should ensure that it has the foothold necessary to move forward with the interests and backing of our members. Nominet must strive to be the best registry in the world in everything it does, technical and administrative.

Nominet should help the members in selling our core product of UK domain names but should do this in a manner that does not artificially distort the market and ensures buyers do not bypass members to purchase direct. I am interested in exploring the feasibility of encouraging growth in the personal registrations market making ".me.uk" as essential a piece of lifestyle infrastructure as a phone number is today.

I would like to hear from you as a Nominet member on any issue I can help with. Please email me at nominet-election2006@gordon.me.uk if you wish to discuss any Nominet issues.

Lord Erroll

Proposed by: Thus PLC trading as Demon (via Clive Feather)

Seconded by: Mistral Internet Ltd (via Alex Kells)

I was a software developer for many years and have also helped SMEs with business development. I sit, and have sat, on several boards and advisory boards and have a wide range of business and ICT experience.

I sit in the House of Lords as a Crossbench Peer (Independent) and have been heavily involved with many of the ICT issues that appear in legislation: the Computer Misuse Act (CMA), RIPA, ID and government data sharing are obvious, but there are also things like the Traffic Management Act which originally did not consider that the loss of your telecommunications link was an emergency worthy of a rapid response – until we fought it, this would have meant a wait of weeks or months before the road could be dug up.

As well as the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee and the European Information Society Group, I am an officer of the All-Party Internet Group and visited Washington last year with the group in order to take part in the Internet Caucus State of the Internet Conference where we were discussing internet governance and other issues that were pertinent. Within Parliament and without, I am actively involved in debates about internet governance and other legal issues concerning e-commerce.

I have been a member of the Nominet PAB for the last year and have been watching the growth of Nominet UK along with the corporate governance issues that this forces upon it. I think that it is important however not to lose sight of its origins and the underlying ethos that built the internet.

It is becoming apparent that governments and other global organisations are eyeing up the internet as an area into which they want to expand their governance and control. At this level the .uk TLD is a national asset (and the fifth largest registry in the world). At present the representation at the international level is carried out very competently, but I feel that it would be useful to have someone who can help watch out for the UK's 'Tag-holders' interests in Nominet at a political level in the future and makes sure that we are not disadvantaged and can get this message across at Parliamentary and EU levels.

If elected, I will attend as many board meetings as possible and will do my best to balance the ethos of the past with the new requirements of corporate governance, whilst ensuring that there is an infrastructure that supports future business growth in a fair manner.

Link to what I have done in the Lords: http://www.theyworkforyou.com/peer/earl_of_erroll

Link to the Crossbench Peers website: <http://www.crossbenchpeers.org.uk/>

Link to the E-business Regulatory Alliance: <http://www.e-ra.org.uk/team.htm>

errollm@parliament.uk

Peter Gradwell

Proposed by: gradwell dot com Ltd (via Peter Gradwell)

Seconded by: Pipex Communications UK Ltd (via Jarrod Robinson)

I am proposed in this election by my own organisation and by Pipex Communications UK. I am a Director of several other UK ISPs and stand with their support.

As an active and energetic entrepreneur, I will continue driving Nominet to complete the development of technical projects and maintain the stability and interfaces of their existing systems. I will also encourage Nominet to participate in the wider electronic communications industry and deploy its management, technical and regulatory skills to develop the common databases needed to advance that industry.

I was previously involved in Nominet Policy, chairing the Policy Advisory Board for 2 years (2002-2004) and was able to engage with many Nominet members during that period. Having spent time successfully developing my business I believe that it is now crucial that the Nominet Board continues to drive Nominet forward and develop support for the next generation of tools and technologies that we will build our communications businesses out of.

In the next 4 years the UK communications industry will continue to provide increasingly converged services as the any-time, any-where, electronic economy develops.

Similarly our electronic identifiers: domain names, telephone numbers, etc. will become increasingly converged and mobile. Consumers will have one identity, which they will demand to switch smoothly between providers.

Nominet's 10th birthday provides the opportunity to reflect that a great many of its traditional "issues" (Letters with ICANN, DRS, New Domains, Renewals Structure, etc.) are now resolved and that it is a well run registry and that from this position, it is well placed to take a leading role in the running of other similar public communications infrastructure databases as the opportunities arise.

Whilst we must keep advancing, we must also be mindful of the responsibilities Nominet has to UK registrars whom are driving forward usage of domain names. Policy changes at Nominet have far reaching implications and we must not damage registrars' operational practices by leaving its old systems and interfaces behind as we goes through a process of technical renewal.

Historically, larger domain registrars in the UK have simply interacted with Nominet as a supplier, with little proactive involvement in the development of its policy and process. As the market matures we find that the larger members are more interested in participating, but that the current framework of consulting and debate for Nominet members (e.g. mailing lists) is out dated and ineffective. A key challenge for the Nominet board in this next term is engaging with those Nominet members who lead the industry commercially. I am standing for this election with excellent links to the larger commercial registrar community, to whom I believe we must continue to reach out and engage.

Being a Director of Nominet would provide me with the experience of being a director of a large "quasi-PLC" which will extend my skills and relationships. I am 27, I live and work in Bath and am available on 01225 800 810 or sip:peter@gradwell.com. You can find out more at <http://peter.gradwell.com/>

Angus Hanton

Proposed by: Paragon Limited (via David Blackburn)

Seconded by: Michael Toth

£4 per name registrations!

Nominet should drop the charge for registrations and renewals to £4 as soon as possible. Having studied the accounts I can see that Nominet can comfortably afford to do this and will still make a profit of about £1 million per year. It appears not to be the current board's intention to reduce the price of names at the moment, but they could and should cut prices. Voting for me should help get registration prices reduced.

In round numbers from last year's accounts, Nominet makes £3.5 million profit on £12.5 million turnover and a cut in registration and renewal costs to £4 would reduce both turnover and profit by about £2.5 million. This still leaves plenty of room for contingencies and for building up reserves. It is said that some registries such as the German one only charge about one euro per year. Nominet seems to be a relatively high cost registry and is in the odd position of paying over £1 million of tax annually – money that has come from the registration charges.

The arguments that I have heard for keeping the charge at £5 look unconvincing. It has been suggested that lower fees might lead to higher demand (does that matter?), that the higher charge makes people value their names more highly (!) and that some members don't care about the level of the charge anyway. I believe that most members do want lower charges if possible and that Nominet should be trying to reduce these.

About me:

I am 46, an economics graduate and a director of one public company and a small number of private companies – what I would bring to the board would be: concern to cut costs, experience of forward-planning and a focus on the interests of Nominet members. I would be in favour of a review of the DRS, which seems to be generating some surprising decisions. I have thought about most of the current issues including enum and therefore I shouldn't need too much time to get "up to speed" with the current board.

I would be very contactable – I reply to all emails and phone calls and I already attend most Nominet meetings. Contact me via angus@woodlands.co.uk

Personal strengths: numbers, strategy, and team-working.

Personal likings: I like meeting people, travel and chocolate.

Summary:

You'll get a director committed to £4 or less per domain name renewal and registration, someone experienced with company management and someone who will be a friendly face for Nominet.

Fay Howard

Board member retiring by rotation and restanding

I have served on the board of Nominet since 2002. I am a member of the Remuneration Committee and chair the Audit Committee.

During my first term of office, Nominet focus was on improving efficiency and registration services. Due to the excellent work of the staff and Executive, Nominet has an excellent reputation in the global community.

During the current term the board has devoted much time to a review of corporate governance and structure. It is important that Nominet has statutes that enable it to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the maturing industry. I believe that Nominet can benefit from the technical and operational innovations that new projects will encourage. This does not mean complacency in the area of Nominet's core function and I will continue to encourage Nominet's programme of service improvements and participation in improving industry standards in domain name registration.

As a board, we initially misjudged the process for achieving the proposed changes and I personally regret this very much. However, we have learned from the experience and have been able to review the way in which we relate with members and other stakeholders to ensure we understand their requirements and concerns. In standing for re-election, I hope to see through the current review with the benefit of the consultation process and having listened to the views of many individual members.

I have worked in the international internet sector for 12 years, primarily in the ccTLD community. As the General Manager of CENTR, the Council of European National Top level domain Registries, and representation of ccTLDs in the ICANN arena, I have a broad understanding of country code TLD management at a global level. I have also worked at Nominet on the INCOP project, a feasibility study for a code of practice in domain name registration services.

As a consultant I have worked with a number of registrars and gained valuable insight into their perspective on domain name industry. I also chaired the Domain Name Registration forum at RIPE for a number of years.

By professional training, I am a Legal Liabilities Insurance Underwriter and having worked in the financial sector, believe that commercial standards should be not be overlooked in the not-for profit-sector.

I value the membership structure of Nominet and the opportunity it gives stakeholders to participate. My work brings me into contact with many key stakeholders in the UK and beyond and I continue to read nom-steer posting to pick up on participant's concerns. I also value the work of Nominet's Policy Advisory Board and their input into the board on matters of policy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss these issues further.
fay@nominet.org.uk

YOUR VOTE IS
IMPORTANT –
PLEASE USE IT

