

Tuesday 5th July 2011

Industry leaders endorse growth through diversity

The inaugural 30% “Action Beyond Words” seminar promotes the next steps to get more women on boards

Tuesday 5th July, London – Last night saw the inaugural 30% Club “Actions Beyond Words” seminar held at London’s Cass Business School. The event, where speakers included the Home Secretary – the Rt Hon. Theresa May, Centrica Chairman Sir Roger Carr and Lloyds Chairman Sir Win Bischoff, focused on the positive actions that need to be taken to make the much talked about change now happen.

Amongst the 150 attendees, was a swathe of supporting FTSE Chairmen including those of Marks & Spencer, Allen & Overy, Deloitte and HSBC along with CEO of MITIE Ruby McGregor- Smith and Peter Montagnon from the Financial Reporting Council. Topics covered included the FRC corporate governance code consultation, the ineffectiveness of quotas, the role of the headhunter and support for getting talented women back into the workplace after having children. One of the more salient points made by Martin Gilbert, Chief Executive of Aberdeen Asset Manager, was that increased interest and pressure on boards by shareholders, especially fund managers, was the key to make this change happen swiftly.

The Home Secretary, who spoke at the event said:

“This government’s priority is to get our economy back in shape. To do that we need to give all women the opportunity to achieve their full potential – from proper careers advice in schools, to making sure talented women reach the very top.”

“That also means getting more women onto the boards of the UK’s biggest companies. There’s growing evidence that more diverse boards are better boards, they make better decisions, know their customers better and out perform their male-dominated rivals. Businesses and organisations like the 30% Club are taking a lead role in making change happen.”

Helena Morrissey, Founder of the 30% Club commented:

“We are encouraged that so many of the 30% Club’s supporting FTSE Chairmen attended our inaugural event. Without them this change can’t happen but there must also be work from the ground up as well as from the top down. Headhunters, Government and companies must all play their part to adapt and adjust the old ways of working before our over-arching goals can be achieved. This event really showed that the desire for change is there, we now just need to make it happen.”

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Notes to Editors

Influential Chairmen supporting the 30% Club initiative include:

Sir Win Bischoff — Lloyds Banking Group	John Griffith-Jones — KPMG
Sir Roger Carr — Centrica	Sir Philip Hampton — Royal Bank of Scotland
David Childs — Clifford Chance	John Heaps — Eversheds
Allan Cook — Atkins	Charlie Mayfield — John Lewis
David Cruickshank — Deloitte	Mike McTighe — JJB/ Pace/Volex
Ian Durant — CapCo Properties	Glen Moreno — Pearson
Neville Eisenberg — Berwin Leighton Paisner	David Morley — Allen & Overy
Douglas Ferrans — Invista	Alan Parker — Brunswick
Douglas Flint — HSBC	Sir John Parker — Anglo American/National Grid
Anita Frew — Victrex	Lord Sharman of Redlynch — Aviva
Sir Christopher Gent — GlaxoSmithKline	Robert Swannell — Marks & Spencer
Lord Stephen Green — Former Chairman, HSBC / Minister of State for Trade and Investment	David Tyler — Sainsbury's
	Steve Varley — Ernst & Young

The 30% Club initiative was founded by Helena Morrissey, CEO, Newton Investment Management, and is led by her and a group of senior businesswomen including:

Laura Batty — MHPC	Jane Lowe — IMA
Tamara Box — Berwin Leighton Paisner	Sally Martin — Shell
Sally Boyle — Goldman Sachs	Heather McGregor — Taylor Bennett
Diana Brightmore Armour — Lloyds	Helena Morrissey — Newton
Lisa Bryant — Lloyds	Melanie Richards — KPMG
Caroline Carr — Goldman Sachs	Henrietta Royle — Fanshawe Haldin
Gay Collins — MHPC	Joanna Santinon — Ernst & Young
Tina Gill — Ernst & Young	Jane Scott — Professional Boards Forum
Mary Goudie — Labour Peer	Pamela Smith — Deutsche Bank
Vimi Grewal-Carr — Deloitte	Aimee Stebbing — Davenport Lyons
Emma Howard Boyd — Jupiter	Peninah Thomson — Praesta
Claudia Kohler — Newton	Siân Westerman — Rothschild

For further information, please contact:

MHP Communications

Email: 30PercentClub@mhpc.com



Gay Collins +44 20 3128 8582
Laura Batty +44 20 3128 8520

www.30percentclub.org.uk