



CHAIRMAN'S NETWORK

where leaders connect

www.chairmansnetwork.com



3 things I have learned as Chairman

By Rod Perry, Chairman PartyGaming plc

1. Your job is to manage the Board and not the company. There seem to be three kinds of Chairman - the dominant, egocentric variety who wish to enhance and protect their own reputation and interfere with the role of the Executive, the 'manager of the Board meetings' type who contribute little and the type that understands that the Executives run the company and the Chairman's role is to facilitate and mentor the CEO and deal with shareholder issues directly whilst being capable of tough but fair action if the situation demands. I hope I have been the latter type!
2. Your job is to communicate effectively with all members of the Non-Executive Board and ensure they are all aware of significant issues as they arise - not waiting for the next Board meeting. I prefer not to delegate this but keep the communication lines open and working 24x7 when necessary.
3. Your job is to create an environment of trust between senior executives and the Non Executive Board members and ensure that the Executive Directors never see that as a threat or 'going behind their back.' This should allow NED's to 'add value' throughout the company through their personal business networks.