



City HR Association AGM & Board Update



Ben Higgins

It is with such pride and optimism for the future that I am handing over the reins of Chair to the fantastic Louise Brown after four years leading the Board of City HR and moving aside as a Director of the Association after a total of eight years. I am extremely proud of everything that City HR delivers and stands for; at its core the trio of Andrea, Cindy and Sam that, together, care deeply about the HR profession, the financial services sector and supporting its members.

This sense of community is something that I benefited from when I first started attending events in the infancy of my career, eager to soak up as much knowledge as possible whilst building a life-long network of great HR folk, many of whom I am still in regular contact with today. This membership community is stronger than ever before, accelerated by the events of the last two years when HR teams were (quite rightly) in the spotlight to lead businesses through the significant people challenges Covid presented. Any doubters about the impact HR can make to crisis management on the scale of the pandemic were hopefully silenced!



Thinking back to my speech at the AGM when Paul Hucknall, my predecessor, handed me the reins in June 2018, I vowed to accept the nomination of being Chair with one proviso; to develop more diversity on the Board at City HR. I am delighted this has been achieved and, moreover, we pushed the boat out by launching a diverse Shadow Board in mid-2020. It has been a real privilege to work with our HR leaders of the future and fine-tune the events that City HR offers to ensure we offer as much as we possibly can to our members. In line with many of our member organisations, diversity has morphed into inclusion.

I would like to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to Barbara Turner who partnered with me in her role as Vice Chair. I very much look forward to staying close to City HR and see it, no doubt, go from strength to strength, always with that sense of community and care at its core. My very best wishes to the two sets of trios leading the Association into the future: Louise, Ali and Monique on the Board, and Andrea, Cindy and Sam running the show!



Louise Brown

I receive the reins of Chair with huge honour and privilege from Ben, I am so excited to be leading the Board of City HR together with Andrea, Cindy and Sam. Looking forward to the next chapter of our wonderful Association, I can't help but reflect on the camaraderie, loyalty, passion, and excellence that runs through its DNA. The pandemic years gave a long-awaited spotlight on our profession, one which City HR established a leading role in, supporting our membership navigate the greatest disruption we have ever seen across the Global workforce since our inception.

I truly love everything that City HR stands for and cannot wait to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with you all. It would be negligent of me not to recognise the privilege I have to accept my nomination of Chair during such a

spectacular year. I know that the recipe of an innovative Shadow Board, vibrant core team and inspiring Board promises to keep the spotlight shining on a fantastic menu to explore over the coming months and years. What we do is so important to our profession and to our many members and HR leaders across Financial Services. I vow to drive the future fitness of the Association, making our content, services and offering even more accessible to all strands of the Talent pools we touch across the work we do and services we offer. Helping our HR leaders navigate the future of work and evolving people priorities, bringing energy into the unknowns and discovery into future disruptions, helping our membership to lead and excel in the new world of work.

It leaves me to thank you all for your continued support and look forward to working with my Vice Chairs Ali and Monique alongside our core trio Andrea, Sam and Cindy to raise the curtain on the next 50 years!