

## **Unicorn Asset Management saddened by death of Chairman, Colin Howell**

### **Peter Dicks appointed as Interim Chair\* with immediate effect**

The Board and employees of [Unicorn Asset Management](#), the independent UK equity specialist, are deeply saddened to announce the unexpected death of our Non-Executive Chairman, Colin Howell.

Everyone at Unicorn is deeply shocked and saddened by Colin's sudden death and we send our heartfelt condolences to his wife, Jean and to his entire family. Our thoughts are with them all.

Colin's contribution to the success of Unicorn over the past fifteen years has been profound. Having joined the Board as a non-executive director at the height of the global financial crisis in 2008, he worked tirelessly to support and encourage the team, which helped ensure that Unicorn was in a strong position to thrive following an exceptionally challenging period for the entire investment industry.

In subsequent years, under Colin's astute guidance and ever-watchful eye as Chairman, Unicorn grew steadily and sustainably, cementing its reputation as a leading independent UK equity investment specialist. Colin was also Chairman of several highly successful engineering businesses and brought over 40 years' business expertise and insight to his role at Unicorn.

To provide continuity, the Board has invited Peter Dicks to assume the role of Interim Chair. We are delighted to announce that Peter has accepted this invitation and has been appointed to the role with immediate effect.

Peter is a highly respected investment practitioner, with over 50 years' experience in the sector, including successful periods as a venture capitalist investing in technology companies, a board member of numerous private and public companies in the UK and USA, and a director of investment funds and of fund-of-funds.

Peter worked closely with the Unicorn team for many years, having served as Chair of Unicorn AIM VCT from its inception in 2001 until his retirement in May 2020. Peter is therefore ideally placed to assume the role of Interim Chair and we all look forward to working with him once again.

Over the past 18 months, being mindful of the importance of succession planning and the need for business continuity, the Board of Unicorn Asset Management has been working collectively to identify potential non-executive directors with the appropriate skills and experience to help guide Unicorn in the next phase of its development. Colin had been an integral part of this process. We therefore look forward to making further positive announcements in this regard in the coming months.

**Chris Hutchinson, Director, Unicorn Asset Management** commented; *"We are all devastated by Colin's sudden and untimely death. To properly express in a few words what Colin meant to us individually and collectively is impossible but, simply put, Colin was an extraordinary man with a*

*giant personality, who made an indelible impression on all those who were lucky enough to know and work with him. His contribution to, and unwavering support of, Unicorn throughout his 15-year tenure as non-executive director and Chairman was truly inspiring and difficult to overstate.*

*“Colin was a stimulating and challenging character, who was possessed of powerful leadership qualities, boundless energy, tremendous clarity of thought and a hugely positive and ambitious vision for Unicorn. Importantly, from an asset management perspective, Colin totally understood, and constantly emphasised the importance of always placing the best interests of investors in our funds at the heart of everything we do.*

*“Colin was a passionate advocate for independent, specialist and active fund management businesses such as Unicorn. His energy, enthusiasm, experience, insight, advice, endless curiosity, mischievous sense of humour, lust for life and unwavering support will all be hugely missed.*

*“Finally, Unicorn is extremely grateful to Peter Dicks for agreeing to become Interim Chair at short notice and with immediate effect. We all look forward to working with him and know that his considerable insight, wisdom and experience will prove invaluable at a sad moment for Unicorn.”*

\*Subject to regulatory approval

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