



Industry Professionals serving as non-executive directors to Alternative Funds

Does my bum look big in this?



First of all, we would like to bring you news – and a picture - of a new airship, formerly and informally known as “The Flying Bum” and now officially named “Martha Gwyn” after a close friend of one of our IPAF panel members. Will she make it across the Atlantic like her predecessor, the famous Hindenburg?

This newsletter comes to you from IPAF (Cayman). Two of us were in New York last week, spreading the good word about the advantages of good corporate governance in the alternatives industry.

Have our attempts to propagate this particular gospel of good governance fallen on stony or fertile ground?

Anecdotally, the word is that European investors have for some time led the way in caring about the need for balanced, committed, knowledgeable boards in the alternatives space, with the US following in its wake and Asia lagging behind. And this has also been our experience at IPAF.

There seems to be some investor pressure for US-based funds to raise their game and upgrade their boards. One eminent New York-based lawyer told us that he is now seeing institutions requiring funds to add independent directors before they will invest over a certain amount. There have even been some objections to having more than one independent director from the same directors’ company. These are – and have been for some time – completely obvious conditions to European managers. The best ideas, like the Martha Gwyn, can take some time to cross the Atlantic. Our hope is for a swift journey and a ticker tape welcome parade!

If the Martha Gwyn makes it, then it will clearly get to New York before California. And we also hear that the first signs of improved awareness of the importance of a good board (with one or two notable exceptions) have reached the East Coast before the West.

Per ardua ad astra.

P.S. The real Martha Gwyn has a very elegant figure!



About IPAF

IPAF provides Industry Professionals – independent, knowledgeable and experienced people - as non-executive directors to Alternative Funds. IPAF is run from London with a panel of 16 directors across 9 jurisdictions: Cayman, Luxembourg, Ireland, Switzerland, the Channel Islands, Malta, Bermuda, Barbados and the UK. All the IPAF directors are independent of each other and no additional fee is charged by IPAF to a fund that selects a member of its panel: the fund only pays the director’s fees. For more information please email info@ipafgroup.com.