

Alan and Gail Robinson have been Directors of more than **30** companies **which are now dissolved**, not including their current Paradigm family of companies. All of these with the exception of the Paradigm companies were pre 2010 and were in the telecommunications industry.

Their companies were restructured several times, so that, for instance, a company that began as a subsidiary of another could end up owning the original parent company, or a company could be moved “offshore” and renamed. Their history is therefore quite tangled.

After a disastrous court case in 2008, the Robinsons abandoned telecommunications in favor of energy-related ventures.

The ultimate “owner” of the Convergence companies in 2008 was The Broadband Trust, of which Robinson was the primary beneficiary. In 2008 “the Trust” was administered by JTC Trustees Ltd. Between 1999 and 2007, the Trust funneled £11 million (almost \$18 million at today’s rates) into Robinson’s companies. This is according to court documents cited below.

The court case was something of a landmark, because Alan Robinson, after being deemed by the British judge “a dishonest man,” was held personally liable for the damages of nearly £6 million, consisting of fees owed to the accountant for services rendered, plus costs of mediation and litigation. (I’m not sure what the exchange rate was in 2008, but at today’s rate that’s \$9.6 million.)

See below Chantrey Vellacott court case information for the details of the landmark case and dissolution of companies by Alan Robinson and his personal liability.

Two years later, in 2010, the Robinsons began forming the Paradigm group, which is focused exclusively on energy-related ventures. (This is why I’m wondering about the Trust: if he was deep in the hole to creditors in 2008, how’s he starting up again in 2010?)

The Convergence Group PLC was formed under another name in 1985 and became Convergence in 1996. Prior to the 2007 suit, Convergence sued a company in 1999 that it had hired to structure a takeover, because the takeover failed; the suit was filed in NJ, but the case was [rejected as out of jurisdiction and sent back to the UK](#). I found no follow-up to this case and conclude it was dropped.

The Chantrey Vellacott Case

The 2007 suit which Convergence lost had a similar basis: Convergence failed to get licensing and financing for a plan to set up broadband service in Greece in time for the 2004 Athens Olympics, and Robinson blamed this failure on his accountants. The accountants, **Chantrey Vellacott (CV)**, had filed for payments due, so Robinson filed a counterclaim saying that CV had caused Convergence to lose a \$100 million opportunity. Robinson’s counterclaim was ultimately rejected as excessive and factually baseless.

Furthermore, upon cross-examination Robinson was found to have lied repeatedly throughout proceedings. **During a pre-scheduled break in the trial, after his poor performance but before the trial could resume, Robinson filed for dissolution of the Convergence companies** due to lack of funds to pay any creditors, including the creditor bringing the suit. As a result of Robinson's dishonesty and his ignoring of prior advice from his own attorneys that the suit would fail, he was made personally liable for the company's debts.

Here a 2014 accountants' trade publication describes the case and notes that, although Robinson was held personally liable to pay CV, [CV's insurer ended up paying](#). (This means Robinson is now raising money for Paradigm without ever having paid CV.)

Here a builder magazine cites the case as [a cautionary tale against filing frivolous lawsuits](#). (At this site, you can read one article free within 30 days and then have to register, but you can still see the blurb at the top of the page.)

Here a law review cites it as [a landmark case in personal liability for directors](#) of limited liability corporations.

The case was written up in exhaustive detail by the judge, whose assessment included the following statement: *"Mr Robinson's difficulty is, I regret to say, that he is a dishonest man."*

The judge's account in full (about 150 pages) is here:

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Ch/2007/1774.html>

Dissolved Convergence-era companies of which one or both Robinsons was a Director

[Source](#) of company data unless otherwise indicated.

Brent Walker Communications Ltd. (Alan only) 1989-1993

Mainline Television Ltd. 1993-?

London Atlantic Ltd. (Alan only?) 1994-1995

Dynamic Web Solutions Ltd. (Gail only) 1991-199?

Eurobell (Sussex) Ltd. 1991-1996

Eurobell CPE Ltd. 1992-1996

Eurobell (South West) Ltd. (Gail only?) 1994-1996

Eurobell (West Kent) Ltd. 1994-1996

The Cable Communications Association Ltd. (Alan only?) 1994-1996

The Intelligent Network Channel Ltd. 1995-?

European Broadband Systems Ltd. 1995-?

Eurobell (Holdings) Ltd. 1994-1996

Eurobell Ltd. 1995-1996

Eurobell (No. 3) Ltd. (Gail only?) 1995-1996

Eurobell (No. 4) Ltd. 1994-1996

In this article Robinson denies a 1995 [rumor that he plans to sell Eurobell](#). The same story refers to Telewest as a separate company, so Telewest could not have been "founded" by Paradigm, unless the founder of Telewest is now (2014) a Paradigm director.

Robinson [seeks investors](#) for Eurobell in 1996.

European Convergence (Managed Services) Ltd. 1994-?

Convergence Technology Ltd. 1995-?

Convergence (LPA) Ltd. 1995-?

Convergence (Somerset) Ltd. 1996-?

Convergence (Yeovil) Ltd. 1996-?

Convergence Aviation and Communications Ltd. 1995-2008

Acc to [this Bloomberg site](#), the company's primary business was providing broadband communications.

Convergence Aviation (UK) Ltd. 1995-2008

In 2008 Convergence Aviation and Image Air of South Florida sued a London company ("BBB") for an improper repair by a Dallas subsidiary in 2005 to the engine of a small plane which crashed years later. By the time of the suit, Convergence should have been dissolved, so I'm not sure how the suit went forward, or why it was filed in Illinois. Despite four "motions for discovery" by the plaintiffs to find documents proving that the London company was responsible for its subsidiary, the judge found that the plaintiffs wanted proof that didn't exist. However it proceeded, in 2012 the case was [here found not to belong in the jurisdiction of Illinois](#). The site format doesn't allow copying, but details about the plaintiffs' insistence on pressing BBB for documents beyond what the court considered reasonable are on p. 16 (section C, Jurisdictional Discovery).

Convergence Airport Design Construction & Technologies Ltd. 1996-2008

Despite the name, [acc to Bloomberg](#) this was a telecom company.

[Notice of insolvency](#) in August 2008.

[Final liquidation notice](#) to creditors in May 2011.

Convergence International Aviation Ltd. 1995-2008

Convergence International Airports Organisation Ltd. 2003-2008

CIAO is referred to here as the ["technical management team" of CAFCO](#), owner of Coventry Airport.

CIAO LBIA Ltd. 2006-2008

ERRAF Ltd. 2004-2008

Orval Yarger of Bloomington was a Director (Pilot) of this company, which acc to this self-description was ["an Anglo American JV holding company and the key shareholder in CIAO"](#), a British aviation development company."

CAFCO (Coventry) Ltd. 2005-2008

CAFCO was formed [to purchase Coventry Airport](#).

CVT Solutions Ltd. 2005-2008.

I'm not sure what this company was about: "CVT" is the symbol for Coventry Airport, but it could also refer to an aircraft engine component called continuously variable transmission.

West Midlands International Airport Ltd. 2005-2008

This airport is the same as Coventry.

Southwest Regional Airports (Exeter) Ltd. 2006-2008

Some details of the [company's dissolution](#).

Southwest Regional Airports (Spain) Ltd. 2004-2008

Despite the name, acc to this site, the company is an [educational establishment](#).

Skypark-Exeter Ltd. 2005-2008

Skypark is a proposed industrial/office park at Exeter Airport that had [not been built](#) as of March 2014 and is being outpaced by [another development](#).

Amador Ltd. 1991-2008

The name under which the Robinsons' operated their equestrian farm in Exeter, [Coxland Farm](#), where they also held some of the board meetings referred to in the 2007 court case.

[CompanyCheck.co.uk](#)

All ventures begun after 2008 are energy-related, and none have websites except Paradigm BioAviation. The links included are to [CompanyCheck.co.uk](#) or similar databases.

Gail's solo venture

Aside from the Paradigm companies listed below, the only post-2008 company is:

[Devon Bio-Nutrients and Energies Ltd.](#) 2010-present

Gail is the only Director.

Gail's [LinkedIn profile](#) lists this company as her only "Experience." She also lists her "top skills" as renewable energy, gas, oil/gas, energy, business strategy, petroleum, procurement, engineering, contract management, and offshore drilling. Her profile says she "also knows about" the energy industry, process engineering, and EPC.

According to notices cited from public records in the London Gazette, since July 2011 the company has been under a ["compulsory strike-off" that has been "suspended"](#) three times, the most recent in February 2014. (Scroll to bottom of link; site format won't allow legible copying.)

NAME CHANGES

A note on names

During the Convergence era of companies, both Robinsons registered all their 30+ companies under the names Alan Stuart Macdonald Robinson and Gail Farrin Robinson. By contrast, their Paradigm companies show up under the names Alan Stuart Robinson and Gail Farrin-Robinson (hyphenated). At first I thought Alan Stuart Robinson must be a son of Alan Stuart Macdonald Robinson, but they are the same person. Since the Robinsons' permanent address also changed when the Convergence debacle forced them to sell their farm, the effect of these slight name tweaks is that, depending on which database you use, the Convergence-era history may not show up unless you search under the original names. In that case, both Robinsons appear to have no company history prior to Devon Bio-Nutrients and Paradigm.

For example, compare this listing from CompanyCheck.co.uk for [Alan Stuart Robinson](#):

Alan Robinson holds 4 appointments at 4 active companies, has resigned from 1 companies and held 0 appointments at 0 dissolved companies. Alan began their first appointment at the age of 57. Their longest current appointment spans 4 years and 0 months at PARADIGM ENERGIES LTD.

to this listing at the same database for [Alan Stuart Macdonald Robinson](#):

Alan Robinson holds 0 appointments at 0 active companies, has resigned from 26 companies and held 8 appointments at 8 dissolved companies. Alan is not registered as holding any current appointments.

Here's the listing for [Gail Farrin-Robinson](#):

Gail Farrin-Robinson holds 1 appointments at 1 active companies, has resigned from 0 companies and held 0 appointments at 0 dissolved companies. Gail began their first appointment at the age of 62. Their longest current appointment spans 2 years and 4 months at PARADIGM ENERGIES EQUITY PARTNERS LLP.

And the listing for [Gail Farrin Robinson](#):

Gail Farrin Robinson holds 2 appointments at 2 active companies, has resigned from 16 companies and held 14 appointments at 14 dissolved companies. Gail began their first appointment at the age of 41. Their longest current appointment spans 21 years and 9 months at THE CONVERGENCE GROUP PLC.

It's not rocket science to make the connections, but it takes some extra steps. (My opinion: I don't see any reason why, after 35 years in business, Gail should suddenly hyphenate her name and Alan should drop a middle name except to distance themselves from their track record.)

Paradigm companies

The following information is taken from commercial websites such as CompanyCheck.co.uk and OpenCompany.co.uk. Listings are only as up-to-date as the filings by the directors. In the case of Paradigm Energies Equity Partners (PEEP), the list of members is clearly out of date, because Lester Vicary (the Peoria attorney who hung up on me) is still listed but he wants nothing to do with Paradigm. Brumwell, who recently resigned from two of these companies, has probably also resigned from PEEP.

All the Paradigm companies listed below have the same London address (145-157 St. John Street, London ECN 4PN). As above, the links are to CompanyCheck, where you can follow the tabs in the navigation bar to see the lists of directors for each company.

[Paradigm Energies Ltd.](#) 9/2010-present

Directors Alan Stuart Robinson and Orval Jens Yarger of Bloomington

Former Company Secretary James Brumwell (attorney) left the board in 2/2014 and was replaced as secretary by Oliver James Robinson (Alan's son) on 9/18/2014.

[Paradigm Technologies and Systems Ltd.](#) 9/2010-present

Alan Stuart Robinson is currently the only director, because James Brumwell resigned as Company Secretary earlier in 2014.

[Paradigm Energies Equity Partners Ltd.](#) 4/2012-present

Acc to this [source](#), Paradigm Energies Ltd., Alan Stuart Robinson, and Orval Yarger of Bloomington are the only "designated LLP members."

The "non-designated" members from both sources include Charles John Keene, Clayton Tolley, David John Waterhouse, Douglas Nord, Gregory Kent Vail, James Edward Brumwell, Jim Leonard, Kenneth R. Rittenhouse, Lester William Vicary, Malcolm Murphey, Michael Andrew Fearfield, Oliver James Robinson, Stephen Johnson, Christine Saunders, Gail Carolyn Ferrin-Robinson, Margaret Flanagan, Nancy Iacobucci, Mindy Chebaut, One5Two LLP, and Zmundo.com Productions Inc.

[Paradigm Carbontrust Parners Ltd.](#) 11/2012-present

Directors Alan Stuart Robinson (b. 1961) and Oliver James Robinson (b. 1988)

Orval's connections:

The reason the Robinsons have chosen Bloomington as their first site for a waste-to-energy plant seems to be the next person.

Orval Jens Yarger, current pilot with Image Air and former owner of the Alamo II college bookstore, is listed as a member of both Paradigm BioAviation and its parent company in the UK, Paradigm Energies Equity Partners.

According to a description of Paradigm BioAviation on the Environmental Expert website, Paradigm, which was incorporated in either 2010 or 2012 (depending on source and whether the company is P. BioAviation or P. Energies EP), has a "Longstanding aviation presence" in central Illinois. I assume this presence must refer to Yarger. <http://www.environmental-expert.com/companies/paradigm-bioaviation-39060>.

Yarger's Connections to the Robinsons

Yarger has business connections to Robinson through aviation going back to at least 2009. **Yarger and Alan Robinson are the only "designated" LLP members of Paradigm Energies Equity Partners; there are 17 additional "non-designated" members, acc to** <http://companies.findthebest.co.uk/I/2246453/Paradigm-Energies-Equity-Partners-Llp-in-London-United-Kingdom>

Yarger is not only a current member of Paradigm BioAviation, but he was also a member of two previous Robinson ventures, both of which seem to be now dissolved. The first was Erraf Ltd., in Reigate, Surrey, UK, in which he is listed as a Director (Pilot) for the period April 2009 to March 2013. <http://www.companydirectorcheck.com/orval-jens-yarger-2>

The same source lists Yarger as a Director (Pilot) since July 2009 of Convergence International Airports Organisation Limited, at the identical address, with a note that the company is under a "proposal to strike off," apparently the British term for dissolve. Another source shows Yarger appointed in July 2009

as a Company Officer and in April 2010 as Company Secretary of Convergence, which conducted “service activities incidental to air transportation,” according to <http://directors.findthebest.co.uk/l/6132537/Orval-Jens-Yarger>.