

# Mentor Profile

**Mentor Name**      **Geoff Holt**

## Pen Portrait

After 11 years in financial management, I set up my own businesses in IT providing management information solutions over 17 years to a wide range of businesses. I have experience of acquiring and selling businesses, preparing for an IPO and obtaining private equity investments. I now provide services to small business to help them grow; improve profitability and management, with a particular focus on business plans and financial projections.

### **What is your greatest achievement so far?**

Being part of a senior management team of a group of companies that successful sold the business to a large multinational plc.

### **Name an organisation (other than your own) that you see as the perfect one and why?**

John Lewis Partnership. The company is owned by its employees and has a proven to be very successful, achieved through well motivated staff giving an excellent customer service.

### **Name a business leader that you admire and why?**

Gerry Robinson because of his "down to earth" practical approach to analyzing and solving business problems.

### **Why are you passionate about mentoring?**

I really enjoy learning about clients businesses and helping them to find ways to fix problems, plan for the future and resolve issues.

### **Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?**

Michael Ashcroft for his business acumen and his skills in getting the right people in the job.

## **Professional Qualifications:**

Chartered Accountant (FCA)

## **Experience:**

Positions held include Group Finance Director, Managing Director, UK Sales and Marketing Director, Director/Consultant. Sectors: Home Improvements, Construction, Manufacturing, IT and Service sector, Franchising and Consultancy.

## **Skills and Expertise:**

Accounting, system requirement specifications, implementing software systems, solution sales and marketing, business plans and pitching for funding, mentoring and consultancy. Advanced user of Excel, Access and Word.