

People

VIRGIN RAIL GROUP

Virgin Rail Group has announced the restructuring of its senior management team, with **Chris Green** due to move into the position of non-executive chairman, Virgin Rail Group. Green will move from his post of chief executive to take up his new position in September, when **Tony Collins**, currently deputy chief executive, Virgin Trains, steps up to replace him.



Chris Green

The move is being heralded by Virgin as 'the culmination of detailed succession planning and strengthening of the senior management team, which saw **Charles Belcher** and **Chris Gibb** put in charge of the West Coast and CrossCountry franchises respectively, last year.'

Virgin Rail Group's co-chairmen, **Stephen Murphy** and **Graham Eccles**, will continue to represent shareholders as non-executive directors. Virgin said: 'We are pleased Chris has agreed to take on this new and challenging role, which will support our day-to-day management team in delivering the innovation and high standards that our customers expect from a Virgin/Stagecoach business.'

Green said: 'My current mission as chief executive has been to manage the company through a complex transition from the old to new railway. From September, I look forward to supporting Tony and his team as they focus on developing our core rail business.'

Collins said: 'There is a strong and experienced team at Virgin and I am looking forward to working with senior managers and frontline people to build on our success as we take the business forward.'

Until September **Collins** will continue to focus on franchising negotiations with the SRA and on delivery of the new West Coast railway. Virgin Trains has now taken delivery of 119 new trains and has just 12 more Pendolino deliveries to accept to enable renewal of the entire fleet.

EUROTUNNEL

Philippe Bourguignon will be appointed chairman of the

Eurotunnel Joint Board from 29 October, when **Charles Mackay** is due to retire.

Subject to his election as a director of the board at the forthcoming Annual General Meetings, **Philippe Bourguignon** will initially be appointed chairman of the board of Eurotunnel SA, the French company of the bi-national group, and vice-chairman of the Eurotunnel joint board.

Bourguignon has announced his resignation as co-chief executive of the World Economic Forum (Davos Forum). He was previously chairman and chief executive of Club Méditerranée, and is a former chairman and chief executive of Euro Disney. Previously, he was executive vice-president of Accor in North America, and president of Accor Asia Pacific. **Richard Shirrefs** will remain chief executive of the group, Eurotunnel SA and Eurotunnel plc.

After a six-month transitional period to ensure continuity and stability, **Philippe Bourguignon** will replace **Charles Mackay** as chairman of the Eurotunnel joint board following its meeting in October.

Charles Mackay, chairman of the joint board, said: 'I am delighted that **Philippe Bourguignon** is joining us to reinforce our board of directors, and that he has agreed to succeed me when I retire at the end of October. With the company facing a critical period, **Philippe Bourguignon's** appointment will further strengthen the already very bi-national makeup of the Board.'

Richard Shirrefs, chief executive, said: 'I am convinced that the appointment of **Philippe** will be a major asset and that, with him, we will succeed in meeting the challenges which confront us.'

INTERFLEET TECHNOLOGY

Engineering and rail business consultancy, Interfleet Technology, has announced two senior appointments. **Stuart**



Stuart Davies

Davies, formerly a director of SMC Rail, is joining as principal consultant, leading its railway operations group, while **Richard Bevan** will be adding his expertise to the company's specialist engineering

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team. **Davies** has many years of experience in railway operations and safety, and is a Fellow of the Institution of Railway Operators. While at SMC he helped pioneer the use of a Swiss simulation software tool OpenTrack, which harnesses the performance



Richard Bevan

capabilities of train, track and signalling to determine route capacity and the reliability /robustness of any given service specification over the relevant rail corridor.

It recognises all principles of British train operations, and has been successfully applied on a number of major infrastructure projects, not only to achieve maximum track possession with the minimum of disruption, but also to demonstrate the implications of work running over schedule.

Bevan is an expert on traction systems, and has been appointed principal engineer in the specialist engineering group. He is an electrical and electronic engineer with more than 25 years' experience in the design of rail vehicle propulsion systems.

The board of the French Railway Association (FIF) has elected **Gerard Glas** as vice president and treasurer of the association. **Glas**, who is director of rail products at Corus, will take up the role with immediate effect. Speaking about the successful election, **Glas** said 'The French Railway Association provides valuable support to its members. As a representative of Corus I look forward to taking up the vice president role and supporting the industry in this capacity.' The French Railway Association represents all rail related businesses in the French railway industry, which accounts for a consolidated turnover of some 3 billion euros.