

People

FIRST NORTH WESTERN TRAINS

First North Western (FNW) has announced the appointment of David Hooper as its new operations director.

Hooper will be responsible for the safe and efficient delivery of all operations across the FNW network. He

joins from Network Rail, where he was general manager for the Wessex area for the past two years. He replaces Mark Hopwood, who has left FNW to take up a new role in the trains division of National Express Group PLC.

Hooper has spent his whole career in railways, having first started as a general operations clerk with British Rail in the early 1990s.



David Hooper

HITACHI

Hitachi Europe Limited is further strengthening its Rail Systems Industrial Group in Europe, with the appointment of John Barlass as director of rail maintenance, based in London.

Barlass joins from Alstom Transport UK, where he held a number of senior positions, most notably as director, west coast traincare, responsible for the maintenance of railway rolling stock on behalf of Virgin Trains and other customers at six sites along the West Coast Main Line route.

A career railway specialist, he brings to Hitachi more than 31 years' experience in the UK rail industry, having joined British Rail in 1972. He has specialised in rolling stock maintenance management since 1989, when he was appointed as 'Sprinter' fleet engineer with the Regional Railways unit of the former British Rail.

After privatisation he joined the Engineering link Ltd, before joining Alstom in December 1995. During his time at Alstom he led the establishment of the Jubilee Line and Northern Line maintenance operations on behalf of the company and went on to manage the West Coast Traincare operation. Achievements in this role included leading the initiative to improve the performance of the locomotive hauled fleet by 33 per

Lancville Rail Limited, the York-based engineering company, has announced that **Julian Thomas** has joined the company as contracts manager and will be involved in the project delivery function of the business. A chartered civil engineer, he has more than 20 years' experience in the construction and railway industries working for firms such as Thyssen Construction, VHE Civil Engineering, and latterly AMCO Rail as senior contracts manager.

The Delay Attribution Board has now appointed its first chairman: **John Rhodes**, from February 1 2004, for a period of two years. Rhodes brings wide experience of the railway industry to this position. After a career in the civil service, in 1988 he was appointed director general of West Yorkshire passenger transport executive, a position he held for more than four years, initiating the electrification of West Yorkshire's rail network. From there he moved to a senior executive position at British Rail Headquarters.

cent and overseeing the preparation and implementation of Pendolino maintenance.

Barlass' new role will see him working on new and existing business opportunities in the European rail market, marking Hitachi's long-term commitment to the European rail market

FIRST CLASS PARTNERSHIPS

First Class Partnerships has announced the launch of a new operations practice.

First Class Partnerships is already established in the rail industry, providing expertise and advice in strategic and business planning, engineering and project management, and working extensively for the SRA and train operators.

The new operations analysis practice will focus the group's efforts in the areas of operations planning, performance management, and safety.

The new practice will be headed by William Barter, who moves from Vossloh IT York Ltd. (formerly Comreco Rail Ltd.).



William Barter

Barter is an experienced railway operations manager, having spent 16 years with British Rail in operations management and planning posts. On leaving British Rail in 1993, he worked as a rail adviser and project manager with The MVA Consultancy before joining Comreco Rail Ltd. to pursue a specialist interest in simulation of rail networks. In that role he managed many operations analysis projects as well as leading the company's input to complex multi-disciplinary, multi-company, projects.

FRAZER-NASH CONSULTANCY

Frazer-Nash Consultancy has appointed Steve Downing as principal consultant to assist in promoting and developing their business within the rail sector.

Formerly the engineering director of Alstom Transport Renovation UK, he has more than 30 years of railway experience in both new build and major renovation projects and will be based in Frazer-Nash's Burton office in Centrum Business Park.

Halcrow has announced the appointment of five new specialists to its team. **Duncan Mills** joins Halcrow as a principal consultant. **Steve Arrant** and **Chris Strong** have been appointed as principle consultants, both of whom have held the position of head of audit delivery for the Rail Safety and Standards Board. **Reece Bailey** joins Halcrow as a principal consultant. He will be responsible, as team leader, for developing Halcrow's train planning and operations business. **David Wells**, senior consultant, joins Halcrow from Vossloh Information Technologies.

Birse Rail has appointed two new regional business managers. **Paul Whitehead** joins to fill the role of business manager responsible for Birse Rail's telecoms work. **Simon Bradbury** has joined as business manager for projects in the Midlands and South. Bradbury will be based in Birse Rail's Birmingham office.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Mike Adamson has been appointed to the new position of on-train services manager for South Central. He is responsible for all aspects of on-train services, which includes ticket collection, announcements, catering and train cleanliness.

Adamson joined the railway industry in 1989 as a member of staff with InterCity Restaurant and Buffet Cars, which included the Manchester Pullman and Sleeper trains. In 1993 he moved into revenue protection as a team manager based at Norwood Junction and Hounslow.

This was followed in 1997 by a new role as a station manager for Thameslink at Blackfriars and Kings Cross Thameslink. In 2001 he was promoted and joined Thameslink's Commercial team and worked on developing partnerships with third parties interested in selling railway tickets, such as travel agents.

CHILTERN RAILWAYS

Mike Bagshaw has been appointed to Chiltern Railways' Board as its commercial director.

Bagshaw's remit will include pricing, development of the timetable, revenue analysis and delivery of the earnings budgets. He will also oversee the continued integration of Chiltern Railways with other forms of transport, such as its successful Bicester Taxibus scheme.

M J GLEESON GROUP

The M J Gleeson Group plc has promoted Danny Duggan, who is a chartered civil engineer, to become managing director of Gleeson MCL, the rail construction specialist, succeeding Vernon Clough, who after 25 years with GMCL (formerly Mabey Construction Ltd), has decided to stand down at a time when the Company's latest figures show record turnover and record profit.

Duggan will be taking over a solid order book, a strong team and good prospects to consolidate its position in the rail-related environment.



Danny Duggan and Vernon Clough