

Bestrustees gives boost to its board

Nick Reeve

Independent trustee firm Bestrustees has appointed two new directors, expanding the company's board from six to eight members.

A qualified actuary, Rachel Tranter (pic) joined the firm from Mercer in 2006, having spent 17 years in various roles within the human resource consulting department. Her roles included head of consulting operations in Liverpool and UK head of trustee training, and she has already been appointed as independent trustee to a number of pension schemes.

Zahir Fazal, a qualified chartered accountant, has been with Bestrustees since 2008. He joined from chartered accountancy firm Horwath Clark Whitehill, where he was a partner, estab-



lishing the firm's specialist pensions arm in 1995.

He is chairman of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants' pensions subcommittee and the Pensions Research Accountants Group. In these roles, Fazal has dealt regularly with the Department for Work

and Pensions and the Pensions Regulator.

Alan Pickering CBE, chairman of Bestrustees, said: "We are increasing the size of our board in response to the significant growth in our business in recent years. These new appointments will allow us to maintain the high standards of governance for which we are known."

"Rachel and Zahir have both demonstrated great commitment to working towards the continued growth of Bestrustees. The enthusiasm and fresh insights they bring to their work benefit all our clients."

The firm's board includes Pickering, as well as managing director Clive Gilchrist and directors Graham Wardle, Peter Styles, Peter Thompson and Miles Buckinghamshire.

GOING PLACES



SWIP lures Connolly from Standard Life

Scottish Widows Investment Partnership (SWIP) has hired Mark Connolly as director of fixed income. He joins from Standard Life Investments, where he was executive director for distribution and client services.

He has 30 years' experience in fixed income investing, and will focus on expanding SWIP's fixed income investment management business, which has made several new appointments in recent months.



Mercer benefits as Simmons sidelines PwC

Mercer has appointed Gary Simmons as client manager and principal, based at the firm's London office.

Simmons joins from PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he was a partner working on human resources issues for international clients in the public and private sectors.

Simmons will oversee a portfolio of major clients and will help develop Mercer's human capital and government sector business.



Hermes appoints Cleary as bond director

Hermes Fund Managers has hired Fred Cleary to its fixed income team as director for government bonds.

Cleary joins Hermes from UBS, where he built a successful trading and research operation for US inflation-linked markets both in London and New York. He has also held senior positions at Barclays Capital and Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette, an investment bank acquired by Credit Suisse in 2000.

Notice board

NAPF EVENTS AND TRAINING

**NAPF Hot Topic Seminar
Corporate governance
Pension funds & responsible
investing**

**Tuesday February 9, 2010
NAPF, Cheapside, EC2
9:15am - 4:00pm**

Keynote address by City minister, Lord Myners. Join us for discussions on how pension funds can respond to the governance challenges arising from the financial crisis and the recession.

On the seminar agenda:

- fiduciary responsibilities;
- responsible investing;
- applying the stewardship code;
- policy execution - engagement and voting;
- fund manager perspective - what should trustees expect?;

- global policy trends;
- launch of Corporate Governance PensionsConnection.

Limited places are available so please book early. Visit www.napf.co.uk/seminars for more details and to book your place.

**NAPF Investment Conference 2010:
investing for the future, learning
from the past
March 10-12**

**Edinburgh International
Conference Centre (EICC)**

Registration now open.

If you are involved in pension investment strategies, this conference provides the ideal opportunity to hear from a host of leading speakers, examine the issues and determine how

these challenges can be met. And of course, it's a great chance to meet colleagues and peers in a relevant and friendly environment.

In addition to the plenary sessions there is a trustee learning zone, fringe meetings and a series of sessions relating to specific issues, including defined benefit strategies, defined contribution investments and good governance.

Speakers include: Roger Bootle, one of London's best known economists; John Plender from the *Financial Times*; Oliver James, psychologist, author and TV presenter, and many more. And Gyles Brandreth will join us as our after-dinner guest speaker at the conference gala dinner on Wednesday March 10.