

## **People and Places**

Robert D. Somerville, currently president and chief operating officer of ABS, has been elected to the position of chief executive officer by the ABS board of directors. These duties will be in addition to Mr Somerville's current responsibilities. The transfer of CEO responsibilities from ABS chairman Frank J. Iarossi marks the first phase in a carefully planned leadership transition strategy.

### **ABS**

Michael Carthew, president, Chevron Texaco Shipping and Dean Taylor, president and CEO, Tidewater Marine have been elected to the board of directors, by the US-based classification society ABS. Both have been associated with the governance of ABS, having previously served on the society's Council.

### **Graig Ship Management**

Cardiff, Wales-based Graig Ship Management Limited (GSM) has strengthened its board by appointing John Arkell as operations director. Mr Arkell recently stepped down from his position as joint managing director of Bibby-Harrison Management Services Ltd, a post which he had held since 1997.

### **Wikborg Rein**

Wikborg Rein has appointed solicitor Stephen Fordham, as partner in its Singapore office. Mr Fordham is accompanied by his colleague Chee Chuen Yee, both previously with Watson, Farley & Williams' asset finance team.

### **Shipbuilders' Association, Japan**

Mototsugu Ito has been elected to be the 29th chairman of The Shipbuilders' Association of Japan. His role extends for two years and he has already warned that further rationalisation of the Japanese shipbuilding sector is necessary for the long term health of the industry.

### **Swedish Club**

Lars Rhodin has been appointed deputy managing director of Gothenburg-based The Swedish Club. A restructuring of the P&I club will see five new teams created including three at its headquarters, and others in Pireaus and Hong Kong. The latter two teams will be lead by Clas Ryden and Tord Nilsson, respectively.