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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

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Grant Thornton has appointed **Scott Barnes** as its new CEO following his election by the firm's partners. Barnes, who will initially hold the post for a five-year term, will take over when Michael Cleary retires at the end of 2008.

Kirsty Smith has been promoted to director in the national assurance technical group at Smith & Williamson.

Ernst & Young has announced the appointment of two new partners to its utilities and renewable energy teams in the UK. **Tony Ward**, based in Birmingham, has been made a partner in the power and utilities team. **Ben Warren**, formerly a director, has been made a partner in the renewable energy and environmental infrastructure group, leading the London-based renewable energy team.

BDO Stoy Hayward has announced the appointment of **Colin Rhead** as tax director within its private client services team in Baker Street, London. Rhead joins after a ten-year spell at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Baker Tilly has appointed **Michael Flaherty** as a senior tax partner for its southern regional private client advisory team.

Patrick Potter has joined PKF's Guildford office as a partner in the assurance and advisory team. He joins from Ernst & Young in Reading.

Australian corporate finance adviser **Dr Jason Talbot** has joined the Manchester-based mergers and acquisitions team of Ernst & Young.

Andy Knight has been appointed finance director at West Midlands-based business solutions provider the Waterdale Group.

Richard Higham has been appointed to the post of audit manager at Gardner Salisbury chartered accountants and business advisers in North Wales.

The London Business School has awarded an honorary degree to **Professor Ray Ball**, the Sidney Davidson professor of business at the University of Chicago. He received the award in recognition of his contributions to accounting and his revolutionary advances in accounting research.