

[INDUSTRY NEWS]

Blakemore Spar role

Blakemore Trade Partners (BTP), which deals with AF Blakemore's Spar business, has named Rupert Morris (pictured) as trading director.

He joined BTP last May, becoming head of trading three months later.



Previously, Morris was commercial director of multi-national retail franchisee MH Alshaya, which operates more than 70 UK and US brands across 3,600 outlets in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, Russia and Turkey.

He also spent six years as Spar UK central office trading controller from 1993-1999.

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► **Blakemore Trade Partners (01902) 366066**

Two recruits



Molner and Newton

Sarah Molner, formerly with Cott, has become technical manager at **Country Range Group** – a newly-created post – with responsibility for the technical management of the Country Range brand, comprising over 800 lines and worth almost £90 million.

Tiffany Newton has joined from Bako as a category buyer for branded and own-label frozen desserts, meat and ready meals.

► **Country Range Group (0845) 209 3777**

Up to £150k for group MD

The replacement for Martin Williams as managing director of **Landmark Wholesale** can expect to receive an annual salary of between £120,000 and £150,000.

The job, advertised in *The Daily Telegraph*, specifies that the right candidate must meet the following criteria:

- strong leader
- excellent track record of success
- excellent organisational skills
- highly numerate and able to 'dig into detail'
- excellent understanding of either wholesale, supplier



or convenience markets

► excellent interpersonal skills

► ability to manage a large and diverse set of shareholders, with the ability to be a politician when required

► key strategic insight and ability to anticipate market trends, challenges and opportunities

► strong commitment to equality and diversity.

Apart from having control of Landmark's finances, the selected candidate will need to train and motivate staff, maintain effective relationships with suppliers,

represent the group on trade bodies, have responsibility for the Lifestyle Express chain and develop own-label ranges.

The announcement that Williams would be leaving the group at the end of December (*Cash & Carry Management* November) gave no reason why he was going after 33 years of service.

Among existing staff, trading director John Searle and finance director Andrew Thewlis are mooted to be candidates for Williams' position.

► **Landmark Wholesale (01908) 255300**

Anniversary charity challenge

This year sees the 10th anniversary of **Confex Central Distribution (CCD)**.

Opened to provide a service to group members, the warehouse, in Pershore, Worcestershire, last year had a turnover of just over £25 million, providing more than 10,000 SKUs from 36 suppliers.

To celebrate this milestone, Confex is running a series of anniversary promotions, culminating in a 'charity challenge' on 6 July to raise money for Cancer Research and Shelter.

The top 10 CCD suppliers and customers will be invited to take part in 10 physical challenges during the day, such as cycling, canoeing, orienteering and kayaking, the aim being to raise £10,000 for the two charities. The activities will end with a barbecue and disco.

Group managing director Nicky White said: "Confex Central Distribution continues to drive growth across the group for both our members and suppliers.

"This unique service has played a pivotal role in



enabling us to pass group turnover of £2 billion during 2016 and will remain a key tool in our strategic plans to reach £3 billion by 2020."

► **Confex Group (01608) 652333**

High flier for Palmer and Harvey

Patrick Burrows, who has been named as a non-executive director of **Palmer and Harvey**, is currently chief financial officer and deputy CEO of London City Airport, where he is responsible for finance, planning & strategy,

procurement and legal.

He was previously group finance director for clothing firm New Look and before that he held a number of senior financial roles at Tesco over a period of 14 years.

His appointment follows those of Tony Reed as P&H CEO (*Cash & Carry Management*: November 2016) and Alistair Darby as non-executive director.

► **Palmer and Harvey (01273) 222100**