

# BUSINESS

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## Front runners

Why Britain's top bosses have become fitness fanatics Focus, page 5

## The polite billionaire

He's courteous, but don't underestimate the Indesit chairman Interview, page 8



THE SUNDAY TIMES

www.sunday-times.co.uk/business

APRIL 3, 2005

## BUSINESS DIGEST

❑ THE electricity and gas supplier Scottish Power has launched a legal challenge to the government's plans for energy-transmission charges.

The company is demanding a judicial review of the proposals, under which generators with plants in remote locations would be charged more by the National Grid to transmit energy across the UK. Scottish Power believes it would be unfairly penalised by this.

❑ SIMON BENTLEY, founder of the Blacks Leisure camping-goods chain, is backing the acquisition of First Retail UK, which operates sports stores inside fitness clubs, including Esporta.

Bentley, who will be non-executive chairman, is investing alongside Daniel and Leo Gestetner, the

brothers who own sports brands such as Zoggs. First Retail has 77 outlets, but the new owners have set aside £2m for expansion.

❑ CHRIS MOTTERSHEAD, the former head of Airtours and Tui UK, is to return with plans to build a £100m travel business. Mottershead will this week be appointed chief executive of the Ofex-listed VFB Group. He has already drawn up plans to move the company to AIM and has identified a number of potential acquisitions.

❑ CORRECTION: Last week's Agenda column included a chart showing Prudential's share price since 2000. The accompanying logo was that of the US firm Prudential Financial Inc and not that of Prudential plc. We apologise for this error.