



LINKING WALES & THE SOUTH WEST  
FFERIAU MOR HAFREN KEYBAYOW MOR HAVREN

## SEVERN LINK MEDIA PACK DIRECTORS' PROFILES

### DAVID WELSH NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

David Welsh was educated in Reading and then University College, London, specialising in languages and graduating with a BA Hons in Italian and French. He commenced his career with Galbraith Wrightston Shipbrokers of London, where his language skills were in demand as a Sales and Purchase broker specialising in the sale of roll-on roll-off ferries to predominantly Greek and Italian ship owners.

In 1978, David embarked upon a career change by joining Ringwood Brewery Ltd of Hampshire in the year of its founding, learning all aspects of the business and acquiring 25% of the company just a year later. As the company grew to become renowned for its cask beers, most notably Old Thumper – a past champion Beer of Britain – and Ringwood Best Bitter, a market leader in the Solent area, David's career and involvement with the company grew to hit new levels.

In 1988, Ringwood Brewery's founder Peter Austin retired, at which point David bought out all the remaining shareholders in the company to gain full ownership and become Managing Director, a role which David held for the next 19 years. During this time, he managed a programme of investment in plant and process, growing production to 33,000 barrels per annum and creating one of the finest small brewhouses in the UK.

David sold Ringwood Brewery in July 2007 to Marstons Plc, which has now given him opportunity to pursue other business opportunities and investments – including returning to his early career specialism of ferries by the appointment to the role of Non Executive Director of Severn Link.

David is married with three children and resides near Salisbury in Wiltshire. In his spare time he enjoys pursuing his hobbies of tennis, ski-ing and travel, and is an active participant in an investment club. He is also a Liveryman at Brewers' Company, London.

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