

Coaching high achievers

Bill Pitkeathley

Bill Pitkeathley has operated his own executive coaching and mentoring business for some 12 years, making his one of the longest established businesses in the sector.

Prior to this, Bill, who has an honours degree from Bristol University in Economics and Accountancy, had a 21-year career in multinational, 'household name' organisations – **GEC, Ford, BOC and Abbey Life**. During that time he also spent a year seconded to the Government Committee of Inquiry into Small Firms, known as the Bolton Committee.

The first 11 years of Bill's career were spent in variety of finance roles, including **Finance Director** of a **BOC joint venture**.

It was at this point that Bill made a discipline switch which was to underpin the rest of his career.

Opting for management development, Bill was appointed **Director of Studies for BOC's Management College**. From there he moved into mainstream HR with appointments at BOC, including **Management Development Manager** for **BOC's UK Gases business**.

Bill then joined **Abbey Life as HR Director**, at a time when it was wholly owned by **ITT**.

One day, during the latter part of his life 'in-house', Bill had the job of presenting 40 year service certificates. The ceremony brought Bill up with a start. Recoiling from the thought that, if he stayed within a corporation, one day he might be the recipient of something similar, he set about establishing his own business, specialising then in outplacement, training and executive search.

Since 1991 he has focused on coaching and mentoring, working with CEOs and director level people, in one-to-one and in team development situations. 'I feel privileged', he says, 'to be able to work with such talented and successful people. It's also enjoyable. And it gives me huge satisfaction as they become more successful'.

Bill abandoned football and athletics some years ago for the rather less vigorous, but equally enjoyable, pleasures of golf. He's also a 'wannabe' jazz drummer – although thinks it's likely "my son's career as a rock singer is the nearest I'm going to get to it!"

