

In the blue corner
Duncan Reed



There's nowhere to hide any more, particularly for bigger company chairmen. There's a lot more scrutiny of company boards," Duncan Reed says. No surprise, then, that one of the City's top headhunters is leaving Spencer Stuart to set up his own board evaluation outfit to appraise the top tables of business. Con dign

starts trading on Monday, taking its name from an old word meaning appropriate or worthy, so it's fitting.

Reed has had a good run of late, placing David Reid, the outgoing chairman of Tesco, in the same role at Intertek. He was also behind the former Cadbury man Ken Hanna taking the chair at Aggreko and the former Imperial Tobacco boss Gareth Davis becoming chairman of William Hill. Reed also conducted the first evaluation of RBS's board last year. If only he had done it sooner.