

■ NEXT STAGE OF FRANKAL'S VARIED CAREER TAKES OFF AT AIRPORT

BUSINESSMAN Baron Frankal is flying high after being appointed Manchester Airports Group's new strategic and policy director.

He will start his new role in March after leaving his current position at Manchester think-tank New Economy.

"I am delighted to be joining MAG at a really exciting time in its development, as it builds on its acquisition of Stansted Airport and looks to rapidly develop its potential as the country's largest UK-owned operating company," Mr Frankal said.

"I know Manchester well from my current role, so there is a natural follow through to my new position as strategic director."

MAG started a joint venture in October with the Beijing Construction Engineering Group to progress the £800m Airport City scheme.

Mr Frankal attended the city's King David Junior School before moving to Manchester Grammar School.

He read history at Oxford and subsequently worked in Budapest and across central and eastern Europe, setting up Jewish student unions.

He helped to run the

BY SIMON YAFFE

Besht Tellers theatre company in London and worked at Tel Aviv's Beit Hatfutsot — The Museum of the Jewish People.

Mr Frankal returned to the UK to commence a law conversion course in Nottingham, before becoming a City lawyer, where he worked in international banking in London and Budapest.

And it was in the Hungarian capital that he met wife Borbala



TAKING OFF: Baron Frankal

(nee Pocz).

Mr Frankal recalled: "We spent nearly seven years in Frankfurt, when I worked for the European Central Bank, first as a lawyer and the bank's UK rapporteur.

"This was when the UK was in 'prepare and decide' mode about joining the euro.

"I then worked as a senior economist in its internal relations directorate-general, where I was a policy expert on European issues such as migra-

Baron: Excited by my new role

tion, trade, external relations and the European Treaties.

"I became very involved in the Lisbon Treaty, which I have also written on.

"Living in Germany was strange at first for us as a family, but we quickly got used to it.

"We found it a good place to live in the midst of what I think is still the world's fastest growing Jewish

community."

They later returned to Mr Frankal's home city where they live with sons David and Noam.

David, 12, is a pupil at King David High School, while 10-year-old Noam, is at North Cheshire Jewish Primary School.

His wife is a photographer and the family are members of the Menorah Synagogue

(Cheshire Reform).

"As well as the new job, the biggest challenge of the year is David's barmitzvah, which we are doing in Israel," Mr Frankal added.

Mr Frankal is also working on his family tree. He explained: "There are some exceptional stories, such as my great-uncle Jack White's Victoria Cross.

"We have traced back

one side of the family to a Rachel born in Middlesex in 1816 and another to a Henry, born in Hanover in 1828, taking in South Africa, Australia, America, Austria and all parts of Poland on the way.

"The whole thing is incredibly fun for me and the kids.

"It is such a rich story of modern Jewish history."

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