

**ACE LTD**  
Reported by  
**BANCROFT PHILIP V**

**FORM 4**  
(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 02/25/05 for the Period Ending 02/23/05

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Telephone   | 441 295 5200                                |
| CIK         | 0000896159                                  |
| Symbol      | ACE   |
| SIC Code    | 6331 - Fire, Marine, and Casualty Insurance |
| Industry    | Insurance (Prop. & Casualty)                |
| Sector      | Financial                                   |
| Fiscal Year | 12/31                                       |

# FORM 4

[ ] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL  
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP  
OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
Section 17(a) of the Public  
Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(f) of the  
Investment Company Act of 1940

|   |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *               |         |          | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol |  |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  |  |  |
| <b>BANCROFT PHILIP V</b>                                |         |          | <b>ACE LTD [ ACE ]</b>                             |  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <span style="float:right"><input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner</span><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>X</b> Officer (give title below) <span style="float:right"><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</span><br><b>Chief Financial Officer</b> |  |  |
| (Last)  | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)       |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |         |          | <b>2/23/2005</b>                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
| C/O ACE LIMITED, THE ACE BUILDING, 17 WOODBOURNE AVENUE |         |          | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)  |  |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  |  |  |
| (Street)  |         |          |  |  |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |  |  |
| HAMILTON, BERMUDA HM 08                                 |         |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (City)  | (State) | (Zip)    |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|------------|-------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                |                                   | Code                      | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price |   |  |   |
| Ordinary Shares                 | 2/23/2005      |                                   | A                         |   | 25000   | A          | (1)   | 83548   | D  |   |

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned ( e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) |     | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |     | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |                            | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|--|-----|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                |                                   | Code                      | V   | (A)  | (D) | Date Exercisable                        | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |  |   |  |  |
| Options to Acquire                       | \$44.48  | 2/23/2005      |                                   | A                         | (2) | 21000  |     | (2)                                     | 2/23/2015       | Ordinary Shares   | 21000                      | \$0 (2)                                    | 146000 (3)  | D  |  |

**Explanation of Responses:**

- (1) Restricted stock award pursuant to ACE Limited 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Stock vests as follows: 1/4 on the first anniversary of the date of the award, 1/4 on the second anniversary of the date of the award, 1/4 on the third anniversary of the date of the award and 1/4 on the fourth anniversary of the date of the award,
- (2) Option award pursuant to ACE Limited 2004 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Options vest as follows: 1/3 on the first anniversary of the date of the award, 1/3 on the second anniversary of the date of the award and 1/3 on the third anniversary of the date of the award.
- (3) Total included options from other tranches with different exercise prices and expiration dates.

**Reporting Owners**

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BANCROFT PHILIP V              |               |           |         |       |

|   |  |  |                                |  |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>C/O ACE LIMITED</b><br><b>THE ACE BUILDING, 17 WOODBOURNE AVENUE</b><br><b>HAMILTON, BERMUDA HM 08</b> |  |  | <b>Chief Financial Officer</b> |  |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|--|

**Signatures**

**Signed for Philip Bancroft by Keith White pursuant to a power of attorney on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission**

**2/25/2005**

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\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

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Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.