

Brief Encounter

Brett Cooper

Ian Jones gets to know our newest recruit, Brett Cooper. Brett joins BHJ as Head of Corporate and gives readers an insight into what makes him tick.

What is the first news/historical event you can recall?

I have vague memories of the Hillsborough disaster but the first vivid memories I have are the death of Princess Diana. I am the same age as Prince William so I remember thinking how awful I would feel if my mother died as a 16 year old boy.

What is the book you most wish you'd written?

I am going to throw a curveball here and answer what is the film I most wish I'd directed - and that perhaps gives you more of an indication of me. The film I most wish I had directed would be Heat by Michael Mann - most notably for the restaurant scene between Robert De Niro and Al Pacino, their first scene acting opposite on another - hard to believe people had to wait until 1995 for that.

One bit of advice you'd give your younger self?

No matter how confident you think other people are, and no matter how nervous you might feel, you will soon come to realise that everyone else is just winging it!

What is your favourite saying or quotation?

By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail - Benjamin Franklin

Where do you want to be buried/have your ashes scattered?

I have never once given this consideration, and I suppose the obvious reason being that at the time I will not really be bothered. I do know that I would prefer to be cremated so feel free therefore to scatter my ashes anywhere.

If you were given £1m to spend on other people, what would you spend it on and why?

I would use some of it to pay of the mortgages of close family so they have some security for the future and the rest I would donate to a number of smaller cancer and animal welfare charities, as they all do sterling work and quite often miss out on large donations.

The talent you wish you had?

I have always wanted to be in a band but sadly I could never quite grasp playing the guitar well enough. If I had the time I would love to take up the drums.

The best and worst present you've ever received

The best: My dad's much coveted Tag Heuer when I qualified as a solicitor The worst: Again from my dad, a hideous fancy dress costume for my stag weekend which I had to wear the entire time - I am not going to reveal what it was!

What have you changed your mind about?

Everything.

What is the biggest problem of all?

The overuse of the earth's finite resources - as a graduate in Biology this is something I am acutely aware of, especially with a growing population it will only exacerbate all other global issues such as war, famine and poverty. Advances in renewable energy, electric vehicles and other technologies are a good way of redressing some of this balance, but I fear more needs to be done.

Are things getting better or worse?

I hope better, but I fear worse.

How do you keep the flame of hope for a better world burning brightly in dark times?

Try to do something positive every day, and influence one other person to do the same.

