

ELBA

A Day in the life of...



Andrew Horton
CEO, Beazley



MY ALARM GOES OFF...

The alarm is set for 6.25am – I usually wake 10 minutes before it goes off. I get dressed in either a suit (no tie), if I have client meetings or casual clothes if I have only internal or informal meetings. We recently changed our dress policy to 'dress for the day'. After breakfast I take the train up to London catching a train at just after 7am to start my working day.

I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR...

As CEO of a large specialist insurance company, I am ultimately responsible for everything. I rely on having great people working for me; the main focus of my job is communicating with the people in the company and the companies we do business with. I am also responsible for the strategic direction of the company. I see myself a bit like a conductor of an orchestra with everyone in the company playing their instruments really well.

I GOT MY JOB...

I went to Cambridge University where I graduated with a Chemistry degree. Following

university, I qualified as a chartered accountant with PWC (a large accountancy firm). After qualifying as an accountant I joined Lloyd's bank. I progressed my career at NatWest bank and the Dutch bank 'ING' before joining Beazley as their finance director. I knew nothing about insurance at that point and have been fortunate to have some good mentors.

AT SCHOOL I STUDIED...

For my GCSEs I took: French, German, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Maths, English, Geography, History. Then for my A-Levels, I took: Maths, Chemistry and Physics. I chose my A levels as I was good at them and interested in them. They stood me in good stead

for a career in finance as they are logical, analytical subjects which involve experiments. A lot like business.

MY TYPICAL DAY...

My day varies from day to day. I am usually in the office by 7:45am and start my day with a catch up with my business manager followed by internal meetings with my direct reports, underwriters, brokers

and clients. If I don't have a client lunch, I tend to have a sandwich from Pret. Three evenings a week I will have a client dinner and get home around 9.30pm. If I don't have a dinner, I get home around 7.30pm.

THE KEY SKILLS I USE IN MY JOB...

Communication skills are key – listening to people and explaining why you are doing things is really important. Aligned to this is building relationships – you need to try to get on with everyone. I have got more confident over the years in talking to anyone – I am a naturally shy person and this involves a lot of effort.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I enjoy the different aspects of my role, listening to my direct reports - guiding and delegating to them to achieve what we want for the business. Also speaking with employees on ways we can

make a difference. The culture of the company is great – everyone helps each other, talks to each other and co-operates and collaborates well. The best part of my job is seeing people achieve things and being proud of what they achieve.

THE WORST PART OF MY JOB IS...

Delivering negative messages. This can be around closing a business unit down or making someone redundant. These things happen in business – the aim is to try to manage things so that it rarely happens. The toughest decisions are always around people.

MY ROLE MODEL GROWING UP WAS...

Naturally, my parents as they achieved great things even though they came from a more difficult background than me. They helped me think through what I should do at school and university (I was the first person in my family to go to university). My parents were always good communicators for me and were very supportive. I feel very fortunate in this.

AFTER WORK...

If I have no client/broker dinners or receptions, I take the train home around 6:00-6.30pm. I enjoy a glass of wine when I get home – my aim is to try every wine in the world! I spend time with my wife, we watch TV (my wife likes detective programmes).



MY PLAN B...

I like science, so a career in science would have been fun. Just think of the progress that continues to me made due to scientific research every day!

