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**In this edition we focus on some of our fantastic team.**

**Welcome to the late Summer 2022 edition of our Newsletter.**



Louise Osselton, Director

#### **Inside this edition**

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**In this edition, some of our team have written short diaries about their week. The overriding thing that I noticed when I read them is that they talk just as much about home life as they do about work. The other prevailing theme is variety.**

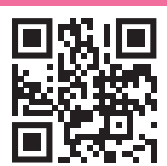
In our next edition we will tell you a little more about some new members to our team: we have added 5 new people across the firm with a range of skills... all through growth rather than replacement.

Coming up on 7th October we have a TEDx breakfast-talk which I am very excited about – details of Paul and his career are on page 3, as well as details on how to book: I would recommend you reserve your place as soon as possible.

As always, we have included dates for your diary, and if there is anything else you would like to hear about, do please let us know / get in touch.

Best wishes,  
**Louise Osselton** Director

To visit our website, scan this QR code with the camera on your smartphone.



Please email [enquiries@cbslgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@cbslgroup.com) if you'd like to get in touch.

## Adrian Barker, Managing Director – My Weekly Diary

### Monday

A great meeting with a prospective client this morning, who has been referred to us by another client. A good introduction for us, as it is a multi-generational family-owned company, of the size that is now needs an audit. It's a fascinating company, and better still they are lovely people. Fingers crossed that feel the same, and our proposal hits the spot\*.

Lovely too to spend time with Louise. When we meet clients, we usually do so together. Since we do not bill by the hour, we don't have to think about time, and it makes it easier to spend it being with clients.

### Tuesday

Lunch with a firm of advisors has been cancelled so I take the decision to work from home. We are mandated to help with the sale of a construction company, and I need to make approaches to a select number of companies that might be interested. It is one of the hardest parts of the role as no one really likes an unsolicited approach. Hopefully some good results later in the week.

Work stops at 2.30pm so that I can do the school runs – Saffron first and then Oliver. Back home for 4.15pm, for homework and cooking for Saffron. Later I then start again for Oliver (they eat at different times on school nights). A roast chicken tonight for Ollie. It's A levels time and I want to make sure he is well fed.

My plan to do some work from my study at home is disrupted at 8.15pm by a little girl who is struggling to sleep. Hot chocolate and dominoes do the trick.

### Wednesday

School runs and then into the office. We have our monthly marketing meeting this morning, followed by recording a podcast and some videos; the videos pointedly highlighting that there is a reason I need to spend more time at the gym! I assure Carl – who's been recording the videos and podcast – that I will ride my Peloton after the meeting, but an introduction to a company owner in the North-East, who wants to sell his company, takes priority, as do the explanation of the sales process and the proposal that I write that evening.

From last night's chicken we have made a stock for a rather lovely pea, chicken and asparagus risotto.



### Thursday

Politics and Business today – for Ollie not me... well I have to do some business, but thankfully we never have politics!

Tuesday's efforts now seems to have done the trick and a series of enquiries come in.

No children now for a few days (not that I can refer to Ollie as that as he is now 18). Arancini this evening for me from the leftover risotto.

### Friday

Two other company transactions to progress this morning. One is a national company, and we are ready for the Information Memorandum (the key sales document) to be approved. With the second we need to identify potential buyers: always hard work to find the correct companies, and then they have to be reviewed to check they can afford to acquire. Quite a time consuming job, but it's essential that it is done properly.

### Saturday

Telephone tennis between a client and I today, as we try to get what we need for an opportunity that has arisen this morning. But with a child free weekend there was time for a hard session on the Peloton, before drinks between the showers in a nice beer garden. My prospective client catches up with me during the rugby semi-final, but live TV pause means that I don't miss Leicester Tigers beating Northampton to win a place in the final\*\*.

### Sunday

Sunday always starts with coffee and the Sunday Times. A quick bit of breakfast and then to my desk... to write this. Emails cleared, just in time for a great day ahead, on a lovely sunny day. Lunch out with a friend and a walk, followed by drinks in the evening.

### Postscript

\*It did hit the spot – really pleasing.

\*\*Leicester Tigers won the final too!

## A week in the life of Mark Duce



**I have been at CBSL now for just over 8 years and this article is intended to describe my typical week.**

**But, working at CBSL I don't think that there is such thing as a typical week! There is always something different every week that needs to be done.**

I mainly work in management accounts, and I have a number of clients that I solely look after and a couple of them are UK subsidiaries of European companies, these companies also belong to their own larger group companies, so they have strict deadlines when information and reports need to be completed by. So, the start of every month is very busy for me, making sure the bookkeeping, month end journals etc are all posted on to their accounts systems to enable me to make sure the deadlines are met and thus keeping our clients happy. Then there are normally a couple of VAT returns that need to be completed and submitted to HMRC before the 7th of the month, so with all that, that's pretty much the first 2 weeks of the month gone.

Once the VAT returns and monthly reporting has been done, I will then plan the remaining time around my other clients, some of these I go out to their premises to complete their bookkeeping and any ad-hoc reporting they require, so it gives me a wider range of different accountancy packages to get to know, but you also get to know the client more, which I feel creates a good relationship between CBSL and our clients.

Of course, it's not all work, work, work. I have 3 children at home, who keep myself and my wife Marie very busy, more so Marie. The taxi of Mum and Dad seems to always have its meter on, with either after school clubs or sports clubs they all attend. If it's not picking up my daughter from gymnastics on a Monday, it's taking the 2 boys to football training on Tuesdays and Thursdays and matches on Sundays, which sometimes can be a logistics nightmare.

For those who have read 'the about me' page on our website, you will know that it's not just dropping off the boys at training as I have been helping out with the coaching of my eldest son's team and this coming season will be my 7th season with NC United. And just for fun I also started helping out with my youngest lad's team when their assistant coach decided to pack it in, and this will be my 3rd season with them. Then in my spare time (what spare time, is what you're thinking) I decided to help out NC United even further as I am part of the committee of the club, yes you guess it, I volunteered to be the club treasurer, which, I have been doing for the last 5 years. July & August is always very busy with the players signing up for the forthcoming season and sorting out registration fees and as the club offers sibling discounts dealing with all the questions from parents asking how much their fees will be after the discounts and with 26 teams to control it can be quite time consuming.

Then you have all the club meetings, all the other bits regarding pitch and club house maintenance, it does sometimes feel like I have more than one full time job.

## My return from maternity leave by Aran Bhullar



**I was very lucky to be able to have a year off work for maternity leave. Actually, 13 months to be exact!**

When I returned, I eased into my new working routine with 3 days a week – which was lovely as I got to spend lots of time with Aria but also meant by the time I got stuck into a job – it was time for my 4 day weekend. After a couple of months I decided to increase to 4 days a week.

As soon as I returned it was like I had never been away! In a good way of course. It was nice to have the social element – adult company especially – and be back in touch with all our clients.

I took back bookkeeping/management accounts jobs that I did before I had left for maternity leave and even adopted a couple of new bookkeeping jobs!

Aria is at a nursery on the business park so my first day back was more relaxed knowing she was about 10 steps away from the office. Doing a 4 day week gives me the perfect balance of being a mum and being able to work and progress in my career. Sometimes it's useful to have a break from an 18 month who follows no rules and instead makes the rules!

Another highlight of returning to work after maternity leave – the hot cups of teas that I actually get to drink!

# October Breakfast Networking with TEDx Speaker, Paul McGillivray.

8am to 9.30am on Friday 7th October, free to attend, at Shrewsbury Town FC.

**What are you doing on Friday 7th October? We are hosting a business networking event with a slight difference. This will be the first in a series where we invite a guest speaker, someone who has made a difference in their field of work – and has a connection to Shropshire. There will be an opportunity to network, and we'll provide breakfast.**

**For our first event, we have invited Paul McGillivray. He will be talking about 'Purpose' and how it's an important value for any business, career or director. Paul has a unique talent for solving complicated technical challenges and turning them into clearly defined strategies in a way that's easy to understand and implement.**

Paul's an experienced tech co-founder and CTO with over 22 years at senior board level.

A serial entrepreneur, digital strategist and software development lead, Paul has led projects creating enterprise applications for funded startups, scale-ups, and global brands like Sony, Volvo, Volkswagen Group and Tesco.

As co-founder and CTO of Remote, an award-winning digital product studio based in Shrewsbury, he leads a team of strategists, developers, product experts, lovers, fighters and geeks. Together, they design and build applications that automate business processes, leverage assets and innovate SaaS platforms that transform industries.

He's also co-founder and CTO of Vaulta, which delivers next-generation financial dashboards – and an expert at digital transformation

and turning innovative ideas into new technology-driven companies.

His mission is to bring technology into business in a people-centred way, having a meaningful impact on life in the work-place and positively impacting the planet. On this theme, he's delivered keynotes at many events, including TEDx and B1G1x, is a co-author of the best-selling book Legacy and is the host of the Purpose First podcast.

Paul's talks display a unique talent for explaining complicated concepts in a way that is easy to understand, and people leave his presentations inspired and moved to use tech in new ways to make a real difference in their lives and the world.

His book 'The Automated Business' is due this Autumn.

**If you – or someone you know – would like to attend, please send an email to [enquiries@cbslgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@cbslgroup.com).**

## Updates and Reminders

### Personal Tax

31st October – deadline for filing paper self-assessment returns

31st January – deadline for filing online self-assessment returns

### Corporation Tax

1st October – deadline for payment if you have a December year end

### What would you like to see from us?

If there is anything you would like to hear about in a future edition, please let us know and we will do our best to include it.

Please email [enquiries@cbslgroup.com](mailto:enquiries@cbslgroup.com) with any comments or questions.

Look out for our latest **updates for business** on our regular emails and blog posts. If you haven't already signed up for them please let us know and we'll make sure you get them.