
EDUCATION

Cass Business School, London, UK

MBA**2009-2011**

Specialising in finance and corporate strategy, electives including Investments & Derivatives, Private Equity, M&A, Applied Corporate Finance. Author of the official case study on the Cadbury defence against the Kraft takeover as part of dissertation, which is now taught in M&A classes in business schools worldwide. Invited to become a Visiting Fellow after graduation

University of the Arts, London

Postgraduate Diploma, Journalism**1995-1996**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - FULL TIME MEDIA ROLES FIRST

BBC NEWS, London - Reporter & Presenter

Feb 2016-Date

- Staff presenter of "The Newsroom" on World Service Radio and Radio 4. Live on air during the bombing of the Manchester Arena. Regular freelance newsreader on Radio 2 newsreader and regular freelance presenter of the World Service breakfast show, Newsday. Freelance voiceover artist, Vocal Age Range: 50-50+yrs, warm, smooth & reassuring, engaging soft RP.

BBC NEWS, London - Reporter and presenter

Sept 2007-July 2012

- First reporter to create a mainstream story on an obscure and at the time largely unknown financial instrument, credit default swaps (CDS) while business reporter for Newsnight on BBC2 at the height of the 2008 financial crisis. CDS proved to be one of the major causes of the crash. Identified issue by gaining trust of key insider over months. Took highly complex facts and made them understandable by putting them in everyday language. Protected identity of source using secure communication techniques.
- Enabled FSA and Bank of England to become aware of the CDS problem without creating a further "run on the bank" through delicate, politically aware approach. Gained further credibility with input of key players including US legislator Barney Frank.
- Whilst BBC Business correspondent in Brussels built up a network of trusted contacts at the highest levels in the EU. Through these, broke the story of the 2008 summit - a French Government plot to make a significant change to the European Treaty.

BBC GLOBAL NEWS DIVISION - Senior Editorial Advisor

March 2006-August 2007

- Led project to identify ways to spend BBC Global News division money more effectively when the BBC knew big cuts were coming.
- Created group of senior department heads from both World Service and foreign news parts of the domestic BBC, and persuaded them to identify areas of common ground where sharing resources could improve their own programmes at no extra cost.
- Project enabled World Service editors to make their 600 strong international reporter network accessible and available to the rest of the BBC, which it had not been previously. Achieved this by linking them up with the new BBC Academy, which was able to improve the broadcast and technical skills of staff who were previously only confident to work for foreign language divisions of the World Service.

BBC WORLD SERVICE - Assistant Editor, BBC World Service radio Business Programmes

March 2005-March 2006

- Managed team of 30 journalists producing 12 editions of "World Business Report" each day. Aim to business news interesting for a general news audience, maximising the quality of programmes whilst controlling costs and managing a £1.2m budget.
- Chaired and contributed to editorial meetings, developed processes including team deadlines for script checking, staffing rotas, and managing upwards in a hierarchical organisation by negotiating new ways for our department to contribute to wider output.

BBC WORLD SERVICE - Producer and Reporter, World Business Report

Sept 2000-March 2005

- Interviewed interesting people from George Soros to the last working survivor of the 1929 Wall Street crash.
- Made reporting trips including Iraq after the war. Work contributed to major BBC story - "Baghdad Billions", about disappearance of \$20 billion in cash under the Bush Government's caretaker administration. "Risk assessment" skills proven & transferrable.

CONVIVIAL LTD, London - Chief Executive

May 2011-Jan 2016

- Founded a company to make aspirational apartments for retiring baby boomers in desirable locations after investigating older friend's views that almost all the specialist retirement accommodation on offer was deeply unattractive and bad value for money.
- Led detailed research using everything from database tools through to surveys in the street. Established (a) the market was under-served and (b) the target customers were the richest generation in history, both desiring and able to pay for something better.
- Persuaded NAMA (the Irish Government's body which took on the UK assets of bankrupt developers) to sell Convivial a former stately home in Runnymede in an open, public bidding process, despite not being the highest bidder and having no track record.
- Achieved this by assembling the most impressive team in the bidding process, from Ops to Property Development and Investors.

AD HOC - Press officer & Crisis Management, Business Consultancy

Various

- Hired to to save property company from front page scandal in national newspaper. Constructed core statements and trained staff. Set up 'war room' to take calls from journalists and prevented story spreading further. Business actually increased afterwards.
- Ran press team for Syed Kamall MEP during 2015 bid to be Conservative candidate for Mayor of London. Built strong relationships with key journalists & persuaded them to run our press releases. Secured public support of figures including Lord Foster.
- Chaired and co-chaired various conferences in Montreaux and Cannes for Marcus Evans on investment subjects including pension industry and alternative assets. Speakers included industry leaders & players such as "Hank" Paulson & Nassim Nicholas Taleb.

INTERESTS

Baby son. Playing football. The odd marathon/Tough Mudder. Brompton bikes. Restoring a long-empty Victorian house.