CCF NEWS

Accountancy & Tax

Special Birthday Edition

Newsletter Issue 10th Birthday

Welcome to our very special 10th birthday edition of CCF News.

This year we are thrilled to be turning 10 and so we are taking the opportunity to look back and celebrate all the things we have learned along the way as well as looking excitedly to the future with 2020 being our year of growth.

We are so proud of CCF Accountancy Limited and the hard work that has got us to where we are today.

We would like to thank everybody past and present that have supported us during our 10 years and here is to many more to come.

Best wishes
Teresa, Kelly and Team CCF

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Mission Fundraising

It's not unusual for the front page of CCF News to show the latest exploits undertaken by Team CCF, from escape rooms to the Abbey Dash, but in celebration of our 10th birthday this year we have set ourselves a huge challenge.

In honour of our birthday we have committed to raising £10,000 for charity by completing 10 different events throughout the year.

So far we have planned to complete a 10k, a duathlon, a triathlon and even a marathon to name but a few.

In addition, we will be hosting a bike skive and walk and talk networking sessions as well as bake sales in the office.

We will also have a fundraising stall at each of our external networking events selling handcrafted items that have been made by members of the team.

All of the proceeds raised will go to The Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) which is leading a movement against suicide, the single biggest killer of men under 45 in the UK and the cause of 18 deaths every day.

To find out more about the charity visit https://www.thecalmzone.net/.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY
CALM

If you would like to show your support for this mammoth effort being undertaken by Team CCF then we would love it if you could donate to our JustGiving page https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ccf-accountancy1

10 things I've learned over the last 10 years

1. Never be afraid to ask for help. You don't know everything and people in business are always happy to share their knowledge and experiences.

2. Learn to say "No". I started off saying "Yes" to everything and it nearly burnt me out. Learning to say "No" was necessary.

3. Picking the right team is critical to your success. I've had to kiss a lot of frogs to find my Prince and Princess Charmings and now I've found them I wouldn't change them for the world!

4. Surround yourself with people who understand you and have your back. There are a lot of sharks out there who are only in business for themselves. Once you find true business friends that will always be there for you, look after them and they'll look after you.

5. Don't be afraid to be yourself and let your personality shine through. People buy from people and they can also see through you when you are faking it! Plus it's so much less stressful just being yourself. If people don't like that, you don't need them in your life.

6. Hire slow and fire quick. I used to adopt the opposite recruitment strategy and it was very damaging to both me and my business.

7. Make time for yourself. Running a business is hard work so you need time to relax and recover.

8. Make time for your family and friends. There is nothing worse than looking back and wondering where the time went and having missed out on children's most precious years.

9. Play to your strengths and delegate the jobs that you don't enjoy. Someone else will love those jobs and will probably get better results than you.

10. Perhaps nobody else can do things exactly the way you want them, but if you can't let go, you won't grow. Trusting people to do things and accepting that they are not as perfect (!) as you is part of developing a successful business that isn't dependent on your 100% involvement 100% of the time.

Client Spotlight

We are pleased to introduce Adrian Sewell of Tandem Patents who began working with CCF in 2016. Here he talks about where he has been and where he is going.

1. What inspired you to set up Tandem Patents Limited?
After over 10 years working for the larger patent firms, I set up Tandem Patents in 2016 because I wanted to be my own boss and deliver a more transparent, friendly and cost-effective service to those seeking to protect or enforce their Intellectual Property.

2. What challenges have you faced since the business inception?
Establishing the business was easier than first thought. Organic growth was very fast. Initially the challenge was learning how to properly manage the accounts, but CCF and Xero made this so easy. The challenge now is deciding how best to continue to grow the business?

3. What is the most rewarding part of your work?
A particularly rewarding part of being a patent attorney is the variety of technology areas my work relates to. One day I may be preparing a patent application for a new medical device, and the next I may be seeking to invalidate an existing patent relating to a subsea drilling rig. I am always learning.

4. What does an Accountant mean to you and how do you see them supporting you and your business?
my time is now limited due to rapid client growth, an Accountant is vital to confirm the accounts are correct, and to submit quarterly VAT returns and year end accounts.
CCF are also always on hand to answer any specific questions I may have and will be vital for ongoing advice and support as the business grows.

5. What keeps you awake at night?
Espresso Martinis.

6. What is the best piece of business advice you have received and by whom?
'It's better to give something a go than not try at all' – Chairman of a large European patent firm I trained with in 2005.

7. Who/what inspires you?
My late father who worked hard and played hard – a legend.

tandem PATENTS

8. What advice would you pass on to other consultants setting up in business?
If you are serious about setting up your own business, and have a financial buffer to allow you to support your needs then just do it and do not look back. You must be particularly disciplined with a home office in terms of working hours and distractions. It is also important not to overly worry about the lack of chargeable work. In the early days, I used to remind myself that if I had created a new opportunity that day, such as arranging a meeting with a potential new client or speaking at a technology event, it was a good day.

To find out more about Tandem Patents, contact Adrian on 01937 586008 or email mail@tandempatents.com

CCF Timeline

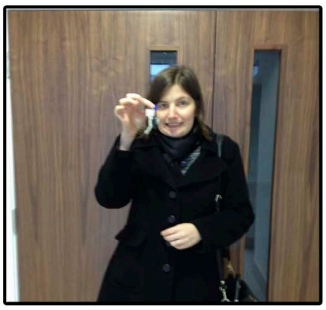
It is always so pleasing to look back over the course of a business, to celebrate the highs, learn from the lows and become bigger and better for the future.

2010
CCF was born
Moved to serviced office
First CCF Budget Breakfast held
Took on part time secretary (sister)

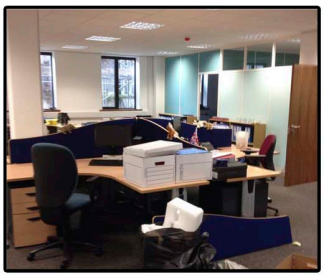
2011
Moved to original CCF Towers
Joined for first time by Becca for work experience
First full time employee
Appointed accountants of 50th Client

September 2012
Took on full time secretary
Took on first apprentice

2013
Winners of Best Small Business in Ackrills Business Awards
Appointed accountants for 150th client



2014
Moved to CCF Towers
Hit initial targets for growth, set in 2010



2015
Appointed accountants for 250th client

2016
Katie joined the team as the fifth apprentice
Becca rejoined the team

2017
Kelly joined the team
Started systemising business

2018
Richard, Adam, Leigh and David joined the team
Began increasing services offered to clients

2019
Diane and Leanne joined the team
Appointed accountants for 500th client
The first year we hadn't held a Budget Breakfast due to the winter General Election
Developed flexible team of four remote workers to help during busy times

2020
Started the year with a plan to grow the practice and to increase the support given to our clients.

Meet the Team

Today we introduce… Becca, our longest serving team member on how times have changed

When did you start working for CCF?
I returned full time in July 2016 after a period of extended work experience back in 2011 when I started my accountancy studies.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
It's a cliché but the people. It's such a friendly and supportive team.

How has CCF changed since you joined in 2011?
It has grown a lot. CCF had not been in existence for long and there was just Teresa doing accounts and her sister doing Admin when I first started. We are now a team of 11 and still growing.

What has been your proudest achievement at CCF?
Achieving the highest mark in the world in one of my ACCA exams!

What is your favourite biscuit?
Oreo double stuff, closely followed by a ginger nut!

Describe yourself in three words
Laidback, conscientious and (a little bit) sarcastic.

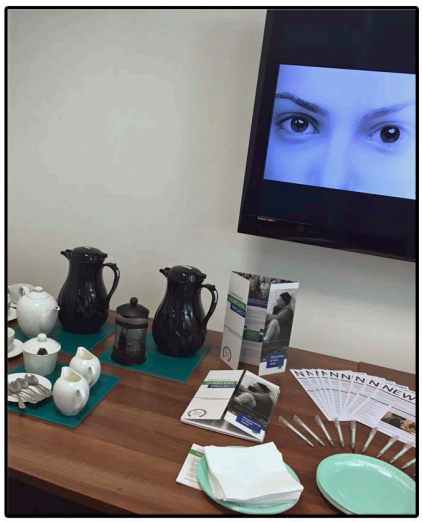
What are your biggest passions outside of work?
This has changed a lot over the last few years but is now definitely my daughter who is 1 1/2. When she goes to bed I like to put my feet up with some good food and a box set.

Who would you invite to your fantasy dinner party (3 guests only)?
It would be Celine Dion, Marco Pierre White and Jimmy Carr.

What is the worst joke you have heard in the office?
I literally can never remember any jokes – sorry. Other than Xero's joke for January which was so old and bad which was, 'What do you call a fly with no wings?'… 'a walk'.

CCF Events and Training

We like to put on events for clients and business friends of CCF, to add value, inspire and also to help create new business connections.



Our next events are:

Budget Breakfast.
Thursday 12th March. 08.00 to 10:30 @ Harrogate Rugby Club

Xero Demonstration.
Tuesday 17th March. 10:30 to 11:00 @ CCF Towers

Xero Demonstration.
Friday 9th April. 14.00 to 15:30 @ CCF Towers

Forget the Crystal Ball – How to forecast properly.
Tuesday 12th April. 12.00 to 13:30 @ CCF Towers

Wellbeing Matters – Joint event with Marcus Hill Consulting.
Tuesday 28th April. 12.00 to 13:30 @ Harrogate Rugby Club

If you have an idea for a seminar topic or any questions about our upcoming events please get in touch by emailing events@ccfaccountancy.co.uk.