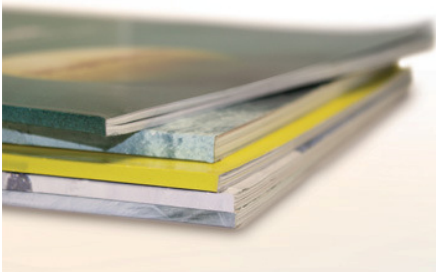


A Week in the Life of ...

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BY JOHN RIMMER

I live in Tromode with my wife Sarah and our two children Emily (13) and Charles (11).

I first visited the Isle of Man in 1986. It was then that I met Sarah, my future wife, at “Whispers” nightclub, in what was then the Palace Hotel (now The Hilton). Sarah and I were married at St Peter’s, Onchan in 1994 and, as Sarah is from the island, we always wanted to move here to raise our family. We were lucky enough to achieve this in 1998 when I joined Dickinson, Cruickshank & Co., which later became the Group’s Isle of Man office, moving from Charles Russell in London.

Along with my work commitments, which are fairly hefty in my average week, I am also very happily and actively involved in a number of local charities and organisations, as well as being IOM Branch Chairman of STEP (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners).

I am a Member of the Douglas Branch of the Rotary Club and am presently chairman of the Vocational Services Committee. I am also a member of the Manx Gamefishers, the Manx Food and Wine Circle and St Matthew’s Parochial Church Council.

Monday

Walking to work as often as possible gives me time to listen to a fairly random collection of music and podcasts on my iPod nano. This time helps me to prepare for the day and consider some of the knottier

problems before I reach my desk.

At the office my secretary Sharon organises my day: she is extremely efficient and works well with clients. I am fortunate to be able to work with a great team at Appleby, with understanding, hard working colleagues who are not only a pleasure to work with but put up with my terrible jokes!

In my general working day I spend a lot of my time in meetings with clients. This might involve individuals, such as a husband and wife, addressing their wills, estate planning and tax advice. Or it could be a trust company – from the Isle of Man or elsewhere – sorting out trust issues where something has gone wrong or involving some difficult reorganisation. It can be challenging where I am called upon to analyse and sort out a specific technical issue and prepare the necessary documents to achieve what the client wants, but is one of the most interesting aspects of my work. I meet some terrific people and I enjoy helping to make their affairs a little bit easier for them.

I am a governor of Ballaquayle School in Douglas. This afternoon we have a governors’ meeting – unfortunately not one of those occasional meetings where we join the children for a delicious and fun lunch! Involvement with the school has always been a pleasure – not only did my own children benefit from being there but the Headteacher, Mrs Green, runs a tight ship with energy and enthusiasm and is supported by a lovely team of staff.

I try to be at home between 6.30pm and 8.30pm to have supper with Sarah and the children, and catch up on each other's days. Weather permitting, I like to have a kick around with the football in the garden with Charles. I also try to help out with homework, when required (although they deny having any most of the time). We are very keen on music in the family and I love to listen to the children playing their instruments. However, this particular evening I am off for a cycle ride with some friends along the old railway line to Peel and back, with a brief stop for some "light refreshments".

Later on, I retreat into my study for another couple of hours work. I also endeavour to catch up on emails at this time, as I try not to let responding to emails eat into the working day too much.

Tuesday

Every few weeks we have a formal 8am partners' meeting that lasts between one and two hours, to go through business and client issues. We try to complete this before the working day begins.

Today I then have a meeting with members of a family to discuss their trust, of which I am a trustee. I also have a meeting with other advisors and the fund managers for the trust.

As well as trusts, I am often called upon to advise on probate issues or the administration of estates of deceased individuals. These matters bring their own challenges: dealing with bereavement as well as technical issues and plain old management. Today, I have been asked to advise beneficiaries under a will on apparent mismanagement of the estate by the executors.

This evening I had a Cronkbourne Sports & Social Club board meeting. I am the hockey director, representing the interests of Bacchanalians ("Bacchas") – the club's hockey side. I am therefore also a member of the Bacchas committee, whose other members are not only seriously good hockey players but are real experts, driven in the development of hockey, especially among the younger players on the island, and a great bunch to work with - very dedicated to the club and its members.

Wednesday

A lot of my day is spent in client meetings and I may have to help a grieving family sort out their family estate, which I try to do in a timely and sympathetic manner. I know that the last place that they want to be is with me, picking over the affairs of a loved one.

I often have lunchtime meetings and today is no exception, as I have a Rotary Club meeting. The members have been welcoming since I joined a couple of years ago, as well as tremendous company and committed to the good causes that they support.

The afternoon involves a couple more client meetings and professional development: emails will have to wait until this evening again!

Thursday

I like to try and take the children to school when I can and this morning I do the school run.

I have a STEP meeting at lunchtime. These occur every two months, at lunchtime, so as not to eat into the working day. I am also involved in STEP meetings in London every two to three months with the STEP International Committee as well as at the annual branch chairmen's conference. I try to fit meetings in London around these so as to minimise interference with work.

The Hospice PR and Fundraising Committee meets for a couple of hours every two months. Being on this committee involves me with some very dedicated, hardworking, creative and imaginative people, who either work for Hospice or give up their time to support the Hospice.

Normally, Thursday evening would include hockey training with Bacchas, but the season is coming to an end. I spend much of this evening (and many other evenings) preparing for a talk in Geneva later this month at the Transcontinental Trusts Conference. I have spoken at this conference for the last five years. The conference centres on technical subjects. This year my topic is "Trustee Conflicts of Interest" – last year's was "Death and Divorce in the New International Environment"! I have also been asked to address another conference in London in October.

I prefer to get over one before worrying about the next.

Friday

We often have an informal partners' meeting on a Friday morning at 10.30am for between 30 minutes and an hour.

Normally at lunchtime, I catch up with the Global Head of the Appleby Trusts and Private Client Group, Tim Faries, who is based in Bermuda. From time to time, I also regularly have a video conference with all local heads of the Trusts and Private Client Group. These are valuable, enabling us to feel part of an international team and to share news and ideas.

This particular Friday I am in Dublin, of behalf of STEP, promoting the Isle of Man to local business professionals with IOM Finance. The event is at lunchtime so I am able to catch up with client work during the morning and before catching a swift flight back to the Isle of Man early evening, volcanic ash permitting!

After a busy week, my wife and I go out to dinner this evening – a rare indulgence without the children.

Weekend Life

Saturday, as with most families on the Island, involves a lot of ferrying the children to and from their various activities. Charles has swimming and football on Saturday morning and Emily has ballet lessons on Saturday afternoon. Both have public speaking with Pat Corrin at 5.30pm on Saturday afternoon. No hockey today because the season has just finished, so I shall squeeze in a little quiet time in the office.

We love to get out with the children for a meal once a week and tonight we are off to one of our regulars,

Paparazzi. Once the children are in bed, Sarah and I like to share some quiet time and a glass of wine.

On Sunday we are up early and start the day with Church, followed by a bite of lunch. We spend quite a lot of time at the beach and we are very fond of spending time at Port St Mary at the weekend. Some friends and I occasionally go out fishing on Bob Taylor's boat "Gemini". If we are not there, favourite family activities are fishing in one of the lakes and rivers, a cycle ride or a walk along one of the promenades on the Island (ideally involving ice cream).

I tend to work for a couple of hours so that I can relax for the remainder of the day. In the evening, we like to sit down to a Sunday roast dinner, for which Sarah's parents join us, living as they do just round the corner.

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