

PASSION FOR BUSINESS

South West

2019
Issue 4



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for you?

**harrison clark
rickerbys**
SOLICITORS



Tim Ward
Partner, Corporate

Looking ahead to 2020

It's tricky to write a piece about looking forward to next year when an election and Brexit are around the corner just as we go to print. Politically we're in uncharted waters. For some, the newspapers and social media reports are enough to make them want to curl up in front of the fire and hibernate for a few months.

As lawyers, we are dependent on the individuals and businesses we support to have an appetite to do something, whether that's selling their company, buying another, investing in a new building, taking on new employees, or launching a new product. Despite some media reports to the contrary, we're still seeing high levels of confidence amongst the business leaders we work with, and many entrepreneurs who are determined to make the most of the opportunities on the horizon.

In our everyday lives, confidence is a key ingredient for success. And in business it is no different. Believing in yourself, your business and your team is critical, especially in times of uncertainty. We're keen to be by the side of ambitious individuals now and in the future.

In the South West, we continue to hear good-news stories. With plans for new business developments and housing, the region continues to attract new retailers and businesses. There is indeed much to be excited about. Our advice is to plan for change now, so that when there is clarity on what lies ahead, you're well prepared to move swiftly and take advantage of what comes.

We wish you a merry Christmas and prosperous and happy 2020.

Talk to Tim Ward Partner, Corporate

Direct Dial: +44 1242 211 646

Mobile: +44 7725 241 072

Email: tward@hcrlaw.com

“ It is an extremely positive experience working with Harrison Clark Rickerbys. The team is extremely well-organised, they are good at managing client expectation and their cases are well-prepared. ”

Chambers and Partners



REVIEW OF THE YEAR

A snapshot of the support we provided to clients and the community in 2019



FEBRUARY

Marking World Cancer Day, we raised money through a bake sale for Maggie's centre in Cheltenham. The charity offers free practical, emotional, and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends.



APRIL

HCR team member Ian Seymour ran the London Marathon, raising £1,300 for Gloucester-based charity The Spring Centre, which supports families who have children with disabilities and special needs. The money will help to create a new playground.

Client Alan was supported to resolve a partnership dispute. His business partner was taking money out of the company. After five years of issues, Alan was finally able to move on with his life.

JUNE

The last week of June was spent collecting donations for Gloucestershire Nightstop, a small charity which provides homeless young people with essentials such as toiletries, basic clothing and water bottles.



Gloucestershire Nightstop provides emergency housing across the County for young single homeless people aged 16 - 25 in the homes of trained and vetted volunteers, or Hosts.

It was great to see the work by Pittville School pupils on the background to the cross conservation project being run by Cheltenham Civic Society. One of the crosses, from the graves of those who died in the Great War, belonged to Captain John Rickerby, a member of the family which helped to found our firm.

Following support from our real estate team, client SLG moved into their new offices in the Brewery Quarter in Cheltenham.

MARCH



An individual who had invested a number of years as a distributor building up the value in a business, was facing being let go without being properly compensated. Our commercial team supported him to achieve the right outcome.

MAY



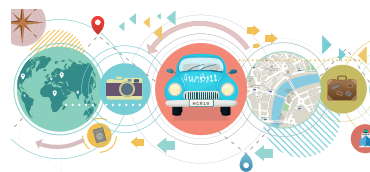
AUGUST

We advised shareholders and management at Devon-based Premier Park on their private equity funding from Sovereign Capital Partners. This allowed the founders to move on and for the business to grow to a new level.



OCTOBER

6 teams from across the office set off in cars, each costing no more than £500, for an unknown destination over a weekend in October. Mad and embarrassing tasks were performed, and we ended up at a beer festival in Antwerp. The firm raised £50,000 for local charities.



We supported DVV Media Limited in its acquisition of two businesses to give DVV a comprehensive offering across all modes of transport and the logistics business information sector.

Our employment team supported Lloyds Bank by speaking at events that raised awareness of mental health in the workplace.



We supported Ethos Partners in its £22m takeover of Motocaddy, the market leading producer of technology-led golf products, allowing the business to exploit global opportunities.

JULY



Sponsoring the McCoy Awards at Cheltenham Racecourse was a great chance to support excellence in jump racing – great to see Defi Du Seuil win leading novice chaser and Frodon take the title for leading chaser.

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER



What does 2020 hold for you?

We asked business people in South West what their predictions were for 2020.

"With an election looming and politicians forced to consider domestic policy, 2020 might at last see some changes to our business rating system, help with the high street, increased house building, consideration for climate change and changes to our planning system.

"But if Brexit dominates the political scene, everyone's fatigue might have a very negative impact on business and on demand for property. We could see the 2019 residential slow down spread to commercial in 2020. But, if interest rates remain low, property yields will continue to attract investors."

Patrick Downes, Director, PACT Property and Assets

"The big issue for insurers in 2020 will be flooding – how deep will the water get? It is disastrous for a business to be flooded; it can ruin them and it creates long-term insurance problems.

"The answer is very complex, of course; global warming, river and land management, planning – all these have an effect. It is not even as simple as focusing on rivers; I know of people whose businesses have been flooded by run-off from the hills around them."

Simon Egerton, Sutcliffe Insurance

"The SME market is stronger than some others, and it is still moving and developing; we are seeing businesses who have been trading 12-18 months and have projections of £9.5m turnover in the next three years.

"I think we will see an increase in businesses being backed by crowd-funding and also that Alison Rose's report into female entrepreneurship will start to have an effect, with Government backing. The barriers to women starting businesses should be tackled to release that potential."

Michelle Collins, NatWest Business Banking

TELL US WHAT 2020 HOLDS FOR YOU

 **@HCRIlaw**

 **Harrison Clark Rickerbys Ltd**



Talk to Richard Wilkey
Partner, Head of Cheltenham Office
Direct Dial: +44 1242 216 254
Mobile: +44 7817 447 881
Email: rwilkey@hcrlaw.com



Kristine Scott
Partner, Head of Education

TALK TO US

If you would like to know more about our services or how we could support you, please call us for an informal, no-obligation chat on 01242 224 422.

Birmingham

63 Church Street
Birmingham
B3 2DP

Cambridge

Compass House
Chivers Way
Histon
Cambridge
CB24 9AD

Cheltenham

Ellenborough
House
Wellington
Street
Cheltenham
GL50 1YD

Hereford

Thorpe House
29 Broad Street
Hereford
HR4 9AR

London

3 St Helen's
Place
London
EC3A 6AB

Thames Valley

100 Longwater
Avenue
Green Park
Reading
Berkshire
RG2 6GP

Worcester

5 Deansway
Worcester
WR1 2JG

Wye Valley

Overross House
Ross Park
Ross-On-Wye
HR9 7US