

ANDREI GREBELSKI (OC 1997 – 2003)

After leaving Caterham School, I studied Marketing Management at Oxford Brookes. In a nutshell that experience was a lot of fun to start with, compensated with loads of grilling hard work in the final year.

My first job has been with the London based gambling company, Betbrokers PLC. I was hired to help with their Business Development in Russia. Sadly, or maybe, on the contrary, the Russian government enforced a surprise ban on all gambling.

Just about a year into the project I was left with no job, but with some fantastic contacts. I returned to London and, for a brief period, continued to pursue the marketing career, but thanks to the recession, becoming my own boss seemed like the best idea at the time. In a weird and wonderful twist of circumstances, my first successful business was an upmarket vocational school the Young Ladies and Gentlemen's Club – a modern day finishing school for children of international UHNWIs. It was incredibly quirky and great fun.

A few years later, I spotted another upcoming opportunity - recruiting well-educated English tutors and governesses into private households of my international clients. That is how Mentor and Sons came into the existence – a boutique educational consultancy that today provides a complete range of educational services, working with leading private HMC schools, and recruiting talented teachers for private households in Russia, UAE, Kazakhstan, China, and the UK/Europe (oh, the provocative “/”!).

I see my involvement with the OC as first and foremost an opportunity to contribute to the place where I grew up, to meet with like-minded people, with whom I share some of the past. It is also an opportunity to share my professional experiences with whoever may wish to take a similar entrepreneurial path and to learn from those who also have an interesting story behind them.

Last but not least, since I am a keen swimmer, I'd love to start an OC outdoor swimming group, the wet-old-cats.com URL has not been taken yet!