



60 SECONDS WITH... RUPERT BURCHETT PARTNER PAYNE HICKS BEACH



Q What is one work related goal you would like to achieve in the next five years?

A I'd like to ensure our Landed Estates and Property teams at Payne Hicks Beach are equipped with the best AI tools that they can have to help improve the service we can give to our clients.

Q What cause are you passionate about?

A Country sports and rural affairs. The countryside matters and the way of life of our rural communities is currently under attack from people who simply do not understand how the countryside works. Even worse, they make no time to try. Outside work, I spend nearly all of my time enjoying the countryside and promoting and defending the rights of those who live and work there.

Q What does the perfect weekend look like?

A At this time of year, a day out in the countryside with my dogs, either following my local hounds, picking up on my local shoot or walking on the Salisbury Plain training area. Followed, of course, by a large Sunday lunch and an afternoon in front of the fire!

Q What has been the best piece of advice you have been given in your career?

A Notwithstanding what people say, the only person who genuinely cares about your career is you. Make the time to do what you need to do to be successful.

Q What is the best film of all time?

A A Few Good Men. As a former military lawyer, "you can't handle the truth" has played a prominent part in my career!

Q What do you see as the most rewarding thing about your job?

A Service. There are two aspects to this. First, I have the privilege to lead the Landed Estates team and the Property Department at Payne Hicks Beach which is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I work with an extremely talented group of people and count myself very fortunate that I am in a position to serve them, to help them to achieve their goals and, ultimately, to mould them into a cohesive team which sets us all up for success. Secondly, I still serve as an Officer in the Army Legal Services (Reserve) and so for almost a month a year I put on my uniform, return to my military roots and provide legal advice to the chain of command. I regard this as a huge honour.

Q How do you deal with stress in your work life?

A I go outside, take the dogs for a long walk and chat to them as we go. It helps to get things off my chest!

Q What is one important skill that you think everyone should have?

A A good telephone manner. It's all very well being able to knock off an email, but speaking to someone on the telephone is much more likely to help you to achieve your ends in the minimum time possible. It also reduces the chance of misunderstanding, and the chance of offence taken at an inadvertently poorly worded email!

Q What book do you think everyone should read, and why?

A All Creatures Great and Small, by James Herriot. James (a pseudonym) was a vet in the Yorkshire Dales before, during and after the second world war. His books (and this is an omnibus collecting his first few) are an autobiography of sorts, chronicling (often hilariously) his exploits as a new vet, then a partner in his practice and a trainee pilot in the RAF during the war, mostly set in the beautifully described landscape of the Yorkshire Dales. This book combines my two passions – the countryside and the military – and I find re-reading it both enjoyable and calming.

Q What's your go to relaxing activities to destress after a long day at work?

A "Phys" – military slang for going to the gym, or doing some form of vigorous exercise. I think I'm addicted to the endorphin rush afterwards!

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