



Young Members' Committee

YMC Blog – Spring Events 2018

This Spring, the Insurance Institute of London's Continuing Professional Development Programme has been busy! This included the latest installment of the Young Members' Committee's ever popular 'So you want to be a CEO?' series. Here is our account of this event and some of the main takeaways for the future.

So you want to be a CEO? Plan on Change

Due to popular demand, the YMC returned to the pretty breath-taking panorama of the 45th floor of the Cheese Grater for our latest edition in the "so you want to be a CEO" series. MS Amlin provided both the venue and the speakers in the form of **Simon Beale ACII, CEO** and **James Few ACII, Global Managing Director of Reinsurance**. Simon and James each gave their own personal account of what it means to be a CEO, talked about their own journeys and their roles in the changing face of insurance as well as offering advice for aspiring leaders! An audience Q&A followed, then finally networking time, when Simon and James remained to speak to many of the attendees. They certainly offered different perspectives and provided a lot of food for thought. Below gives a flavour of the evening....

Simon Beale ACII, CEO

With his impending promotion to CEO in April, Simon opened with the fact that he is only too aware, when you are a CEO, the buck stops with you! You have the authority to make big decisions and have ultimate accountability, plus you suddenly become very visible and have a responsibility to your employees and their families. He then posed the question, 'what does it take to be a CEO?' and gave his thoughts on the useful attributes/actions:

- Curiosity – constantly ask why, look at trends and implications
- Passion for your industry
- Emotional Intelligence
- Showing your competitive drive
- The ability to cultivate diverse relationships as you have to coordinate a diversity of people
- Vision, decisiveness, courage and confidence of yourself and from others
- The ability to be like the best artist i.e. simultaneously see the big picture and be the master of detail
- Build your credibility – create a track record of high performance
- Be organised – in action and thought
- Create good fortune – this sits between skills and luck
- You need great internal relationships and a team around you esp. CUO, CFO who have skills to plug your weaknesses





James Few ACII, Global Managing Director of Reinsurance

James firstly gave his account of his refreshingly 'normal' background at school, working at a supermarket, university and job applications. Just as Dominic Christian who was in the hot seat at our previous CEO event, James had contacts in both insurance and banking, but as luck would have it insurance won him over and he joined the RSA grad programme. He then shared his 'secrets to success' which he wishes he had known when setting out in the industry.

- Spend more time listening/reading/studying – there is so much change to keep on top of
- Show respect for others – it is a small world
- You can make your own luck if you keep doing the right things consistently
- Have regard for your name – it will remain with your forever
- Unless you are willing to entrench yourself in your work beyond the capacity of the average person, you are just not cut out for a position at the top



If you would like to find out more about forthcoming YMC events, please visit our webpage via the link below:

<http://www.iilondon.co.uk/home/about-us/young-members/>