

CIPA Introductory Lecture

-

A career in patents

**Gwilym Roberts
Kilburn & Strode
Stuart Forrest
WP Thomson**

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Intro

- **What is this lecture for?**
 - Orientation
 - Pep talk
- **Different sides of the story**
- **Stuart Forrest – first half**
- **Gwilym Roberts – second half**

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What do we do?

- Provide a link between inventors and the law
- Meet with inventors
- Draft patents
- Try to get patent applications allowed
- Try to get patents revoked
- Give opinions



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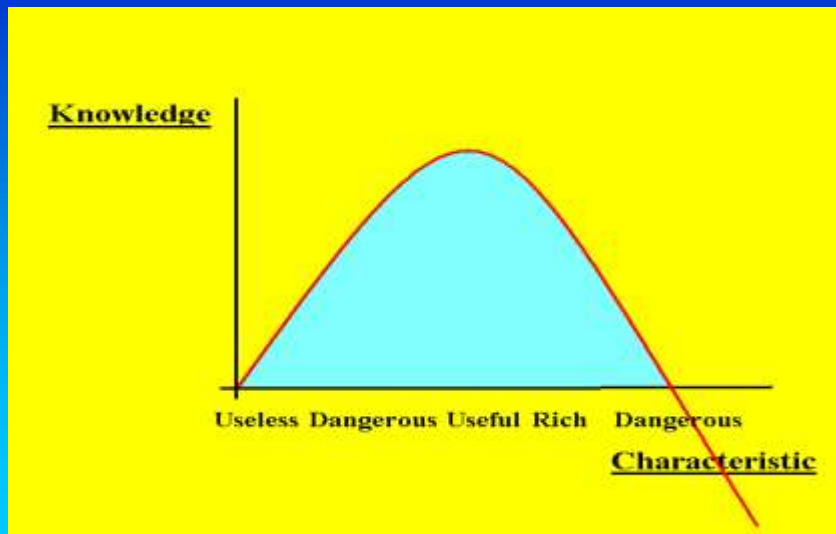
The commercial aspect

- Do patents make people rich?
- Is obtaining a patent going to earn someone money; or
- Is obtaining a patent going to cost someone money?
- Think of your client's commercial aim
 - License or
 - Manufacture



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The learning curve



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The Early Years

- Initiation
- Getting used to a different type of work
 - Business advice not science advice
- Demonstrate you are a safe pair of hands
- The job has changed
 - The words that we use have meaning
 - Instant access to information
- Ask questions



Get Involved!

What to Join or Apply for...

- CIPA – student member
- *epi* – relevant for EQEs

Get involved in the Informals

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Brexit / UP/ UPC



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Informals

- **BEER!**
- **Monthly Social Events**
 - Boat Cruise
 - Christmas Party
 - Bowling
 - Tutors' Parties
- **It's not all fun...**
 - Tutorials
 - Lectures



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Orientation

- **What you should know**
 - UK Act
 - EPC
 - PCT
 - plus Rules and Guidelines
 - Foreign law
- **Useful acronyms**
 - CPA PAL CIPA RPA EPA EPO EPI EPC PCT
CPC CPD CPR IPREG PLT WIPO AIPPI APAA
AIPLA ITMA ABA FICPI INTA INPI CNIPA
KIPO SIPO IPO USPTO TRIPS OAPI ARIPO
IPLC HCLC HCAC UP UPC

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Exams

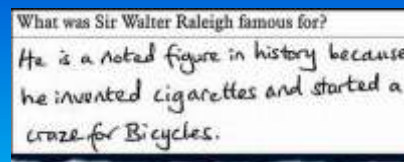
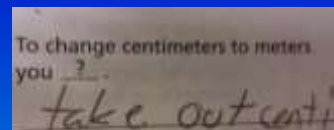
- What you should know:
 - EVERYTHING!
- Exams to sit
 - Foundation / equivalent
 - UK
 - EQE
 - Advocacy Certificate / Solicitor
- Courses and Lectures
 - QM(UL), Bournemouth, Brunel
 - CIPA Tutorials (Informals)
 - CEIPI
 - JDD



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Exams

- Juggle studying with work
- No need to rush in
- Failure!
- Picking yourself up and dusting yourself down

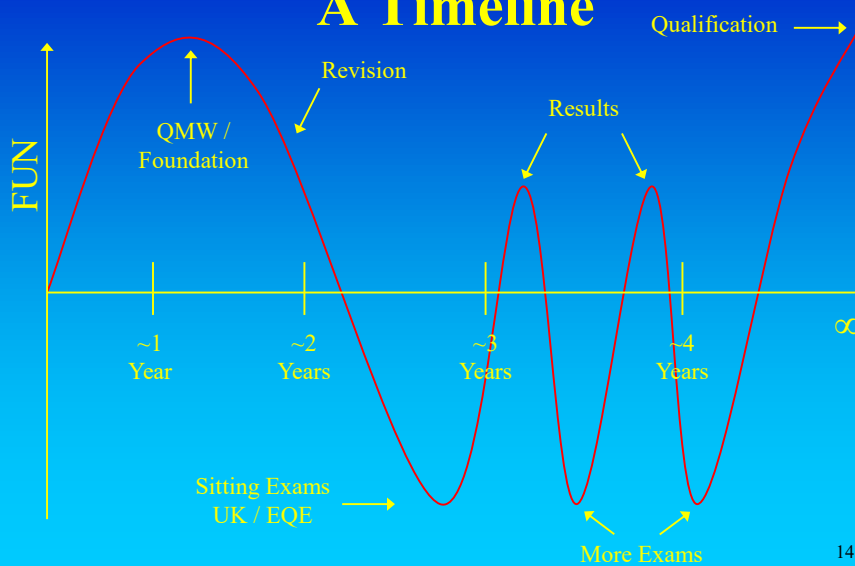


Qualification

- Learning the job
- Steeper learning curve
- Field questions about law
 - You're the most up to date resource
- Know your limitations!



A Timeline



The voice of experience Gwilym Roberts

- Office life – the evolution of a Hero
- Years 5-40



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Office life

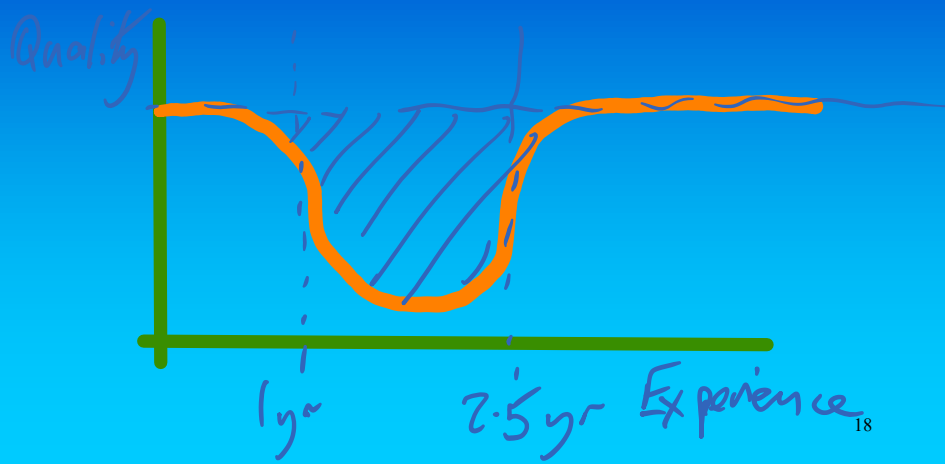


Your boss

- Make their life better
- If you can't impress the boss you won't impress the client
- Expect training
- Understand who is responsible for what

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The Learning Curve



The partners

- 10000 hours +++
- Remembering what you once didn't know
- This is a business...
- ...but expect training

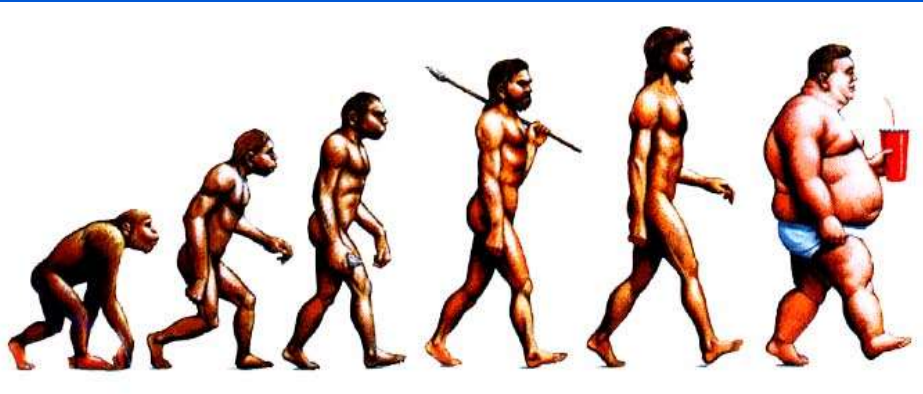
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Office life

- Embrace the community
- The benefits and perils of flexibility
- Management is terrified of millennials!

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Years 5-40



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Leave the profession a better place than you found it

- **Whatever path you choose try and give something back**



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Recently qualified

- **Learn the job**
- **Be happy to ask**
- **Understand who is responsible for what**
- **Understand what you want next**

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The client

- **This is who you answer to now**
- **What professionalism is**
- **What client care is**

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The longer term

- Had you decided what you want next?
- Find new stresses:
 - Get the business
 - Run the business
 - Grow the business
 - Teach
 - Think legacy
- Or not – but enjoy the job, and give something back!

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The horizon

- Is Brexit a problem?
- Is UPC a thing?
- Is AI going to take over?
- What are the real threats?



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Private Practice or Industry?

- **Private practice**
 - More variety, more stress, more pay, less familiarity with inventors and their projects
 - Foot soldier

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Private Practice or Industry?

- **Industry**
 - Less variety, less stress, less pay, more contact with the inventors, awareness of company strategy
.....
 - generals

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Conclusion

- Either side of the fence it is a good job
- Good luck
- Get training
- Think longer term a bit – for you and for your colleagues
- Get to the pub