

Each month **Zoe Bolton, founder of Bolton Associates** will be talking to one of the senior actuaries in the Lloyd and London Market, getting a brief insight into their career paths and visions for the future. This month she talks to **Paul Grimsey, Antares Managing Agency Ltd**.



What is your current role, and how did you end up in it?

I joined Antares Managing Agency Ltd at the start of 2013 as Chief Actuary, looking after a team of six responsible for all areas of reserving, pricing and capital modelling. I love the variety that this brings!

I started my career in 2001 as an actuarial consultant at Ernst & Young (now EY), and have also worked as an actuary at R&Q and W R Berkley Europe.

What is the defining moment of your career to date?

Finally being senior enough to be invited to Wembley to sit in the posh seats and watch Crystal Palace's heroic, if ultimately unsuccessful, 2016 FA Cup final.

Other less notable highlights include becoming Chief Actuary at Antares, getting my Chief Actuary with Lloyd's Practising Certificate, becoming chair of the IFoA's GI ECPD committee, joining the IFoA's GI Board and chairing the first Actuarial Function in General Insurance seminar.

In your opinion, what prepared you best to take on your current role?

Having a consultancy background has certainly helped – I think mainly because of the breadth of experience it provides you with. At R&Q I was also incredibly lucky to have Peter Green as a mentor, who taught me an awful lot of what I know.

What is the biggest challenge you face in your role within this market?

I'm fortunate to work with a great team of actuaries at Antares, and I consider a significant part of my role to be helping develop them. One particular challenge is providing the team with the necessary range of experience needed to become future Chief Actuaries.

In 2016 what is your aim for defining the actuarial division within your firm?

To be honest there's not much of 2016 left! I continue to aim to make the actuarial team fully integrated and central to all key decision making at Antares, to constantly strive to improve what we do, to be approachable (rather than creating barriers), and to ensure that everything is consistent and joined up - just one version of the truth!

When did you first join the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, and what advice would you give to those students looking to emulate your career path?

I joined the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries in 2001. My advice would be to strive for balance between work, study and your personal life – focussing too much on any one to the detriment of the others isn't great.

If you had your time again, what would you do, career-wise?

The LMA run a fantastic Inspirational Leadership course which I went on recently. The idea is to take you well outside of your comfort zone, and it helped me realise that if I wasn't an actuary, I could either be an Oxford Blue, or perhaps a choral conductor (ish).

Please share your favourite piece of trivia with our readers!

Graham's number is an unimaginably huge number that is a solution to a problem in graph theory. The actual problem isn't important. The universe has an interesting quality – a certain volume of space can hold a certain amount of information in it. If you were to imagine Graham's number digit by digit, your head would contain too much information for the volume it occupies. The information overload would cause your brain to implode, leaving a black hole where it used to be.