

FM World – Behind the Job

1. Job title/ organisation

Mark Cooper, MD of Anabas

2. Brief description of the job and key responsibilities

The most important responsibility is strategic leadership. As MD, it is my job to ensure that we provide a flexible, comprehensive and unrivalled service to all clients. It's also important to me that all of my team have a great place to work.

3. How did you find out about the position?

I am MD and owner of Anabas which I established in 2003 when I saw a gap in the market place for a smaller niche FM operator.

4. What attracted you to the job?

Setting up my own business provided me with the opportunity to make my mark in the industry and to provide an FM service which I was unable to source when I was working client side.

5. Three words that best describe my job are: Unusual/ challenging aspects of the job

Challenging, rewarding and Fun

6. My top perk at work is...

Having the freedom to work with the people I enjoy working with – we have a great team!

7. A brief run-down of your previous roles

I have worked in FM for over 20 years, starting out client side for Blue Chip organisations mostly in property and the FM arena. Roles included, Head of Facilities and Property for T-Mobile, Regional Facilities and Property Manager for Cable and Wireless, Head of FM for EMEA for Pepsi-Co and Project Manager for Independent Insurance.

8. How did you get into FM and what attracted you to the industry?

I wanted to pursue a professional career and originally trained as a chartered surveyor before side-stepping into FM when it became a recognisable profession. It was the hugely diverse nature of the job that attracted me and the chance to work in a varied role.

9. If you could change one thing about the industry, what would it be?

Increased awareness within corporate organisations of the role and importance of FM.

10. My favourite FM phrase is...

You can't park there!

11. Why and when did you join the BIFM?

I joined in 1992 as a professional working in the industry as I felt it was important to be a member of the BIFM for its industry knowledge, involvement, support and professional development opportunities.

12. Are you involved in any BIFM central or local events?

I belong to a number of networking groups

13. Do you have any qualifications in FM?

No, but I have 20 years experience and a Bsc hons in Estate Management. I am also a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (MRICS).

14. What's been your career high-point to date?

Achieving a £10 million turnover in 2007 after only 4 years of trading.

15. If I wasn't in FM, I'd probably be...

I would be the skipper of a fishing boat in the Caribbean, sun, great hours and no stress – perfect!

16. Who is/ was your mentor?

A number of people have mentored me over the years and I now have a network, both professionally and personally who constantly shape and influence the things that I do.

17. Any interesting tales to tell?

This has to be when a employee informed us that the name Anabas actually means 'climbing perch' in Portuguese which is apt as we are always waiting for our clients call and ready to take action!

18. What song best sums up FM?

"Who you gonna call? " by Ray Parker Junior

19. What car do you drive?

A bio-diesel Vauxhall Vectra that fits within our CSR policy, honest!

20. What gadget or piece of technology can you not do without?

My blackberry

21. How do you relax?

By running in the North Yorkshire Moors

22. What's in your desk's pedestal?

We don't have them at Anabas, we have a clear work policy – a clear desk is a clear mind!

23. What three people, dead or alive, would you invite to a dinner party?

Gordon Ramsey for his banter and straightforward talking, Raquel Welch for obvious reasons and Neil Armstrong so I could quiz him about what he actually saw!