# DSCO 2021

DSCO RoundUP - Spring 2021

## There is no stopping you

The economic environment has been tough for many businesses throughout the pandemic. But despite all the challenges, we've seen that the ingenuity, adaptability, and flexibility of many British businesses made it possible to adapt to this new normal and move on with life. In Q1 2021, we have seen new businesses being started, business acquisitions and business sales; all signs of an economy that is getting back to normal. We are looking forward to supporting you as the UK emerges out of lock-down once again and we are hoping to see you soon.



All the best, from all the team at DSCO

David Suckling, CEO



# Starting a business

Bad time for starting a business? How UNLTD, the alcohol-free beer company, seized the opportunities driven by a pandemic.

Starting a business is always a scary and risky undertaking. But UNLTD, the alcohol-free beer company, was presented with a unique opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing founder Johnny Johnson into taking the plunge. As people could no longer go to bars and restaurants, many of us took to the outdoors and got a taste for a healthier and more active lifestyle.

The team at DSCO supported Johnny all the way, making sure his financials are fit to support his new venture during these first crucial months. Managing cashflow and cost was critical at this stage and the team made sure that Johnny got off to a good start.

Are you starting a new business? Contact us today and we would be happy to advise you.



# **Acquiring a business**

Rather than starting a new business – you may wish to realise your ambitions more quickly by acquiring an existing business.

Acquisitions can be very rewarding. A thorough due diligence can avoid surprises after the acquisition. But even with the best preparation, there are still new systems to handle, staff to train and unknown challenges to battle.

One of the main challenges for CP Estate Agents was the integration of two new accounting systems that had to run from day one post acquisition.

The Team at DSCO helped to successfully onboard the new systems (Xero and Payprop) and made sure the team continued to be able to do their day jobs.

Talk to us today about your acquisition plans. We are looking forward to advising you.





# Restructuring a business

Businesses grow and evolve over time, often in an unstructured way. By planning ahead we ensure that our clients grow in an organised and effective group structure.

Recently, we were asked to advise a new client, Scott Stevens of City Brickwork UK Limited.

After reviewing Scott's goals we were able to build a structure that was more tax efficient, that de-risked the group, that allowed management to buy equity and most importantly fulfilled Scott's personal goals.

Working with our partners RSM, Longmores and Ashcroft Cameron, we were able to ensure that a tax efficient and HMRC approved structure was created in a short period.

If your business structure is changing and you would like to protect your assets, please get in touch for more information.

# Selling a business

Selling your business could allow you to diversify your assets, pursue other projects or simply take it easy and spend more time with your family.

Planning ahead is critical when selling a business. Having the right partner by your side throughout this journey can make the difference between success and failure.

In July 1998, we helped form SelectScience Limited, continuing to support them from that date. Over time the company grew into a global leader in its field. Then, after working hard for 23 years, the owners decided they wanted more time for themselves and to realise some of the value they had created.

In January 2021 they sold their company to PE House, Vespa Capital. Vespa retained the high quality, ambitious management team to continue the rapid growth and product expansion.

If you are looking for advice on selling your business, please contact us.





# **Cross Option Arrangements**

If anything happened to you or your business partner, would the business survive and how would your family cope financially?

You may wish to consider a Cross Option Arrangement. Should anything happen to you, then your partner can afford to buy you out and your family will be well provided for financially.

In September 2020 we were appointed to act for Crown Labels, based in Redditch.

The company is owned by two brothers and they had no succession arrangements in place. After reviewing their goals, we were able to advise a solution, which was put into action by their lawyers and SWCO, our sister company.

Speak to us about Cross Option Arrangements today and prepare for the future.

# **Team News**

## David

The last year has been the most exhausting, frightening and yet uplifting of my career. Through these difficult times, many of you needed a counsellor not an accountant. But as always, it was a privilege to serve the wonderful, creative and caring DSCO community.

Over the past couple of years we have improved our systems and IT infrastructure. No one could have foreseen the pandemic, but operationally we have not missed a beat. We have supported every one of our clients precisely when they have needed us. David has now moved into a strategic and consultative role and I am looking forward to helping you consolidate your successes over the coming years. Finally, I'd like to say a massive thank you to all of our clients, to my entire team and to all the advisers that we have collaborated with this past year.



## Craig

I have been qualified a couple of years now and am settling into the role of Senior Client Manager. It is a joy to see clients develop and reach their goals. Working with David, Arif and Kerry on the SelectScience sale was a great experience, a great result for a great client.



So, little Henley is nearly three now and this last year has been a challenge to work effectively whilst looking after a toddler. I know that many of our clients have been in the same position and being able to empathise has been a real help. Here's to all the parents out there, juggling all those balls and still keeping it together.



## Chloe

I joined DSCO back in November and have recently passed my AAT exams. I am gradually getting to know the clients. I love working with those that I have met and can't wait to meet you all properly as and when we are allowed to.

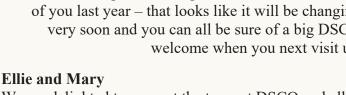


I am a freelance support to DSCO, but I have always felt very much part of their and your teams. Advising you guys, and contributing to your success motivates me to constantly develop my own skills – DSCO and their clients are truly an inspiration.



## Laura

As Office Manager, I didn't get the chance to see many of you last year – that looks like it will be changing very soon and you can all be sure of a big DSCO welcome when you next visit us.



We are delighted to support the team at DSCO and all of their amazing clients – we wish you a bright and a healthy future.





