



Martin Cherry

GORDON CRAIGIE / PHOTODISC

Cherry on top

FEW PEOPLE CAN boast of having developed an internationally successful board game and associated TV series by their mid-20s. But that's exactly the claim to fame of Angus-based Costco member Martin Cherry.

After graduating from the University of Dundee in 1993, Cherry headed to Toronto, where he and his father came up with *The Reel to Reel Picture Show*, a film-themed trivia game. "We sold thousands of games in Canada, the USA and the UK, including a licensed James Bond 007 version and a Sky TV special promoting their Movie Channel," he tells *The Connection*.

A producer friend saw the potential to transition the game to television, and the result was that *The Reel to Reel Picture Show* ran for 25 episodes on US network PAX in 1998. Exciting as that sounds, Cherry remains unimpressed. "If you want to burn through a lot of money very quickly, funding a TV show in the USA is

as good a way as any," he laughs.

Uncomfortable with the glitz and glamour of showbiz, Cherry cut his ties and returned to Scotland in 1999. However, the board game experience had left him with an obsession with technology applications, so, following a number of related ventures, he established Bannerman Technology to focus on bespoke software development.

The company was rebranded in 2016 as Banntech (banntech.co.uk). Cherry explains, "Banntech provides companies from all industry sectors with custom solutions, from simple websites through to corporate software enterprise platforms." Banntech currently employs 12 staff in its Dundee location, servicing clients worldwide.

Dismissing the serial entrepreneur tag, Cherry smiles and says, "Doesn't everyone do stuff like this?"

—Gordon Craigie

LIVING THE DREAM, EVERY DAY

"MY PASSION IS helping and encouraging people to have the confidence to be the best they can be," says Costco member Karran Bonner of Dundee. Her desire to help people succeed in life led her to establish Brightside (brightsideinspiration.com), a personal coaching firm, in 2013. She now works with a network of like-minded associates to support her 30-strong client base.

"From a young age I had wanted to do something that I started from scratch, and eventually I figured out that [meant running] my own business," Bonner tells *The Connection*.

Her entrepreneurial drive and nurturing nature first began to merge when she attended a career-planning module whilst studying history at the University of Dundee. The journey continued when she took a junior position at a leading people development company, Insights (insights.com), in 2008 and her career began to take off.

Today Bonner is totally focused and likes to keep fit and active. As she explains, "To do the work I do, you have to live the vision every day. Without running, I don't think I would have had the courage to start Brightside, as that is when I do a lot of my thinking. I also practise mindfulness to try [to] support both myself and my clients to enjoy the present moment more."

Bonner concludes, "I thrive on people having personal breakthroughs in coaching and training. A number of my clients have shared that their experiences with Brightside have led to a transformation in their work and personal life. It doesn't get better than that for me."—GC



Karran Bonner

JULIE CHRISTIE

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