

THE DIGEST

THIS MONTH THE
YOUR 50-HOUR W
OVERSEAS TRADE

THE NETWORKER



Tuesday 17 June

One entrepreneur who has seen it all is Will King, who founded the King of Shaves brand in 1992 after being laid off from another job. He's never looked back – a lesson to all entrepreneurs never to give up. I went to the launch party of his new razor, the Azor, at the Hempel Hotel in West London. It looks totally original and is the first British-made razor in 100 years. Good to see an entrepreneur deciding to manufacture in Britain.

Thursday 12 June

When it comes to successful start-ups, the West Coast of America is up there with the best. That's why I attended a speech by Scott McNealy, founder of Sun Microsystems, at Le Meridien in Picadilly, with Oli Barrett. Sun was launched in California's Silicon Valley in the 1980s and now employs over 30,000 people. Scott talked about the challenges he faced and lessons he's learnt. It was awesome to be in the presence of such an inspiring leader.

Wednesday 2 July

We've come a long way since I founded Glasses Direct from my parents' house. While our operations centre is still based in Swindon, we've moved our HQ to new offices on Baker Street in the heart of London. Apparently Winston Churchill held his War Room meetings here, so it's the perfect place to draw inspiration.

Monday 21 July

Over to Covent Garden for a networking event at 14 Henrietta Street – a new events venue, which also used to be George Orwell's publishing house. It was hosted by the Up Group and designed to allow entrepreneurially minded individuals, senior executives of high-growth companies and investors to share business experiences and ideas in a relaxed setting. Guest speakers included the venture capital firm Wellington Partners and the VC-backed start-up Reevo.

Jamie Murray Wells founded Glasses Direct aged 21. The business has revolutionised the glasses industry by selling online at a fraction of the price of the major retailers. www.glassesdirect.co.uk