

John Anderson - *personal profile*

Also known as 'Bas' or 'Maginty'

When I first joined Harlow College in September 1961, I remember 'Chewie' thinking I was the Bees' Knees' when it came to Maths. Don't know where he got that idea from but he soon found out to the contrary.

I used to hate going back to school particularly after the long summer holidays. The long trek from Dublin by boat and train and on arrival at the school, up those cold concrete steps to the dormitories to put away the gear. It was hard to get used to.

In overview terms Harlow College I thought was very academic and did little to prepare us for the broader/commercial world outside. Having said that I had a reasonable time there. And in fairness Harlow gave me one of the most valuable assets that I could have asked for although I didn't realise it at the time. It gave me my Independence, something I was to fall back on time and time again after I left and up to the time when I married.

I had the 'Cosh' once from Purgavie. Unfortunately the newspaper didn't work. Lockwood, I think got it at the same time. Could be wrong.

Do you remember Hailey-Dunne from Dun Laoghaire in Ireland. Imagine a mad Irishman trying to teach us lot French. It was some laugh. And the lark with the kipper and later the gym shoe. That was something else.

Then there was the English teacher who always had the hankie out. He suffered a lot with the sniffles. He drove a

white Ford Consul which we duly put up on blocks one day , the poor guy couldn't understand why the car wouldn't move.

After leaving Harlow College in 1965 I returned to Dublin and after many job applications and interviews took up a Quality Control position in the paint industry. To be honest it was the first reasonable job that became available to me. After 3 years I got fed up and moved to another Company still in Quality Control but this time quality testing detergents. Products like Daz, Tide and Ariel.

Following the advice of my boss at the time I started studying Industrial Engineering. It was at this point that my career started to take on some shape and move in a logical direction, on the path to Materials Management./ Distribution. Logistics I believe is the buzz word.

In 1974 I joined a Multinational Company which was in the business of manufacturing Chewing Gum of all things, and on into Pharmaceutical Distribution and then Diagnostic Manufacturing.

That took me up to 1984 when following a downsizing I tried my hand at the computer business. Another well-known Multinational but I couldn't adjust to the 'Hi-Tech' culture so moved back to the Confectionery business.

Having improved profitability for other companies I thought I would try doing the same thing for myself so in 1987 I set up my own business in Logistics Consultancy. Following 6 interesting years one of my clients, BWG Foods Ltd, (BWG have the franchise for Spar in Ireland), asked me to join them as General Manager of their Dublin Delivered

Business Centre. I accepted and that is where I am to this day.

Heather and I were married in 1974 and we have 2 daughters, Holly (27) and Jill (25). Both girls have qualified and are pursuing their chosen careers. Holly in Human Resources and Jill in Marketing.

We live in Churchtown, which is located on the South West suburbs of Dublin.

Finally, I am very big into golf so if any of you guys are on for a game then let me know.

You can email me at [John Anderson](#)