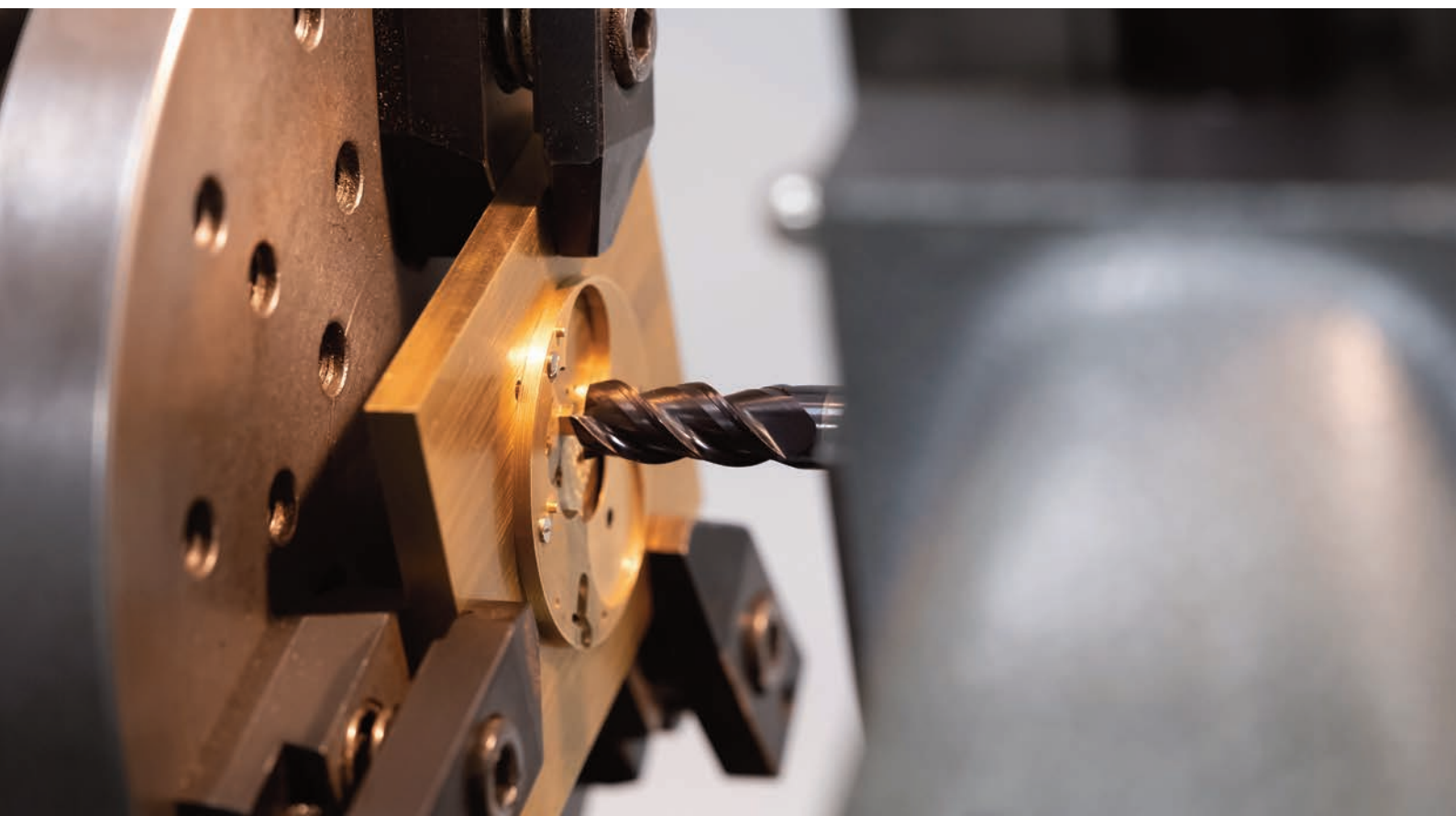


THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF WATCHMAKING

A **WOSTEP** PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL



British School of Watchmaking

SPRING 2022

WELCOME BACK TO BSOW

2021 was another prosperous year at the British School of Watchmaking.

Another class through our system with graduates going to all corners of the industry!

Read on to see what's been happening.

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A NEW TRUSTEE JOINS THE TEAM

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Swatch Group UK's Country Manager & Omega Brand Manager, Andrea Nunziata, as a BSOW Trustee. Andrea will be joining our existing trustees and will undoubtedly bring with him unique talents and skills to add to our already extremely capable trust.

As part of Andrea's appointment we took the time to ask him a few questions to find out a little more about him and his decision to join the School.



Why did you decide to join the School now?

I have always kept a very interested eye on the development of the School. So far The Swatch Group was represented by a long standing trustee. When he left I jumped on the possibility to replace him. I have been warmly welcomed and I am delighted to put my enthusiasm and experience to the service of the School.

Which are the key aspects of the School that most attracts you?

I am attracted by the fact that the School is a vital player of our industry. The last two years have proven how much British customers love their Swiss watches and how dynamic our domestic market is. That's the good news. The bad news is that the number of watchmakers is not following the same pattern and for this reason we need the School to train the numbers of watchmakers that our industry needs.

Another aspect that I like is the fact that the School is a cooperation between brands and retailers who are all united for the best of the industry.

If you could advise a person who wants to start a new career or to be a watchmaker, what would be your key advice?

Go for it! It is one of the most fascinating jobs in the world. We live in times where almost everything relies on a battery or on the constant need to be plugged in and charged. Watch movements are different, they are the closest invention to the perpetual movement and a testimonial of the genius of humans. Being a watchmaker enables you to access this and to see all the existing variety of movements. Furthermore if your dream is to travel while working this is the perfect job for you as watchmakers are needed everywhere.

How long have you been working at Swatch?

That's not going to make me younger.... It is now 22 years since I joined the company. I had the chance to work for it in Switzerland, Italy and here in the UK since 2014.

What did bring you to the watch industry?

In an early holiday trip to Switzerland my parents bought an Omega Seamaster 300 Hz. My parents bought some other watches during the years but this watch always fascinated me as a child. Also I grew with the Swatch phenomenon and this also contributed to my passion for watches. During my university years I was a trainee at Omega during two summers, something which I enjoyed a lot and I was lucky to join the company permanently at the end of my time at university.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Discovering new products. Every time I see a new model I feel like a kid on Christmas Day. I love to discover the design of a brand new watch, or the new version of an iconic watch. Even better when they host a brand new movement with complications. I have worked for five years as a product manager and I love to spot every detail on a new watch: the materials used, the design of the case, the dial treatment, the hands design, all of this is always fascinating.

What is your favourite watch?

I have been wearing for many years my Omega Speedmaster Dark Side of the Moon. I love that it is inspired by the Moonwatch but also uses new materials, ceramic in this case and the Co-Axial technology (it was launched before the Master Chronometer certification). The watch is versatile, you can wear it with a suit, a tuxedo or in casual wear.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF WATCHMAKING WELCOMES XUPES

At the end of 2021, Xupes, a multichannel retailer specialising in pre-owned luxury watches joined the British School of Watchmaking as one of its financial supporters.

Joseph McKenzie, founder and CEO of Xupes, says "Our focus from day one has always been to offer our clients an impeccable service when repairing timepieces. Therefore, to support the School's mission, which is to produce the finest skilled graduate watchmakers in the UK, was a natural step. The number of watches we receive in servicing is growing exponentially, therefore we are needing more highly skilled watchmakers. We believe that by contributing to the School we

are, of course, supporting our business but also supporting the whole of the watch industry and the development of future talent."

"All of us at Xupes believe that the BSOW is extremely important, offering opportunities to the younger generations to not only train and develop their expertise, but to establish a new career. Being part of the School is also a way of Xupes promoting a career that isn't often spoken about, which is excellent in terms of job opportunity and progression."

We are proud and excited to be associated with the BSOW and look forward to what not only 2022, but the future brings.



AN INTERVIEW WITH A BSOW ALUMNUS

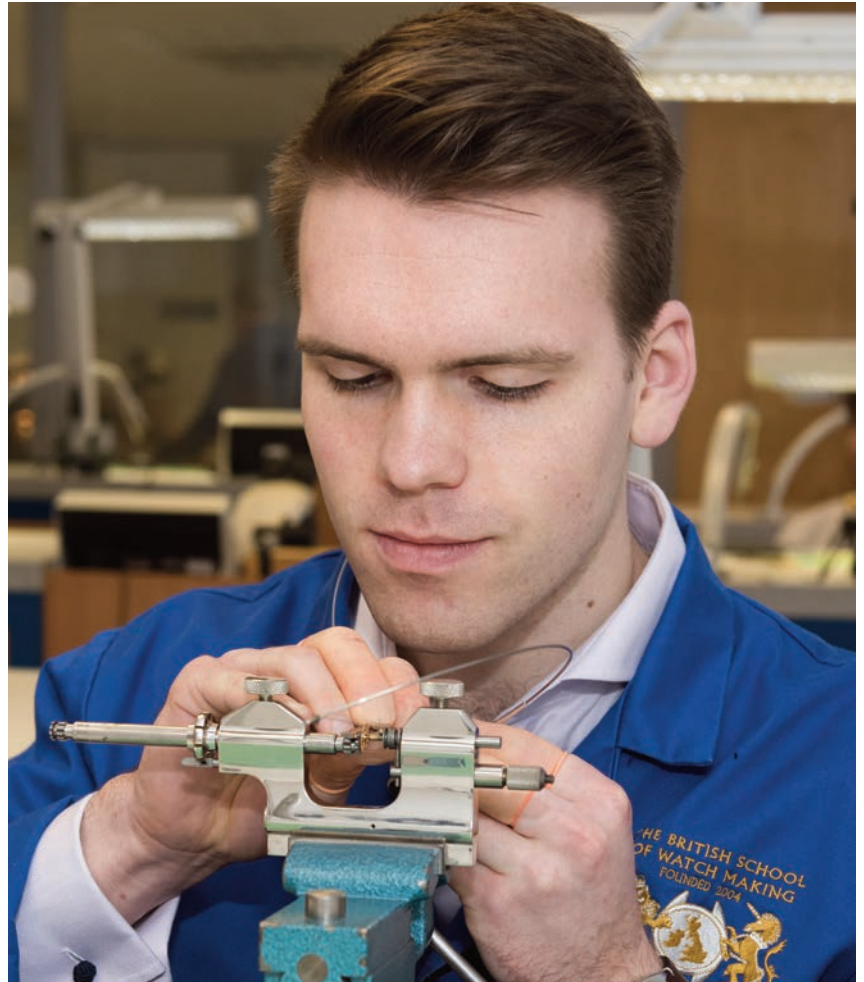
Patrik, originally from Norway, relocated to Manchester in 2016 to attend the British School of Watchmaking. Following his Graduation in 2018 he quickly secured employment as a watchmaker in the UK with Patek Philippe, where he remains today:

How did you first become interested in watchmaking?

For as long as I can remember I have always had a keen interest in the workings of mechanical objects, how they piece together and what made them work - I would pick almost anything apart to investigate. Watchmaking was for me a natural extension of this, and when I got exposed to it through a retail job, selling watches, dealing with minor repairs and customer service, my interest in watchmaking specifically solidified.

When did you make the decision to follow a career in watchmaking?

After many years in retail I was fairly certain a career in watchmaking was something I wanted to pursue, it seemed a natural fit - a combining of the artistic, with the rules and limitations of the mechanical. Therefore, after serving in the Norwegian airforce for a year, partially to try a different life, I decided I had nothing to lose and everything to gain in trying my luck and applying for training as a watchmaker.



As a Norwegian what was it that made you decide to study and then pursue a career in the UK over other countries?

When deciding on where to study I had several countries on my list. I had the opportunity to train as an apprentice in Norway, I looked into WOSTEP training in Sweden and Switzerland, and a number of other Schools all around the globe. Eventually after discussing my options with several watchmakers I already knew and a former student at BSOW, learning of their reputation as one of, if not the very best School out there, I knew it was the one for me. Providing WOSTEP qualifications, combined with an excellent reputation, unbeatable industry affiliations, a chance to solidify my English, all in the exciting city of Manchester - a city which after moving out almost four years ago, still feels like home.

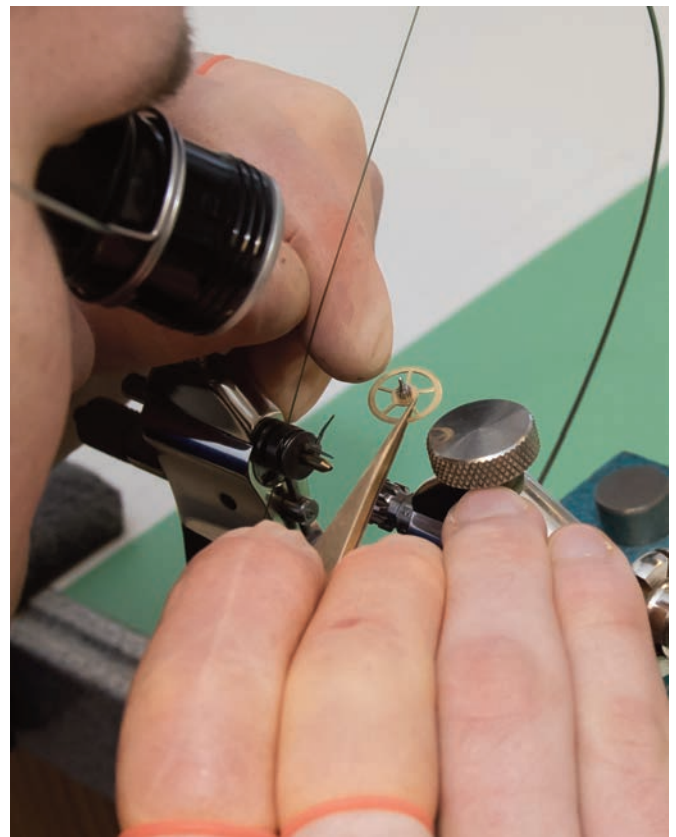
What are the subjects you enjoyed studying most at BSOW?

For me my favourite subject at the School has to be turning and micromechanics. Classes in making parts for the things I would pick apart as a child was like a dream. In particular I would like to highlight turning of balance staffs; impossibly small axles with pivots you can hardly see with the naked eye. Where the smallest change in curvature or diameter renders the part useless, made entirely by hand and with techniques devised centuries ago. It still baffles me today how, after only a short time of training we were able to make these with a precision a fraction of the thickness of a human hair.

Tell me a little about your current role at Patek Philippe and how it has progressed since you graduated from BSOW?

After leaving BSOW I had the great fortune of joining Patek Philippe as a watchmaker. My time here started, as in most companies, with training on the specifics of our movements. Starting training on less complicated quartz movements, and helped by the solid foundations laid at the School quickly moving on to more complicated mechanical and automatic movements. Culminating in a month long training course and certification test at our manufacture in Geneva. Since passing my certification my responsibilities have continued to revolve around servicing the whole range of quartz and the basic range manually wound and automatic movements, all proving their excellence in quality instead of complication.

One of my special responsibilities within the company is looking after the watches coming back in while still under guarantee. These jobs require special attention due to the unpredictability of faults and the importance of making sure the customer receives the best possible experience when things have previously not gone as smoothly as we would like. It is without doubt a huge display of confidence being trusted with this after a relatively short time with the company, and a testimony to the skills and attention to detail championed at BSOW.



How well prepared for employment were you following your education at BSOW?

In a way it was only after leaving the School I realised how solid the education we received was. Some of the skills and techniques taught at the School are not things you will use every day at your average company, but it all combines to provide an unparalleled understanding of how every part of a watch functions and how to treat them. With this in mind, I doubt I would be able to find anywhere that would prepare me better for employment in the servicing and repair of watches. It says a great deal about the training, that when I started at Patek Philippe almost half the workshop had been trained at BSOW!

Would you have any advice for anyone else thinking of starting a career as a watchmaker?

Pay attention to details, don't cut corners and don't compromise on quality. The sense of pride you can feel when you know you have done a good job. The knowledge you did this job with your very own hands is something very special in today's society. If you don't want a run of the mill desk job, you have patience and take pride in a job well done, then all I can say is: just do it. Take the plunge and discover one of in my mind, greatest jobs out there. A job that is seeped in history and yet ever evolving.

OUR THIRD WORKSHOP NEARS COMPLETION

During the British School of Watchmaking's relocation and major expansion in 2021, a third workshop was included in the design phase of our new School layout.



This additional space will compliment our existing two workshops which will continue to be maintained and dedicated for our students taking WOSTEP 1800 & 3000 Hour Courses.

We have very recently moved one step closer to completion of this additional workspace, with special thanks to Audmars Piguet who have very kindly provided us with enough benches to fill the workshop. With these Bodenmann height adjustable benches now in place we are currently in the process of equipping the workshop in preparation to take up to eight students.

As this new element of our facility nears completion you can expect further updates in the very near future when short courses come online. These will cover, among other things, watch based instruction for retail staff, professional watchmaker courses, introductory courses and also the possibility of bespoke courses for specific employer requirements.

The British School of Watchmaking currently has a rare career opportunity for a

Trainee Lecturer/Lecturer

Do you want to be part of a small dynamic team offering a unique chance for students to start a rewarding and satisfying career? The Trainee Lecturer/Lecturer role at the School will be ideal for you.

The British School of Watchmaking, supported by all major watch brands and retailers, stands at the forefront of Horological education within the UK and the WOSTEP partnership Schools. For this rewarding role, you will teach Swiss watchmaking and service from the WOSTEP syllabus. You will also be able to contribute to maintaining and improving the already high standards of the School and, consequently, support the UK watch industry.

Ideally you will have either a horological or engineering background in micro mechanics. The ability to feed the enthusiasm of the students who have passed an assessment process is essential as well as motivate them to reach their full potential while at the School.

We offer:

Full training program - given both at the School and in WOSTEP Switzerland

Attractive salary

Bonus scheme

Modern state of the art training facilities

Free parking

Relocation expenses considered

If you feel you have the attributes and desire to train the UK's next generation of quality watchmakers, please apply in confidence to: The General Manager, BSOW, Evolution House, Mackenzie Industrial Estate, Stockport, SK3 0SB, or by email to james.robinson@bsow.co.uk enclosing your CV

For more information about the School, please visit www.britishschoolofwatchmaking.co.uk

BSOW SUPPORTERS

The BSOW was created and is maintained entirely by the donations received by our growing number of supporters and this year we welcome Xupes.

As a registered charity all of the donations we receive are directed straight back into training and the expansion of the services we are able to offer. We thank all current supporters for their contributions which enable us to provide our services to the industry.

BSOW supporters not only contribute to our operation they also benefit themselves from reduced training costs, access to on tap employees via our fee paying students, networking opportunities with other major brands and prestigious retailers and also the ability to influence the future direction of the School and have input on our future courses.

If you have a business and would like to join our network of supporters, please get in touch. We always love to hear from new sources and discuss how we can work together to help better our industry.

BEAVERBROOKS

Berry's

BOODLES
1798

BREITLING
1884

BREMONT
CHRONOMETERS

DMR
DAVID M. ROBINSON

G. Collins & Sons
WATCHES & JEWELLERY

HETTICH
JEWELLERS SINCE 1940

HOULDEN
JEWELLERS OF EXCELLENCE

Lunn's

LYMH
WATCHES & JEWELLERY

MALLORY
SINCE 1909

THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
OF GOLDSMITHS
Representing retail goldsmiths since 1887

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

Prestons

RICHEMONT

ROGER W SMITH

ROLEX

Rudell
The Jewellers

SIGNET
JEWELLERS

SWATCH GROUP

WALSH
WATCHES & JEWELLERY

THE
WATCHES
OF SWITZERLAND
GROUP

XUPES
Pre-Owned. Redefined.

KEY DATES

**1800 Hour Course
Application Deadline**
July 2022

**1800 Hour Course
Final Examination**
December 2022

**3000 Hour Course
Application Deadline**
July 2022

**3000 Hour Course
Final Examination**
December 2022

2022 looks set to be an exciting year, with equipment and furnishings due to arrive for our new short course & polishing workshops, the further expansion of BSOW continues.

Pushing forward to reach a wider audience and serve a broader cross section of our industry, perhaps we can help you.

If you'd like to get involved, as a supporter or a student, we'd love to hear from you!

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