

In conversation with Julien Drybooms



Q: How long have you been involved in the diamond industry and where and how did your involvement begin?

A: I started work in 1965 in my father's diamond company as an apprentice cleaver and sorter due to my father's retirement (due to illness) .

Q: What is your company called and what do you enjoy best in your daily work environment?

A: I worked for De Beers for nine years in Antwerp. During 1980 I started my own company which later became Drybooms Julien en Zonen BVBA and Drybooms Diamonds NV and recently also Drybooms Jewels BVBA.

Q: Are you married and do you have children, if so what do they do?

A: I am married to Josee and we are proud to have three sons who are involved in running our family businesses.

Q: What have been your greatest achievements so far?

A: . At the nineties I become president of the Bourse Vrije Diamanthatel N.V. I also served six years as president of HRD Antwerp N.V.

Q: In what way has the industry changed over the years?

A: The industry changed completely in the last 45 years. Before we could buy a nice parcel of rough diamonds, polish the stones and in good time it was sold in bulk for cash money. Today everything has to be sorted and certified. So for smaller companies it has become more and more difficult (financing stocks and credit).

Q: Are you optimistic about the future of the diamond industry and would you encourage young people to get involved?

A: Our family business works more in the niche markets and as such are more resilient and I have brought my children into the family business.

Q: What advice would you give a young person thinking about entering the diamond industry?

A: It is a problem for young people to start in the business as it is a profession where you are learn your entire life and if you are not born into the trade, then best not to get involved.

Q: If you had the choice, would you consider any other profession?

A: My children are already fourth generation diamantairs and I hope it will go on for ever.

Q: Do you hold any position in any other club or association other than the WFDB?

A: I am also a board member of CIBJO and also IDC officer

Q: Do you have time for a hobby and if so what do you do?

A: As hobby I play badminton, won more than 25 Belgian Masters titles and I also do cycling..