

New power networkers

They're charming, well connected and the life of the party. Meet the super-charged young men storming the country's most alluring social circles

THE SON ALSO RISES. IN this case, Jasper Greig, student at Central Saint Martins, *Tatler* contributor and a soigné young fellow who's typically swapping a joke around the kitchen table with David Hockney, yachting with Valentino and cosying up in the countryside with Victoria Beckham. He is, in short, a networker supreme, following in a master's footsteps. (His father, Georgie, is the best-connected man in Britain: one-time editor of *Tatler*, the current editor of the *Daily Mail* and intimate with everybody who is anybody.)

But Jasper's not alone. There's a new clutch of beautifully mannered young men eager to don the mantle of great schmoozers such as Nicholas Coleridge and Nicky Haslam. They know how to talk to the famous. They know how to bring Tycoon A together with Cabinet Minister B and make it rattling good fun for all. They know how to listen. They know how to smooth ruffled feathers while feathering their own social

nest. They can amuse. They can be useful. And they're adept at making their presence at any ball, dinner or divertissement an absolute must.

You'll spot them at the west London members' club Laylow, learning at the feet of that most suavely sociable of bohemians, Taz Fustok. Or at Carole Bamford's Christmas party, soothing politicians' wounds, or Tom Perrin's book launches, making themselves constant companions to bestselling aristocratic writers such as Lady Anne Glenconner. And you'll catch them at Frieze, holding forth on the comeback of figurative painting, surrounded by a crowd of admiring collectors.

You can even see them shrug off disaster and claw their way back to triumph – take Dave Clark, who split up with his long-time belle, Princess Beatrice, and was promptly ejected from the highest-flying social circles in the land. But he was undaunted, and with the rhinoceros hide every mover and shaker needs, he showed up at the Annabel's Halloween party and revelled with social lions such as Jacobi Anstruther-Gough-Calthorpe, Camilla Blandford, Arun Nayar and Alexander Spencer-Churchill. He was back with a bang – a networker's networker who's more than fit to take his place in *Tatler*'s list of hot new power players.



1 JASPER GREIG

Jasperino' (pictured with his father, Georgie) lives in Notting Hill, has a 'cloud nine' tattooed on his ribs and flits between Spetses, Zimbabwe and Scotland, meeting, eating and shooting. Mingles with Gilbert & George, Tom Hiddleston, the rapper Jimothy Lacoste and India Warrender. Knows everyone.

2

ARCHIE MANNERS

The best networking magician in the world? Very possibly. The 15th in line to Baron Manners has won ringing endorsements from the Duke of Cambridge and Theresa May, and can pull contacts out of a hat, just like that. Close to Alexander Warren, son of John Warren, the Queen's racing manager, as well as the Pearsons of Cowdray Park, this jet-setter has done tricks for Donald Trump and Chris Hemsworth. He once said: 'I keep a pack of cards in my pocket, in case I bump into the Obamas.'



3

GRANT TUCKER

The talented Tucker has risen super-swiftly from shifts at *The Times* as a junior reporter to private poker sessions with Rupert Murdoch. The secret of his success? The hardworking, ambitious Welsh journo took a young trainee by the name of Gabriel Jagger under his wing. His kindness was repaid tenfold: a trip to Mustique with Gabe's father, Mick, and that late-night card game with Gabe's stepfather, Rupert. Result: an alleged rebuke from the editor of *The Times*: 'We do not make house visits!' Tucker soon moved to *The Sunday Times*, where his meteoric ascent saw him appointed media and entertainment correspondent by the time he was 25. Rachel Johnson is a fan and he has drunk champagne with Princess Michael of Kent. He has the gift. According to his first boss at LBC radio: 'The sheer force of his personality and networking ability [meant] he could make friends with anyone – and did!'



5

SPENCER MATTHEWS

Having grown up on the hyper-smart party island of St Barths and been educated at Eton, Spencer Matthews (pictured with his wife, Vogue Williams) was given the ideal charm-school training long before TV came calling. Now the 'sober curious' founder of the Clean Liquor Company flits between reality-show friends and royal circles with ease, thanks in part to his sister-in-law, Pippa Middleton. He was *Made in Chelsea*, but he's making it to Buckingham Palace. ▷



4

OSCAR DUNBAR

He's with the band! With an immaculate rock-royalty pedigree as the grandson of Marianne Faithfull, Dunbar (pictured with Natasja Fourie) honed his networking skills working as a maitre d' at Laylow. Now the charming 25-year-old is putting his talents to use as the lead singer of Khartoum, the band the Stones hired to play at the after-party for the London leg of their most recent tour. Soon to be 'toppermost of the poppermost', as John Lennon used to say.



GEOFF HEATH-TAYLOR

This ambitious politico (below right) strolls around Windsor with Jacob Rees-Mogg, while his social-media posts get 'likes' from Alexandra Tolstoy. The former *Country Life* writer worked on Boris's Tory leadership campaign, pounding the streets with his pal Zac Goldsmith. For Heath-Taylor, no country-house weekend is complete without an advantageous stay at a duke's estate, accompanied by cheery Instagram posts – think Cliveden, Blenheim and Stonor Park. With friends such as Will Cash and royal artist Nicky Philipps, he's a young man with fingers in many pies.



8

DAVE CLARK

When he split from Princess Beatrice after a decade together, the embossed invites could have dried up for strategic development executive Clark. But they didn't. He moves in prime circles in New York and London, and even his wedding to Lynn Anderson (pictured) in Puglia seemed a networker's dream – guests included Ashton Kutcher and Justin Bieber's right-hand man Scooter Braun. Well-liked and much-admired, Teflon Dave is still smiling in all the right social situations.



ALEXANDER SPENCER-CHURCHILL

Known as Ali to his close contacts – and there are many (pals include Lord and Lady Rothermere, Nick Love, Guy Ritchie and Caroline Sieber). Family connections aside, it's Spencer-Churchill's innate ability to charm Hollywood stars and socialites and close a deal with the ultimate discretion (no showy public Instagram here) that saw Richard Caring invite him to turn Annabel's around. And he has done just that, brokering a £200 million agreement with Qatar's former prime minister Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al Thani and stripping back the members list to make it a younger and more beautiful crowd.

9

TOM HARWOOD

A ferocious political networker who, at only 23 and straight out of Durham, is all over the media, reviewing the papers on Sky TV, appearing on *Question Time*, and writing blogs for the Guido Fawkes website. He calls Baroness Thatcher a 'bae', takes selfies with Boris, and snaffled a summer job in Washington DC to sharpen his political prowess. His website even has a button where you can donate to fund his ambition. It's labelled 'buy me a coffee' and suggests sponsoring him the price of a cappuccino. Harwood for PM? Better latte than never. □

