

## **Lincoln Business Club - Minutes of Meeting**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

### **Welcome to the meeting by the Chairman and aim of the Business Club**

The Chairman, Eddie Strengiel absent from the April's meeting, Vice Chairman John Cawdell leading April's meeting. The Assistant Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members and briefly explained to the members the key aims of the Business Club. Namely, that the club is able to provide a voice for businesses in Lincoln, whilst also being a relaxed environment in which to meet and network with members of the local business community.

### **Member Introductions**

Starting with the committee members, each of the members stood up and introduced themselves and stated which businesses they are from.

### **Sponsorship for Future Meetings**

The vice chairman reminded members if they would like to sponsor a future meeting to contact Nikki Gray, Secretary of the business club.

### **A word from our Sponsor – Sarah Jones – Newark Beacon Innovation Centre**

Sarah explained that the centre is a new centre on the outskirts of Newark, for new and upcoming businesses. Currently have 4 available units and 2 available workshops for rental, can hold meetings and small conferences on-site, supported with catering facilities and an excellent support team.

Sarah then introduced Jo from Optima Training. Optima Training offer language courses in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and plain English. Jo explained how the courses also cover cultural awareness. The company moved to the Innovation Centre in August 2007. It has brought the company a lot of benefits; including being able to work better with schools and the local business community, offer language clubs, increased opportunities.

Jo concluded her talk by announcing the 'Hosting of European Languages' day taking place annually, this year falling on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Speaker – Hil Gibb – Whatbox Associates**

Hil spoke about the importance of exercising creativity to improve efficiencies in the work place. Hil explained there were 5 habits people could adopt to exercise their creativity muscles;

1. Be a constant traveller to alert your senses

2. Treat life as an experiment; take risks to push you out of your comfort zone.

Hil did not go on to explain the other 3 habits, but asked the group to speak to her for more information. Hil concluded her talk with a key message; have fun exercising your creative innovative muscle.

### **Charity Donations**

Alex Gray asked the group to complete the slips on their tables with 3 local nominations for this year's charity donation. Alex explained equal amounts of money are donated to 2 local charities after the AGM in July. All members have the opportunity to nominate and the highest nominations will be selected. Results will be announced at one of the upcoming meetings.

### **Announcements**

Nicki Gray announced that Emma Clement had a baby girl, and welcomed members to sign the card in the coffee break. Nicki also reminded members that bacon rolls were available during the coffee break, and if anyone had any of their own announcements at the end of the meeting to see Nicki in the coffee break.

### **First Speed Networking Session**

Andy Seymour introduced both speed networking sessions.

Members were asked to change places and sit with people they did not know and where possible to have full tables in order to get the most out of the speed networking part of the meeting. This enables members to sell their business for 1 minute to the rest of the people on their table. This is a valuable opportunity to get to know the members of the club and to swap business cards.

### **Coffee Break**

### **Second Speed Networking Session**

Members were encouraged to change places and sit with people they did not know and hadn't sat with at the first speed networking session.

### **Card Draw Speaker – Rob Purle – Purle Limited**

Rob spoke about Purle Limited, creating software for businesses. Rob discussed how his business can help websites and databases to run businesses, and used the example of working with a business selling products on line, how Purle Limited can provide support

'behind the scenes' to get the most from customer sales. Rob concluded by saying Purle Limited create bespoke systems – tailored to what the client wants.

**Card Draw for March:** The business card draw was Kashan Ashwell, Barfield Business Travel.

### **Website**

Mark Jarvis reminded members that they need to register as members on the website, and to send Mark any events they would like to promote onto the business club website.

### **Events**

Alex Gray had asked members to complete the slips on the table if they were interested in attending a particular event over the summer with the business club, or if they had any event suggestions. Alex explained none of the events would be subsidised by the business club.

### **Advertising**

Nicki Gray explained the business club page in the Lincolnshire Echo had been cut to a half page. However, Nicki did explain that Shooting Star PR had offered to support the club with some PR assistance. Nicki thanks Jez Ashberry, representing Shooting Star PR.

### **Announcements**

There were several member announcements which were as follows:

Steve Royal – Eternal Growth – Steve announced a networking club at LA Fitness, the networking meeting is weekly on a Wednesday and Thursday at 8am and is a very informal networking group.

World Squash Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Lincoln Sports Association offering a free open day, including bbq, cricket match, bar open, as an opportunity for families to try squash and different sports. All welcome.

Alan Rixom – Old Bakery – announced Kate Rusby performing at Lincoln Castle on 27<sup>th</sup> June; speak to Alan for more information on live music acts taking place in the City.

Strut – 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year, charity evening taking place on 11<sup>th</sup> July at the Bentley Hotel, including jazz band, meal etc for £30.

Sue from Strut also explained looking to expand board of trustees, members asked to speak to Sue for more information.

The Vice Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking the speakers and sponsors and closing the meeting.

**Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7am – 9am.