

## **Minutes of Lincoln Business Club AGM**

**Friday 25th July 2008**

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

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the members and briefly reported to the meeting 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.

### **AGM Business**

The treasurer provided members with the annual financial report, reporting that the Lincoln Business Club bank account currently contains £646.50 with another £150 still to come in.

Assistant Chairman John Cawdell thanked the Chairman Eddie Strenziel for his commitment to Lincoln Business Club over the last year, and subsequently asked members for a show of hands for re-election on the existing committee.

Club secretary Emma Clement discussed with members the Ratification of the Constitution, which includes the aims of the club, discusses membership, subscription money, election of committee members, what happens to monies etc.

The Chairman informed members that as a non-profit making organisation the Club has managed to raise more money for charity than ever before, and cheques were presented by Amy Green of Lincoln Grille, to Sue Booth representing Strut in the Community and Vivienne Chambers, fundraising manager for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance.

## **Sponsorship for Future Meetings**

The Chairman reminded the club members that to sponsor a meeting it is £50 per meeting and that entitles the sponsor to talk for five minutes in relation to their business. The Chairman also reminded the club members that the club is a non-profit making organisation and that for every £2 that they pay each meeting, £1 goes to the football club to put on the refreshments and the other £1 goes into the club savings. The savings are then split between two charities at the end of the year. The charities are decided by the members although the committee encourages the members to go for local charities

In addition to charitable donations, the Chairman commented that the Business Club also uses the money to raise its profile for example, by purchasing the banner which the members were able to see as they entered the meeting. This is for use at events where Lincoln Business Club is raising its profile and that of the businesses who are its members. For example, at a recent recruitment event held at the university.

## **A word from our Sponsor – Joanna Lang of Lincoln College**

Joanna introduced herself and went on to inform members of the various services that Lincoln College can provide for the local business community in terms of training. Joanna began by detailing reasons why local businesses should use Lincoln College for their training needs, including that they are the largest provider of training in the county, they have specialist knowledge, access to a wide range of funding and are Grade 2 Ofsted inspected.

She then went on to list reasons why businesses should invest in training staff including increasing productivity, reducing accidents, reducing staff turnover, improving motivation, improving confidence, reducing staff absence and better attitude to work.

Joanna then highlighted the range of training courses that can be provided by the college such as NVQs, IT courses, bespoke courses, apprenticeships and foundation degrees. Members then heard about the many possibilities of funding for such training including Train to Gain, European Social Fund, Apprenticeships, East Midlands Business, Personal and Community Development Learning, L3 Entitlement, Core Funding and Fee Remission.

In conclusion, Joanna provided members with the details of the Employers Hotline for more information 0845 270 7227.

## **Speed Networking**

The Chairman encouraged members 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. We were all reminded to bring enough business cards to circulate round the table as we talk.

## **Speaker: Dr Shane Booth from ANGLE plc representing Innovation Lincolnshire**

Shane informed members about the public sector business support program that helps small businesses to innovate, grow and improve. The program aims to support businesses that show creative thinking, and thinking out of the box. For businesses that have the inspiration but not the capability to carry out their innovative thinking, Innovation Lincolnshire can provide the help, support and monies required.

## **Card Draw Speaker – Steve Bilton from Todds Business Systems Ltd**

Steve Bilton and Laura Davies briefly informed members of the services they provide which include digital print/copy/scan/fax solutions, document management software solutions and general IT network solutions. They can also provide a free of charge print audit and make recommendations on how companies can save money by reducing their print costs. Todds Business Systems also offer free of charge monthly Document Management Software Demo/Seminars. Steve and Laura concluded by informing members that for every company that attends their free seminar in August and September, £10 will be donated to the Air Ambulance fund.

## **Announcements**

There were several member announcements which were as follows:

John Cawdell informed members of the details of the Lincoln Business Club Christmas Party on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at the new Holiday Inn Plaza for £10 per head including drink, buffet and a look round the new hotel. Tickets are available from members of the committee.

Rob Edmunds of Acting About Theatre Company announced the follow up shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at Lincoln Drill Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August for £6 a ticket. He also offered members the opportunity to take an advertising page in the programme for the event.

Charles Shaw from Lincoln Insurance Institute announced a Polish Choir Event for 17-21 year olds at St Faiths Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August.

Nicki Gray promoted the advertising slots on the Lincolnshire Echo Lincoln Business Club Page, and informed members that this is a good way to support the club and promote their own businesses in a cost effective manner too.

Eddie reminded members about the Lincoln Business Club Business Cards that are available to all members to hand out or have on their reception desk to promote the club.

#### **Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 at 7am – 9am.