

Minutes of Meeting

Friday 27th June 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.

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 – Paul Kenton of Lincoln City Supporters Club

Paul introduced himself and went on to discuss the Clubs Hub Project, the aim of which is to make Lincoln City Football Club the hub of the local community.

Paul discussed how the club has excellent facilities which they can make better use of by opening them up to the local community and the business community has a whole. The Club are aiming to help in bringing economic stability to the area and promote local business growth.

Paul went onto to provide members with details on the new Cathedral View Business Centre 'A Unique & Inspiring Place to Work'. The modern high quality office space consists of 18 offices in total, FREE on-site parking, air conditioning, a new entrance area, wireless broadband and on-site catering and conference facilities.

Members heard how the money raised from this social enterprise will go back into The Clubs Hub Project to help sustain it.

There are also future plans to provide more offices, a new entrance and reception area, various sized conference rooms, secretarial support, a restaurant and communal areas, full IT support and special business/football deals.

Finally, members were informed that the vision of the club is a 'community of businesses' with Lincoln City Football Club as the 'hub of the community'.

If anyone would like further information the contact details Paul Kenton can be contacted on at CathedralView@redimps.com 01522 845011.

First Speaker – Tracy Croft, East Midlands Co-ordinator for the 2012 Games

Tracy introduced herself to members and went on to inform members about the London 2012 Business Network which is in place to benefit the whole of the UK and our local communities by offering businesses opportunities to CompeteFor trade associated with the games.

Tracy went onto tell members that the London 2012 Business Network provides information to businesses about contracts, support material and helpful pointers as well as putting on events based on buyer days, industry days, and constructing excellence conferences, as well as the CompeteFor website itself. Tracy showed members the round the Business Network website and how to access the services available.

Members were informed that the aims of the project were to open up London 2012 opportunities to all, to be a catalyst for raising UK businesses capability, to flow economic benefits of London 2012 to UK business and to be a comprehensive and authoritative one stop shop.

Then members heard more detail on the CompeteFor project for example, that it maximises involvement throughout the supply chain, that it offers 75,000+ opportunities, that it engages both large and small companies, and ensures best value for money.

Tracy concluded by educating members on the process of using CompeteFor in their own business including how to register etc. Anyone requiring more information can go to www.london2012.com/business

Voting for Charity Funds

The Chairman informed members that this was the time of year that the money raised from sponsorship of the club meetings would be allocated officially at the club AGM in July. Over recent meetings, members have been asked to vote for charities they would like the money raised to go to. The Chairman thanked members for the best response ever and asked members to vote for one organisation only, through a show of hands.

The winning organisations were as follows:

1st Place with 33 votes = Lincolnshire Air Ambulance

2nd Place with 12 votes = Strut in the Community

3rd Place with 10 votes = Young Enterprise

4th Place with 4 votes = Nomad Trust

The Chairman announced that the money raised would be shared between the 1st and 2nd placed organisations, namely Lincolnshire Air Ambulance and Strut in the Community. And also, that the 3rd and 4th placed organisations, Young Enterprise and the Nomad Trust would receive one free advert in the Lincolnshire Echo Lincoln Business Club page.

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.

Card Draw Speaker: Bitesh and Victoria from the Commercial Property Department, Langleys Solicitors

Bitesh and Victoria chaired a fun and interactive quiz for members which promoted the varied services of Langleys Solicitors.

Next month's card draw speaker is Tim McKeating of Todds Business Systems Ltd

Announcements

There were several member announcements which were as follows:

Kate Strawson (Shooting Star PR) informed members of lazy networking at the Orgasmic Cafe on the first Friday of the month, starting 5pm.

Stacey Murphy 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 too.

Chris Trigg of Young Enterprise thanked club members for supporting Thrive, the local young group who presented at the Lincoln Business Club recently, and informed members that Thrive are now in the running for awards in as the best company and the best presentation in the final stages of their competition.

Lorraine Setterfield, also of Young Enterprise offered her thanks to Chris Trigg for the work he has done with Young Enterprise in helping get this far in the competition.

Dave Orrey of Eternal Growth Financial Services promoted a property investment seminar on 24th July at the Bentley Hotel, 7pm-10pm.

Richard Hare of McKinnells Solicitors offered a pair of free tickets to Market Rasen races for that afternoon.

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 25th July 2008 at 7am – 9am.