

The Business Connection

Meeting Format

Meetings take place in the evening. Soft drinks and coffee are usually served from 7.00pm with light refreshments. Our standard meeting cost is £12 but only £7 for members. The formal part of the meeting begins around 7.30 and membership information, new member introductions and the speaker for the evening last until 9.15pm when we break for more refreshments. There will be time for networking before, during and after the serious business so bring your business cards. See individual meeting announcements for changes to these times.

Annual Club Membership costs just £35 and includes free links to your web site from ours, a free self-creation members' directory, and reduced entrance charge to our meetings.

Next Meeting

**Our Next Meeting –
Nick Simmonds: Creating a Values
Led Organisation**

**Tuesday 16th January 2007, 7pm,
Northwick Park Playgolf,
Watford Road, Harrow,
Middlesex, HA1 3TZ**

Contact Rhona Denness
(020) 8427 6188 for more details.

Future Meetings

Tuesday 20th February 2007

Visit Future Events on our
web site:

www.businessconnection.org.uk
for full, up-to-date details.

Our Next Meeting - Nick Simmonds: Creating a Values Led Organisation.

Tuesday 16th January 2007
7pm, at the Northwick Park
Playgolf, Watford Road, Harrow,
Middlesex. HA1 3TZ

The talk will give people lots of ideas of how to create meaningful work and organisations, it will enable people and organisations to work more effectively, make better use of time and create harmony both within an organisation and beyond.

Values are the key to our happiness and I will be explaining what they are and how they work and we can use them to create more success, have more fun, and save time.



Last Months Meeting 19th December 2006 - The Business Connection AGM and Seasonal Social

Last months meeting formally kicked off with the Annual General Meeting which with the incentive of the social event to follow was moved along swiftly by the Chairman and members alike. Chairman Allen Pluck gave an overview of 2006 and the potential issues and opportunities facing the club in the future. In his last year as Treasurer Martin Crane provided the clubs financial perspective. The unopposed nominations and therefore elected management group members for the forthcoming year are as follows

Chairman

Allen Pluck

Management Group Members

Alan Goodall

Angela Conner

Clare Concannon

Laurie Bernard

Nadia Geller

The excellent Christmas Social which followed was a blend of fine food, fine wine, and fundraising. With previous Chairman Alan Bentley back as our key note speaker, his rendition and amusing anecdotes provided the lift in spirits (or was that the alcohol) which encouraged members to delve deep into their pockets to raise in excess of £800 for the local charity, St Lukes Hospice.

Well done everyone we wish you a prosperous 2007 and as much fun as the Christmas social.

Welcome Back to the Women's Connection first meeting for 2007

Friday 12th January at St Luke's Hospice Kenton Grange, off the Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 OYG.

From 12.00 noon - 2.00pm

Introducing Amanda Wilson - comedy4change

Have you ever started the New Year with a horrible sense of deja vu?

Amanda will give you practical tips and strategies to stay positive and motivated, with a relaxed focus and she will also explain why you need to have greater control over your thoughts!

As a local female Entrepreneur, communicate your business message for 2007.

Speak to our local reporters from the Harrow Observer, who will be waiting to hear your story; be prepared for this unique networking opportunity.

Please book in advance and let us know your dietary requests for a light lunch which is included in the price.

£5 Business Connection Members and £10 Visitors.

Contact Rhona Denness at Harrow in Business to book on (tel) **(020) 8427 6188** or (email) Rhona.Denness@hib.org.uk

For directions see www.stlukes-hospice.org

We look forward to welcoming you on the day and if you can bring a friend to share the experience with you, that would be fun!

International Trade Seminar: 1st February 2007

In business there's a whole world of opportunity open to you. So why trade only in the UK? With just a little more knowledge, you suddenly have a whole planet full of potential suppliers or clients.

To take advantage, book your place on HiB's International Trade Seminar. It will show you how you can benefit from trading beyond this country's boundaries. This module will take you through the right steps in an easy-to-understand way with experienced professionals who can help you realise your potential.

On the course, you'll learn what skills and knowledge are needed to become a successful importer/exporter. You'll hear how you or your company could benefit from entering new markets and how to manage the risks of doing so. And finally you'll hear how to plan a successful import/export strategy, bearing in mind recent developments in import/export, HM Customs' perspective, compliance with HM Customs' regulations and key trading terms you'll need.

To find out more, please call **020 8427 6188** or email info@hib.org.uk with the name of the course.

Free data protection DVD launched

A free interactive DVD has been launched by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), to help businesses comply with the Data Protection Act (DPA).

Under the act, businesses are obliged to keep an individual's personal information secure and prevent it from being disclosed to unauthorised third parties.

The DVD aims to improve understanding of the act by highlighting common mistakes made by businesses and showing the problems that arise if personal details are disclosed incorrectly.

It covers the 'eight principles' of data protection, which include processing information for limited purposes and not keeping information for longer than necessary. It also allows staff to test their knowledge of the Act with a series of quizzes.

If you are entrusted with people's personal information, you must make sure you follow the principles of the DPA and the DVD is a very useful training tool as it will help staff understand their obligations under the act.

To request a free copy of 'The lights are on' DVD call **08453 091 091**



Web Watch

For the latest developments on Data Protection visit:-

www.ico.gov.uk

For a general guide to import/export visit:-

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Companies to update websites and email footers before 2007. For more information visit:-

www.theregister.co.uk/2006/12/21/new_web_email_regulation/

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions for Business Success

The end of the year is a good time to reflect on your business's progress over the past year and plan how you want your business to develop. Do you want increased success in 2007 or the chance to enjoy the success you've achieved more? These top 10 New Year's resolutions are designed to help you strike a better work-life balance, so you can achieve a truly satisfying success in the New Year.

- 1) **Learn to delegate and do more of it.**
- 2) **Promote your business regularly and consistently.**
- 3) **Make business planning a weekly event.**
- 4) **Learn something new.**
- 5) **Join a new business organisation or networking group.**
- 6) **Give something back to your community.**
- 7) **Put time for you on your calendar.**
- 8) **Set realistic goals.**
- 9) **Don't make do; get a new one.**

Is there a piece of equipment in your office that's interfering with your success or something that you lack that's making your working life harder? Then take action.

- 10) **Drop what's not working for you and move on.**