

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.

Our Next Meetings

The Business Connection

Tuesday 19th June 2007,
7 pm, at Evans House, Marsh Road,
Pinner.

Women's Connection

Tuesday 26th June 2007,
12 noon - 2 pm, at Northwick Park
Playgolf. For online booking, please
go to www.eggmeg.co.uk

Contact Rhona Denness
020 8427 6188 for more details.

Future Meetings

Business Connection

July meeting to be confirmed, for
further information, please go to
www.businessconnection.org.uk

Women's Connection

July meeting to be confirmed, for
further information and online
booking, please go to
www.eggmeg.co.uk

Visit Future Events on our web site:
www.businessconnection.org.uk
for full, up-to-date details.

Next Meeting - Future of The Business Connection

Tuesday 19th June 2007 7pm, at Evans House, Marsh Road, Pinner for our EGM. There will be no cost to members for the evening. Time 7pm - 10pm. Please let Rhona Denness know if you will be attending on 020 8427 6188, so we can cater accordingly.

Dear Business Connection Member

Despite an increase in our overall membership, the attendance numbers at members meetings has been steadily declining. At the same time, the undertaking needed to run the Club has become more time consuming.

Whilst poor meeting attendance is not unique to The Business Connection (other local business clubs are witnessing similar problems), our finances are coming under increasing pressure.

When first I started The Business Connection back in 1993, we were unique, but as we are now seeing what can only be described as an explosion of networking groups operating locally (32 at the last count and rising) we are now operating in a very different and competitive market place.

All of this is increasing the pressure on our survival and your voluntary Management Group members; currently the club does not have "member" officers for the roles of club secretary treasurer or speaker bookings.

I passionately believe that there is an exciting role for the Business Connection going forward but as the responsibility for running and maintaining the club increasingly falling on Harrow in Business to deliver we need to radically change what we do and the way we operate.

With so few members attending recent meetings I am therefore, calling what may well be an unconstitutional Emergency General Meeting to decide our Clubs future.

I would urge you to come along to Evans House in Pinner on Tuesday 19th June at 7.30 to hear the proposals I am putting forward as Harrow in Business to ensure your Business Clubs long term future.

I appreciate there will be a perceived conflict of interest by members, particularly as my day job is as the Chief Executive of Harrow in Business, so I have planned a full presentation, disclosure, and forward plan for the club, leading to a vote on the attached resolutions.

Its then over to you to decide.

Allen Pluck – Chairman

The smoking ban – must know facts.

According to recent poll amongst the business community, 50% of people were unaware of the implications for the smoking ban which is just weeks away. To avoid making costly mistakes you and your business need to prepare for the introduction now.

Key features of the Smoking ban:

- From 1 July 2007 smoking will not be permitted in any workplaces or public places that are 'enclosed' or 'substantially enclosed'.
- Employers can be fined for not displaying appropriate 'no smoking' signs at entrances to premises and in vehicles.
- The regulations cover work vehicles, although an exemption exists for vehicles only used by one person with no passengers.
- It will be an offence to smoke in a smoke free place.
- An offence of failing to prevent smoking in a smoke free place will apply to employers or occupiers of premises. Regulations also impose a duty on drivers of smoke free vehicles to prevent smoking.
- Employers must take reasonable steps to ensure staff, customers and visitors are aware that premises and vehicles are legally required to be smoke free and must ensure individuals comply with the rules.

The Women's Connection "We are One" Celebration lunch

How quickly a year has past us by. In June 2006 we launched the Women's Connection. Now it is time to share the success of our first year and bring new and existing members and their friends together.

**Tuesday 26th June 2007 Amano Restaurant Playgolf Northwick Park
Watford Road, Harrow, Middx HA1 3TZ www.northwickpark.com**

Come and join us for an afternoon of business to business networking, delightful food and views from the playgolf restaurant. Meet distinguished guests such as Jean Lammiman, our new Mayor of Harrow, who is an entrepreneur in her own right. Followed by an optional, complimentary Baseball Challenge; to work off the food!

Agenda

- 12.00 - 12.30 Complimentary drinks / networking**
- 12.45 - 13.00 Welcome Speech from Jean Lammiman**
- 13.00 - 14.00 Fork Buffet and more networking**
- 14.00 - 15.00 Optional, complimentary Baseball Challenge**

Raffle proceeds on the day to the Mayor's charity Teenage Cancer Trust (TCT)

Prizes/sponsors welcomed by 19th June to Rhona Denness at Harrow in Business 297, Pinner Rd Harrow HA1 4HS
Rhona.Denness@hib.org.uk T: 020 8427 6188

Marketing Opportunity - for just £10 you can put one flyer and or marketing material into 50 goody bags, to be delivered to the above address no later than one week prior to the event.

What do I do now? Confirmed catering numbers are required by Monday 18th June so please book through either www.eggmeg.co.uk or the contact and details above for Rhona Denness.

Take advantage of our promotional offer until Monday 18th June - bring 5 guests and you go free! Members £10.00 and guests £15. Cheques made payable to The Business Connection.

Please let us know of any dietary requirements when booking.

Occupational health - know the risks

The risk of work related ill health or injury exists in every workplace. That's why all employers are required by law to carry out risk assessments and maintain regular checks to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements.

According to the Health & Safety Executive risk assessments should be fit for purpose and acted upon.

If you are thinking this doesn't apply to my type of business - think again. Here are just a few figures to change your mind:

- The Health and Safety Executive estimates that in 2005/2006: 2 million people were suffering from an illness they believed was caused by current or past jobs; 523,000 of these cases were new in the last 12 months; and 30 million days were lost overall due to work-related ill health.
- Affecting around 1 million people a year, Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) are the most common occupational illness in Great Britain. Upper Limb Disorder (often called RSI) can affect anyone using their upper arms to carry out their work - from computer users to assembly workers.
- A recent study carried out by the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand found 34% of 62 people admitted to hospital with deep vein thrombosis (DVT) had spent long periods of time at their desks, compared with 21% who had recently made a long haul flight.

Such findings reinforce the fact that occupational illness affects lots of people across a wide range of industry sectors and job roles. Implementing a well-managed approach to occupational health (up to and beyond legal requirements) can help minimise the personal risks and business costs of occupational illness and injury.



Web Watch

For business succession planning use the interactive tool at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/successionplanning.

To tender for contracts on-line for the London 2012 Olympics visit:

<https://etenders.london2012.com>

Why Innovate?

The lifecycle of products and services dictates that decline is inevitable. No matter how well your sales are doing now, you always need to think about tomorrow. Either that or sit back and watch as competitors eat up your customers.

Because nothing stands still, you need to develop your products and services even if you don't want to grow. But if you want to eclipse the competition, grow your business by increased return on investment - innovation can be king.

It's the process, not the pocketbook. Superior results seem to be a function of the quality of an organisation's innovation process - the bets it makes and how it pursues them - rather than either the absolute or relative magnitude of its innovation spending.

So, are you content to spend big money on innovation? Or do you see innovation as something more unique that grows from process and quality of judgement? Considering such questions is important if you want to innovate to grow.



Mayor Jean Lammiman

Welcome New Members

Mrs Nicki Brown -
Copywriter

Mrs Suparna Dhar -
life's canvas (HR)

Mrs Joanna Haslock -
Evans Easyspace (Serviced Offices)