



CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

Dear All

October's meeting

For those that were there, the meeting in October must have been one of our most successful meetings ever. Radio presenter Jimmy Franks gave us an insightful talk about his life in Radio, and also some excellent tips on how to promote your business on both commercial radio and on the BBC. Thanks go to Jimmy for taking time out to come and see us, and for staying behind so late to talk to all of the members who wanted to speak to him.

Welcome

Welcome also to the 10 new members who joined the DDBC at the October event – that is almost something of a record, and particularly the case, so late in the club year.

Next meeting

Our next event will be another of Mick's almost legendary, or should that be infamous "open networking events....with a twist". Mick is keeping this month's theme a secret. Neither the committee nor I are any the wiser. Let's hope Mick is! We'd love to see all of the members come along to what will be the last formal event of the year. Please also remember to bring a business associate with you as well...it's only fair after all that they get the chance to join the most vibrant business club in the region. November's event is to take place at the Hagley Golf and Country Club on Tuesday 17th November 2009 – 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

Christmas dinner

For those of you haven't booked yet, tickets for the DDBC Christmas Dinner on **Friday 4th December 2009 at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill** are selling fast. A number of members are using the event as their work's Christmas outing and as such, we have sold several tables. There are 85 tickets available for the event, and as at last Tuesday's committee meeting, we have sold in the region of 50 tickets already. So if you haven't booked your tickets yet, I would suggest you either book online, or return the enclosed booking form with your cheque ***TODAY*** to make sure you do not miss out on the highlight of the DDBC year. Please feel free to invite your work colleagues, family and friends for what promises to be a great night.

Grand Raffle

As part of the Christmas event, the club will be holding a Grand Raffle. As some of you will recall, at the meeting in November, the DDBC will be adopting a charity in 2010 as part of its 25th anniversary celebrations (more on this below). The Grand Raffle will partly be in aid of this with a view to getting the fund raising going straight away. This is where we need some help from everyone please: We would like all of the members to endeavour to sell books of raffle tickets where they can to their colleagues, friends and associates. We have some great prizes and with tickets at only £1.00 each, I'm sure everyone would like to have a go. If you can help with the tickets now, could you please email Adrian Goodaker on adrian@ddbc.co.uk and he will arrange to get some tickets out to you.

The club I am sure would also be grateful to any members or other organisations who might be prepared to donate some prizes for the Grand Raffle. Thus far, we have received some great donations, such as a Flat Screen TV, a Nintendo Wii and a meal for 2 at the Grosvenor Casino. However we need many more prizes to make this year's raffle truly Grand. If you are able to make a donation of a prize, then please let either Adrian or Mick know. All members and organisations who make a donation will be promoted on the DDBC website www.ddbc.co.uk. Remember this is also to kick start the Club's 2010 charity appeal and your assistance will be greatly appreciated by the organisation which is to benefit from this...

Adopt a Charity

For those of you who were at the November meeting, you will be aware that we announced the DDBC's 2010 Charity appeal. I asked the members to nominate a local charity to whom a donation from the club would make a significant difference. All charities carry out important work, but with some, a donation from the Club would be at best a "drop in the ocean". We wanted to make sure that whatever the Club raised would be of sufficient benefit to the charity chosen.

The committee received many nominations and have whittled these down to three from which we will ask those present at the November meeting to vote upon. They are:

West Midlands Swimming Squad
Paul Ackrill Cancer Charity
Diabetics UK (Stourbridge & Dudley Branch)

I shall be asking one of the people who nominated the above charities to prepare a speech telling us more about the charities activities, aims and goals, and then we will hold a vote to determine which of the charities is to receive the Club's support in 2010.

The plan is that in 2010, we will be holding events, perhaps an evening or two, or a raffle or other fund raising event to promote the chosen charity and raise awareness for its aims. In particular we will be asking representatives from the chosen Charity to attend our meeting in January.

Sponsorship

Just a final note on sponsorship. Long standing members will be aware that any member can sponsor an event for just £25. The benefits of sponsorship include the placement of your details on the DDBC Website, the chance to give a 10 minute presentation to the Club and the chance to place your leaflets on the tables. Please see the website for more details and to book a month. The earlier you can book, the sooner we can place your details on the website in advance of the event, so as to maximise the benefit of your sponsorship.

Right...that's enough from me, I am sorry if I gone on a bit this month, but as you will see there has been lots of information to convey this month.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 17th November....and don't forget to book your places for Christmas as soon as you receive this newsletter!!

Kind regards

Stuart Price
Chairman
Dudley and District Business Club.
November 2009.