



July/August  
2007

# BUZ WORD

Newsletter of the Business Connection

Bringing you news about the club and its members, as well as information to help your business prosper.

## 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 Meeting

**The Business Connection and  
The Women's Connection**

#### Summer BBQ at Amano Restaurant

Tuesday 14th August 2007,  
7 pm, at Playgolf Northwick Park  
Watford Rd, Harrow Middx HA1 3TZ

Pre-booking is a must by no later than the 31st July. You can either send a cheque payable to the Business Connection to Enterprise House, 297 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HS or payment can be made online at [www.eggmeg.co.uk](http://www.eggmeg.co.uk)

Contact Rhona Denness  
**020 8427 6188** for more details.

### Future Meetings

Visit Future Events on our web site:

[www.businessconnection.org.uk](http://www.businessconnection.org.uk)  
for full, up-to-date details.

## Keeping you in Touch – A message from our Chairman – Allen Pluck

Post the EGM I suspect members are now asking what happens next with the Business Connection / The Women's Connection.

For those of you not at the EGM on the 19th June there were changes proposed as to how your club operates. Every member present agreed that after 14 years the club in its current format has got a little tired and with a plethora of would be networking groups out there members are feeling quite "networked out."

Therefore, the call was for something a little bit different, more exciting, and not quite so repetitive.

Since then we have decided to put a hold on the current meeting schedule while we busily work at reorganising and repositioning The Business Connection and The Women Connection and we have set our sights on the September meeting to roll out a refreshed version of your much loved Business Club.

But hey – the world of the entrepreneur is fast moving so we thought it appropriate before the holiday season really kicks in just to wet your appetite of the exciting things to come.

Starting September, and each and every quarter thereafter (December being our Christmas / social event Winter Calendar) the new format will be to hold,

1. A "**Major Business Event**" each quarter – this would be open to all businesses across Harrow / Brent North West London and beyond. Business Connection members will receive a heavily discounted ticket price that will equal or exceed the value of your annual membership fees. These events could include:

**High Profile Speaker from the World of Enterprise** – e.g. Simon Woodroffe, Nigel Risner, Richard Branson, Alan Sugar etc.

**Exhibitions** – e.g. Business Advice Open Day, Meet the Buyer, Members Exhibition Competition – e.g. The Enterprise Challenge, Business of Year, Chef of the Year, Business Awards etc

**Factual Presentations** – Council Question Time, The Economy, The Business Debate

2. A meeting each quarter of "**The Business Connection**" – this will be a refresh of the monthly previously held meetings with the focus heavily geared toward meeting your needs as members and focus open a specific or topical area of concern to members. Our thinking is that meetings will follow the format of:

**Pre – event consultation with the membership**, a debate on the evening, supporting and appropriate guest speakers and still provide networking opportunities.

3. A meeting each quarter of "**The Women's Connection**" - Having just celebrated its "1st Birthday" we are anxious not to significantly change the format of The Women's Connection other than in moving its meetings to once a quarter. We are looking to expand the reach and make the meetings slightly longer and more business like in their approach. (Don't forget that whilst the focus is geared to supporting Women Entrepreneurs any TBC member can attend these meetings).

Those male members who have cottoned on to this fact are reaping the rewards.

Finally, in learning from our experience we are also looking to put a dedicated charitable cause into place so that we put something back into our community.

It has been suggested that this year, through to March 2008 that we work in raising funds for the Mayor of Harrow chosen charity which is the Teenage Cancer Trust.

This is our working draft of things to come so we would welcome your views – email us on – [Rhona.denness@hib.org.uk](mailto:Rhona.denness@hib.org.uk) and share your thoughts.

To get things moving we are looking to hold our first revamped Business Connection meeting on the 18th September more details to come later.

In the meantime and just so you don't while away the Hot Balmy Days (I wish) of summer until September we have our Summer Social BBQ. Last year was very successful and well attended with 90 members and guests taking part.

My advice is don't forget to pre book early for the event this year as unlike 2006 if you don't pre book you'll be unlikely to get even a sausage! (or tuna steak).

The Business Connection, Enterprise House, 297 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 4HS  
Tel: **020 8427 6188** Fax: **020 8861 5709** E-mail: [info@businessconnection.org.uk](mailto:info@businessconnection.org.uk)  
Web: [www.businessconnection.org.uk](http://www.businessconnection.org.uk)

# Summer BBQ at Amano Restaurant

Playgolf Northwick Park Watford Rd, Harrow Middx HA1 3TZ

[www.northwickpark.com](http://www.northwickpark.com)

plenty of parking nearest tube Northwick park met line

On Tuesday 14th August starting at 7.00 pm till late!

7.00 Welcome Drinks  
Pimms or a soft drink

7.00 pm  
Food and networking

Weather permitting terrace and outdoor garden area available

## Menu BBQ on terrace and or flame grill

Rosemary marinated Lamb and pepper Kebabs  
Vegetable kebabs (vegans)  
Vegetable and Halloumi cheese and courgette kebabs  
BBQ Tuna Steak  
Lime and sage marinated chicken  
Served with a selection of breads, dressings  
Mixed leaf salad, minted new potatoes

## Just desserts

Fresh Fruit Salad  
Chocolate Intense  
Cash bar - open all night /Jazz singer

Cost to members £15 and non members £20

Pre-booking is a must by no later than the 31st July. You can either send a cheque payable to the Business Connection to Enterprise House, 297 Pinner Road, Harrow, HA1 4HS or payment can be made online at [www.eggmeg.co.uk](http://www.eggmeg.co.uk).

We will be holding a raffle on the evening for charity, so if anyone would like to donate either products or service's to this, please inform Rhona on **020 8427 6188** or e-mail [Rhona.denness@hib.org.uk](mailto:Rhona.denness@hib.org.uk)



## Web Watch

Need to look for an answering service see:

[www.myruby.co.uk](http://www.myruby.co.uk)

Need business insurance visit:

[www.insuremyshop.co.uk](http://www.insuremyshop.co.uk) or

[www.insuremyoffice.co.uk](http://www.insuremyoffice.co.uk)

## Migrant Workers - Check if your staff are legal

If you currently employ staff from outside the UK or are planning to, you should make certain checks on their right to work here.

To help ensure all employers create a business environment where everyone is working legally and no-one is discriminated against, you can. Why not use a step-by-step guide to ensure you comply with the law when employing non UK nationals, read case studies on how employing migrant workers benefits various organisations and find answers to frequently asked questions.

Find out your legal requirements at the Employing Migrant Workers website <http://www.employingmigrantworkers.org.uk/>.

## Buying Online Tips

IT'S no surprise that buying online has become a popular way to shop - goods galore but without the crowds or the British weather to battle with.

Already figures show two in five adults have purchased something online for private or personal use, the most common item being a holiday or flight followed by a film, video or DVD.

To help you keep your bank cards and accounts safe while you splurge, follow our useful tips:

1. Install an anti-virus program from a reputable supplier and regularly apply updates, which are made available via the internet.
2. Install, and learn to use, a personal firewall. These block attempts by malicious hackers to connect to your computer, and let you decide which programs are allowed to connect to the web.
3. Never write down your passwords for internet banking or shopping websites, and choose passwords that are difficult to guess.
4. If you receive an email with an attached file from an unknown source, simply delete it. If you open an attached file on an email message, you could activate a virus, which may infect your machine.
5. Never respond to an email asking you to click on a link to enter your personal details. These 'phishing' emails often claim to be from a bank or online shop, but companies should never ask for confidential information via email.
6. Never leave your computer unattended while logged into a secure site. When you have finished your transaction, sign out and close the browser window.
7. Regularly check your online banking or shopping accounts, and inform your provider if you spot any suspicious transactions.
8. Look for a closed padlock symbol at the bottom of the screen before entering personal details. The beginning of the site address should also change from http:// to https://, which indicates any information that is provided will be confidential.
9. Avoid spyware - software that can invade your privacy, slow down your computer and bombard you with pop-up windows - by only downloading software from trusted sources and making sure you know what you are agreeing to when clicking on a pop-up window.
10. Perform regular back-ups of your system, or at least back-up files that you cannot afford to lose or that would be difficult to replace, such as documents, address books and important emails.

## Redesigned 2007/08 Tax Return

HMRC have made a number of changes to the self-assessment form for the present tax year which may have escaped your attention! The following main changes may help you when completing your return.

- Questions on a person's main source of income, whether employment or self-employment etc, brought to front of return.
- An additional Information containing the less common types of income and tax reliefs will be sent with every Return.
- Number and description of questions reduced in places.
- Self-employment section - a new 2-sided short self-employment page with fewer questions for smaller businesses with relatively straightforward tax affairs.
- Repayment to charity - a separate form introduced.

Not mentioned in the above is that the non-residence pages now have additional sections concerning domicile.

## Welcome New Members

**Mrs Maureen Hector**  
Fragrances for Life (Networking)

**Ms Lynda Ncube**  
(Network Marketing)

**Miss Noori Siddiqui**  
Key2invest (Investment Property)