

## The biz club in 2010 – ‘biz blog’

Welcome to the start of the biz blog for 2010 which will continue build on the New Years Resolution that “we will all communicate more.”

### **February 19th 2010 – Informal Political Luncheon (IPL)**

Unfortunately the first luncheon of 2010 in January was postponed due to very inclement weather conditions so we kicked off the New Year with our February luncheon. Many supporters again braved the snow flurries to attend this luncheon held as usual at the Garden Hotel.

After a delicious lunch Geoffrey Pointon introduced Jeanne Douglas to the room and asked her why she supports the Conservatives. Jeanne has always voted Conservative and feels very strongly that it is time for a change of government. She is very active at the moment and will be out leafleting when the election date is announced.

Geoffrey agreed stating ‘the time for criticism is over basically we need to rally behind our member and get our party back in.’

Frank Simms was concerned that ‘that under Labour the UK had lost control of its destiny. He felt it was at risk and our triple A rating globally was very important.’ He also recognised that if the Conservatives get in they are going to inherit a mass of problems and that budgets would need to be set looking at the economy as a whole.

Derick Horsfall agreed noting ‘we need to cut down on public expenditure nearly 40% of it is unnecessary. However by cutting down because of contractual obligations we could in the short term increase costs.’

Frank Simms pointed out ‘that public expenditure has been set at such a level it can be over a 3-4 year cycle that we are tied into and so some things will not change overnight.’

The room then considered various European issues.

Geoffrey Pointon noted ‘Greece is the tip of the iceberg. Credit ratings are going crazy the real interest rates are rising sharply. We are heading for a difficult period and the average person does not realise what is going to happen in the economy and how it will impact them.’

Andrew Benson interjected ‘we may have a run on the pound before the next election.’

Frank Simms added ‘if the Euro falls at the end of the day Europe is a major customer of the UK.’ Looking at Ireland he said ‘they voted ‘no’ the first time and then ‘yes’ the second as they were having problems with their economy.’

Geoffrey Pointon added that ‘they are now paying the price for joining as most of their 18-24 year olds are leaving Ireland as they are unable to find employment.’ He added the ‘big players are Germany and France and they are going to exert enormous pressure on countries such as Portugal and Spain to come into line economically. The Euro experiment is going to be tested and it is possible that Germany will exit.’ He felt that technically

already it is not one currency as they are paying 4% more on the Euro in Greece than in Germany.' America he noted is coming out of recession better than most western economies.

James Lee added that 'America has a third of the world's natural resources so could close its doors to the wider global market.'

The debate then progressed to talk of the election and how might the Conservatives win.

Frank Simms said 'it is forecast that it could be a very low turnout which should be advantageous to the Conservatives.'

Tim Whorton spoke 'if you look historically every Labour government has ended with the country on the point of bankruptcy. Why are the Conservatives not attacking Labour at every opportunity? It is three months to an election. Why are we not driving home what is wrong?'

David Radford agreed 'the Conservatives are not attacking. Clearly we need Labour out. We have had 'tax and spend' for too long.'

Annabelle Meek added that 'we are not an effective opposition.'

Geoffrey Pointon said 'the heat will rise as the Labour party feel they are dying and they will push the debate.'

Andrew Benson felt 'that Labour would start playing the class card as the election approached.'

Derick Horsfall felt that 'the voters are apathetic as they see no differences between the parties and so no viable alternative to Labour.' A lot of people he felt would be influenced by the personality of the candidate and not the policy of the party.

Generally the opinion on the election outcome was somewhat pessimistic as it was felt that the average voter was not interested in politics and would vote for a party that stated it would tax big earners like the bankers and not consider the wider implications. A quick round robin showed most attendees currently predicted a hung parliament or very low Conservative majority (10 was a popular number).