



## Interesting Stuff - September 2011

The next few weeks promise to be extremely busy – nothing unusual there, it is after all what many face week in week out. I guess for me, it's the variety of things coming up that's really exciting.

First I'm coaching on The Warrior Programme, working with around 50 soldiers around the issues they face after conflict. This will be full-on coaching as we tackle things like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

On the way there, I have a meeting to finalise details of our schools project for 2012. In the build up to the Olympics, we've developed a pack for teachers and youth leaders helping them inspire children and young people, to raise aspirations and encourage them to take action to chase their dreams (their red rubber ball).

From there it's on to Northern Ireland for a retreat with the mentoring group that I'm part of. Getting regular input from my business mentor and the other members of our group, all successful business people in their own right, is incredibly valuable. These sessions keep me focused, give me the encouragement to persevere or try new things, and help me keep up the momentum (so I do what's most important, what needs doing rather than what's easiest).

I'm then back to Kenya to review the progress made on the farming project we set up, to meet the children we support and arrange next years school bursaries, so more children can get a secondary education.

So exciting times. I realised that what drives me, what encourages me to do these things and maintain a growing number of coaching clients, is that it's what I'm passionate about. The best thing about first reading "The Rules of the Red Rubber Ball" was realising that if we find out what interests and excites us, then it doesn't feel like work. I get to spend time with people who want the best for themselves and those around them; who want a life, not just a job, not just a business; and who are prepared to invest time, money and energy to achieve it.

I love the way Richard Branson puts it, "If you can indulge in your passion, life will be far more interesting than if you're just working".

Go on, indulge yourself.

### **Funding**

I've mentioned before about funding available to all businesses under the Leadership & Management Advisory Service (LMAS for short). I know some people are maybe holding off because they've claimed funding under previous schemes. Please don't. This is new money, but may only be available until early 2012. It is designed to support business leaders to grow their organisations and I've applied for the funds myself. It's a really simple process to apply, so I'd strongly urge all businesses (and charities) to look at it.

If you're interested drop me an email and I'll let you know precisely who to contact, so you can check whether this applies to you.

### **What's happening in Kenya?**

With the borehole dug and water flowing at the farm, Wycliffe our project manager has now turned his attention to planting and creating somewhere he can live and store the equipment. With no funds in our budget for this, he's used up materials from a part collapsed mud hut and disused cow shed. This ingenuity shows recycling at its very best.

I mentioned our bursary scheme and it's been great to see from school reports the progress of those children we sponsor. I've posted a short video on our website [www.redrubberball.co.uk/foundation](http://www.redrubberball.co.uk/foundation) so please do take a look and let me know if you'd be interested in sponsoring a child in 2012.

### **Look Out**

As well as our monthly newsletter, we're also tweeting with regular quotes and thoughts to challenge and encourage you. And you can find more detailed info about the attitude of success on our blog.

The links for these are all on our home page at [www.redrubberball.co.uk](http://www.redrubberball.co.uk)

### **Book review – "The Money Drunk" by Mark Bryan and Julia Cameron**

This is a fascinating read for anyone who's concerned about their finances. In particular it encourages us to consider our beliefs about money and the habits we've created, and by doing so encourages us to take action to change our behaviour, so we can match our spending to what we earn. It's a book that perhaps many bankers and politicians should read!

They describe different types of money drunk and not all of them are obvious. The "compulsive spender" is expected, but what of the "big deal chaser" spending now because the next big deal is just round the corner, or "the poverty addict" who sees money as a dirty word? So some surprising insights and ideas for anyone who wants to improve their financial situation.

As always we've posted a link to Amazon on our "books we like" page on our website.

Neil