



Economic Comment

Wow – what a change from just a month ago. We now have a position where some of the banks are to be over capitalised, over regulated and over the top with charges! It appears that these banks will be looking to their UK business customers to restore their capital margins by extorting commercially unjustifiable interest and management charges. The innocent are to be made to pay for the misdeeds and greed of the banks themselves. Our big fear is that, with the inevitable drop in interest rates to come over the next 6-9 months, will these be passed on to borrowers or will the greedy banks seek to widen their margins still further. Thank goodness there will still be a few good independent banks around.

The sharp sterling exchange rate drop in the last couple of weeks should mark the beginning of the recovery as it will make UK goods and services far more competitive abroad. Our overseas competitors will be damaged far more than ourselves – especially the Far East manufacturing bases. History shows that the UK recovered from downturns much more quickly than others (leaving the Gold Standard in 1931 and leaving the ERM in 1992) when our exchange rates declined sharply.

Sadly, those souls seeking to retire in the next couple of years may need to re-think their plans given that their pension schemes – inextricably linked to the Stock Market – may not produce the expected returns.

Tips for thriving in these challenging times

We have developed an “Entrepreneur’s Health Check List” to help business owners ensure that they are monitoring their businesses in a practical way. Bank managers will be expecting business owners to be regularly “managing” the business if existing facilities are to be maintained or new facilities are required. The check list will be an invaluable tool to show that you are ahead of the game. Please contact us if you would like a copy or you can download it from our web site.

Most Innovative Sole Practitioner – Almost!

The awards evening on the 16th October saw us winning the runners up award and we have the trophy to go with it! Peter and Victoria attended the awards dinner, hosted by Jack Charlton who gave a lively expose of his time in football. We are immensely proud to have received this award and will continue to try and innovate and do even better next time - but only after having saved up for yet another dress for Victoria!

Senior Moments

One day in his eighty-seventh year, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes is rumoured to have passed a beautiful girl while out walking with a friend. “Oh,” he sighed, turning to watch her as she walked away, “to be seventy again!”.

Peter

30th October, 2008

BUSINESS IS GREAT AND WE ARE READY FOR MORE. PLEASE DO REFER US TO YOUR BUSINESS ASSOCIATES.