



MARCH NEWS UPDATE

Our Web site

Thanks to the admirable work of our administrator – Sarah – the Thomas Cox & Co website is now operating. This would never have happened without Sarah's dedication and attention to detail. Do please visit the site (www.thomascox.co.uk) and let Sarah know if you would like some features added or indeed if you have any ideas for improvement. We just love to receive feedback and we will act on it.

2004 Budget

In the end Gordon's (Eighth !) budget was more of a damp squib than had been widely forecast. There was however the expected sting in the tail for small businesses operating through limited companies. Gordon announced that there would be a "tax of 19% on dividends" distributed after 31 March 2004. However, no detail has been supplied and no-one yet knows how this new system will work or whether it will apply to the distribution of profits earned up to 31 March 2004. As a precautionary measure we are advising our clients, if appropriate, to distribute their profits by 31 March.

Attached with this news update is a copy of our popular "Tax Facts" card

A reminder of some of the things we can do for you

We continue to run our monthly "Making Your Business Really Fly" workshops. These are a mind-blowing insight into just a few of the very simple strategies any business owner can adopt in order to enhance the value of their business and provide a far superior quality of life. These workshops are complimentary (that means FREE! and we really do mean free) and last for a whole morning followed by a sumptuous buffet lunch. If you have not already attended one of these, then please call Sarah who will be delighted to book you in on the next available slot. These workshops really are a MUST to any business owner who wants to be serious about having a valuable business.

This month we have conducted a business strategic analysis for two separate clients. In one case, the client was considering whether or not to move his business up several ratchets and employ a couple of professional business managers. He was unsure whether this was the right move at this time. Our strategic review enabled the client to see his business from a completely different perspective and enabled him to make his business decision with clarity and confidence.

In the second case we were asked to advise on a basically sound business that had fallen on hard times and required urgent funding to enable it to perform a lucrative contract. Our business strategic analysis was a crucial part of the plan put forward to enable funding to be achieved. It also enabled the lender to have utter confidence in the client that past management errors would not be repeated!

Peter

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