

Committee Meeting 27/07/2016

In Attendance:

- **Jennifer McMahon**
- **Carmel Mohan**
- **Seamus Lavery**
- **Phillip Robb**
- **Oliver Quinn**
- **Chris McCabe**
- **Gerard Moore (Guest)**

The Committee met up at the Canal Court Hotel with Gerard Moore who has played a role as publicity officer for the St. John Bosco Boxing Club. Gerard has had great experience in promoting the boxing club and was happy to offer advice on avenues for publicity and funding opportunities.

Meeting Outcome/Direction:

1. **Jennifer** our club president opened the meeting. She explained how **Seamus** and **Oliver** would be promoting the Club at the SRC (Newry) Freshers' Fayre on Monday the 19th Sept. Seamus was given a copy of the presentation by Jennifer and told to adapt it for the event.
2. **Jennifer** said that **Clive Power** (Treasurer 2015/16) had recently advised her that the Newry Junior Chamber of Commerce and NMBNG is holding a networking evening on the 31st August, and wanted to know if anyone would be interested in attending and showcasing the club. **Chris McCabe** said that he would be happy to attend and do a short presentation. Jennifer asked Seamus to send Chris a copy of the Newry Speakers Club Presentation, which he has agreed to do.
3. **Jennifer** advised that Pauline would like to remove her name from the position of Secretary as she is very busy and currently does not have the time to fulfil the commitments of such a role.

4. **Gerard** advised the club on many issues of publicity, advising that we: Contact local GP's via letter to refer patients to NSC with low mood/ social anxiety to help build their self esteem and positive mental attitude. Approach the confederation of community groups, Ballybot house. There is a small annual charge, but that they can furnish us with info on funding, how to keep club accounts etc. for free. Approach Tony 'Riser' Smith to show case what Newry speakers has to offer. **Jennifer** agreed that she would contact Tony Smith as she has approached him before on other matters. She agreed that she would do this shortly.

5. **Gerard** suggested that we get in contact with Sheila Smith from Tesco's in Newry. We could ask about sponsorship of a trophy (Trophy could have Tesco's name engraved on it with possibility of greater funding). He also advised that we invite Sheila and Tesco's staff to attend our club meeting(s) as this could provide a photo opportunity. Jennifer said that she was waiting on a Reply from **Goretta Fegan** (NSC President 2015/16) on the prices for getting the Trophies done and would draw up an appropriate letter. **Oliver and Seamus** have agreed that once an estimation of the price is available that we can ask to speak to Sheila from Tesco's in person.

6. **Gerard and Oliver** suggested that we could go to other local businesses for trophy sponsorship, including: **The Bank Bar (David Downey), Cobbles Bar, Canal Court & Credit Union, ? Newry Reporter, ? The Democrat?** Seamus and Oliver agreed that we could make a joint trip to different prospective sponsors, once the details had come through about an estimate for the Trophies. **Gerard** suggested that Seamus could Invite **Ryan Sands** or other photographers from local papers to cover what our club is about. **Seamus** said that he would agree to this but we had yet to decide upon which evening this could be done.

7. **Seamus** advised that he is currently working on a website and that he found out that the club would be coming 10 years old shortly and that we should use the occasion to celebrate as well as promote the club. **Gerard** suggested that Cobbles Bar (Newry) offers their function room for free on a Friday night, and that we could use this info as a way to highlight to the Canal Court Hotel that NSC is celebrating its 10 year anniversary and hope this will 'inspire' them to assist us in some way, as we will be holding a tenth anniversary party night/ meal etc. Rather than 10 or 20 NSC members celebrating in Cobbles.

8. **Jennifer** suggested that she had been in contact with the SRC (Newry) and that she could email the heads of their departments to encourage students age 18+ to join us and build communication and leadership skills early in their professional life to go further, quicker. Jennifer also said that she would contact the U3A club in Newry to explain the benefits of the service for those who are retired and have more free time.

9. **Seamus** suggested that the website did not have a name truly reflective of the Newry Speakers brand and that we pay wix a website service provider a subscription charge to ensure that the website gains in prominence and visitor numbers. Other committee members suggested that we wait until we find out how any new funding avenues come about.

10. **Chris McCabe** said that the length of our bi-monthly meetings had recently become much greater in duration and were going beyond the set agenda. He said that this badly affected the impression of our club and that as VP of Education he would be ensuring that the meetings run more closely to time in the future, setting a maximum speech limit of 3 per meeting.