



WENTWORTH 1

Leadership, Teamwork and Self-awareness

VIEWPOINT

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

In the current business climate not much! It's harder to be upbeat when you are in the grip of a recession/depression, and like some of our customers, over 50% down on business. And personally, I don't find it funny that my pension pot is worth only $\frac{2}{3}$ of what it was last year.

So why write about "fun" at a time like this? When times are hard, I can reach a point where I know I am taking things too seriously and taking myself too seriously and that's when I need to laugh at myself and "lighten up". And after all, the traditional clown/court jester/comedian role is to play on the border of the dark and light sides of life.

One of the first business books I remember reading was "Up the Organisation" by Robert Townsend. His catchphrase was "If you are not in business to have fun or make money, what the hell are you doing it for?!" I liked the phrase and liked the book (you can still get it, and on Amazon second-hand copies are available from one penny!). I'm in business to get both, but fun is the most important of the two, in the sense that I would stop doing this job and do something else to make money if I weren't having fun.

I am fortunate in that I've been blessed with over 30 years of fun and reasonable money with the Wentworth business, and now I'm approaching 42-years old I've still got a lot to look forward to. But what does "fun" mean? Well, human behaviour itself is often funny, but there are two meanings of the word "fun" - enjoyment and humour, and they are different in that you can enjoy work without necessarily having a laugh, and vice-versa. Again, I'm greedy, and I like to have both! I believe that our customers enjoy working with us, but I hope they also have a laugh with us too.

The trouble with humour, though, is that it is subjective. For instance, I think that giving our Christmas Quiz prize to someone who got all the answers wrong was funny (see attached photos), and I thought her answers were hilarious, but some people wouldn't. This potential dilemma caused long debate in the Wentworth team, when we did the last bit of our website "[And finally ...](#)" - which is meant to be funny. Some of the team thought that potential customers would see us as unprofessional including "humour" like that, and there is that chance, but we left it in (and some people think it's the best bit!).

The same discussion about the same dilemma took place over another website, which Bill and I put together purely and simply for fun. We had lots of laughs doing it, but the team had a majority view that the site was "amateurish" and didn't show Wentworth in a good light, so it was never publicised.

It was amateurish, because it was done on a free Microsoft template and we put it all together in three weeks. In the spirit of "fun" with all the dangers attached, we're now letting others see the "banned" item (including unprofessional spelling mistakes!). Just go to www.saynotochange.com

And why not let us know what you think.

Andy

March 2009

Say
NO
to
change

NEXT WENTWORTH 1 COURSE DATE:

7 - 12 June 2009





Randall Ennis CEO of Aviagen Broiler Breeding presents Jan Morris UK HR Director with her million dollar prize for winning the Wentworth Christmas Quiz

