

MONDAY, 26TH MARCH

Date : 26.03.07

As I write this, there are 11 men and women who are getting ready for what should be one of the biggest challenges of their lives so far.

Yes, it's taken a lot of planning and organising from Sue Windley and Shelly Monk but their hard work will pay off this week when they see Sue's idea for an Entrepreneurs Bootcamp become a reality.

The 11 will be well and truly put through their paces in a five-day challenge that aims to give them five years worth of business experience.

Hopefully, the businesses that are set up or expanded as a result of the bootcamp will survive and thrive to become success stories for Plymouth.

It's been interesting to talk to all 11 last week to set up photographs and find out a bit more about them.

They are all bright, friendly and ambitious.

But it was interesting to note the differences in attitude to setting up a picture.

Some said 'yes' without hesitating and some were more reticent - listing the times and days they couldn't do before volunteering what was a convenient time.

It reminded me of what Chris Dawson always says about the importance of attitude - seeing everything as an opportunity.

Chris also recounts a great story about how he and other leading entrepreneurs were once interviewed by a psychologist for a business magazine (I think it was Management Today, might have been Management Week but definitely not Heat).

After the round-the-table interview, the psychologist announced that there was only one true entrepreneur in the room, but would not say who.

After the meeting, Chris approached him and asked the psychologist if he was the one that was the true entrepreneur.

And, the psychologist said, he was.

I enjoy interviewing successful business men and women and trying to get a handle on how they have got to where they are.

This is partly because it makes a great story and partly because it gives me with the chance to learn a useful lesson while doing my job.

The common factor amongst a lot of successful businessmen and women in Plymouth is a rock-solid belief in themselves that they can handle everything that will be thrown at them today.

And as the first day of bootcamp dawns, I hope that the intrepid 11 are feeling the same way.

Have a good week.

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