

Kent Business Update

Basketball website helped by Angels

It's for people with £250,000 to invest

ANGELS Den is an investment company for people who have at least £250,000 to invest.

It is aimed at small and medium-sized business and has experienced a surge of interest from entrepreneurs as banks have become increasingly cautious about backing fledgling businesses.

It offers individual, one-to-one pitches but also offers an advice service to help entrepreneurs make their pitches.

For more information visit www.angelsden.co.uk

by Gerry Warren
gwarren@thekmgroupp.co.uk

A THEOLOGY student at Christ Church University has found a 'dragon' to help get his basketball website business off the ground.

Stephan Eyeson, 20, a keen player and fan of the game, found his investor at a Speed-Funding event run by an investment company called Angels Den.

It was set up to put entrepreneurs and companies that need funding and support in touch with wealthy backers who are looking for new opportunities.

Stephan, who is the second year of a theology and health degree, was frustrated at the lack of information available to players and the time it took to make contact with coaches. So he founded

www.probasketball.com and posted his new business plan on the Angels Den website, which led to him pitching the concept to 15 potential investors.

He said: "I really hit it off with one backer and, as I hoped, as well as providing financial support, he gives me significant business advice and guidance.

Advertising

"It has enabled me to launch the website and market the business supported by subscriptions and advertising.

"In our first year we aim to sign up more than 200 coaches and 2,000 players across Europe and the USA.

"But we hope to promote the site in Africa and Australia and South America and use some of the profits to set up a basketball academy in Ghana."



Angels Den regional director Ian Shipman, left, with website entrepreneur Stephan Eyeson

Awards for the greenest firms

THE 22nd Environment Awards for Kent Business are looking for Canterbury companies to celebrate their green credentials.

A shortlist of 12 organisations will receive a visit from the judging panel and the top five entries, as well as the Kent Environment Business of the Year 2010, will be recognised at an awards ceremony, to be held in September.

The current holder of the title is The Rose and Crown in Selling near Faversham, where over two years, staff reduced waste by 70 per cent, electricity usage was reduced by 19 per cent and by including green alternatives in the company's business plan, gross profit margins increased six to nine per cent year on year.

The awards are sponsored by Kent County Council, E.ON, Business Support Kent CIC, the Environment Agency and the Kent Messenger. Entries must be submitted before April 30. For details call 01622 221859, visit www.kent.gov.uk/environmentawards, or email environmentawards@kent.gov.uk



STAFF at Busy Bees Nursery in Canterbury are celebrating

Nursery's quality award