

Mentor Profile

Mentor Name Philip Wass

Pen Portrait

Seasoned operations manager with 25 years experience of running manufacturing sites around the country on behalf of large corporates. Set up my own services business 12 years ago. I am qualified to degree level. I have a real passion for business – especially in helping start ups and early stage development businesses to improve their chances of success by applying 'big company' philosophies to small and medium sized businesses.

What is your greatest achievement so far?

Achieving an MSc as a mature student – graduating at the age of 50.

Name an organisation (other than your own) that you see as the perfect one and why?

I cannot think of one PERFECT business. I know some - 'near perfect' - in one particular area of business (customer services, development of new products, etc.) but all still have at least one area of weakness.

Name a business leader that you admire and why?

I admire self made business people who have succeeded despite adversity and by recognising and grasping opportunities when they came their way (e.g. Duncan Bannatyne).

Why are you passionate about mentoring?

I believe that small business can be guided past potential pitfalls in their development by experienced mentors who have been there, seen it, done it (including – having made that mistake themselves).

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

I have been lucky enough to work alongside some very successful business people – both made a fortune, lost it and then picked themselves up and went and did it again.

Professional Qualifications:

MSc (Loughborough University)
Certificate, Diploma 1 and Diploma 2 in Occupational Health and Safety Management (NEBOSH)
Certificate and Diploma in Management Services (IMS)
Certificate in Industrial Management (CMI)
Environmental Management Certificate (IEMA)

Experience:

Work Study Engineer, Production Manager, Factory Manager, Operations Director – manufacturing - (1972 – 1996)

Business Link Business Adviser (part time) – 1997 - 2006

M D of own Services Business (consultancy / training) – 1999 - present

Skills and Expertise:

A good listener.

Very structured / methodical

Extensive experience of managing fast moving business environments involving managing very large numbers of staff