

BEER MAT MENTORING FACILITATOR NOTES

About 'Beer Mat Mentoring'

Beer Mat Mentoring CAN BE a follow up to the Germinate Enterprise course (but do invite others) or it can be a stand-alone group (you could run the Germinate Enterprise course later).

It doesn't have to be called Beer Mat Mentoring. But we like the title and typically it is held in a quiet corner of a pub. This is a neutral space and low barrier way for people to connect with what you are doing.

It's important because aspiring entrepreneurs often feel isolated and there is enormous value in helping them to connect with others on the same journey and perhaps experienced business owners and leaders.

The idea to do something that is very low resource: not too much preparation, no need to book a venue, and no costs except your time and a drink. That way it's more likely to be sustainable.

Format of the Evening

There are two parts to the evening.

In the first half, ask someone to introduce a topic. It may be something they know a lot about. Or they could choose one of the Beer Mat Mentoring Meeting notes (see below) to get them going or fill in gaps. The presentation should be interactive, i.e. time for others to ask questions or share wisdom. The person leading this section doesn't have to be an expert: if there is a question they can't answer, ask the group. Failing that, perhaps someone can search for an answer on the Internet and report back the next time!

In the second part, ask participants if they have a particular issue or problem they want answers to. They ask if anyone has any experience or wisdom that might help. You can do this as a whole group or, if it's a larger gathering, split into smaller groups.

We would suggest meeting monthly. But that's up to you.

First session

At the first session, explain what Beer Mat Mentoring is all about.

- It's an opportunity for aspiring and experienced entrepreneurs to come together in a convivial atmosphere.
- It's important that everything is treated in strict confidence.
- Explain where and how often you plan to meet, and the broad structure of the evening (see introduction notes).
- Say you would welcome ideas on subject matter or speakers.
- Allow everyone to introduce themselves.

If you can, give a story of your business involvement if you can to encourage participants.

Meeting notes

The Beer Mat Mentoring meeting notes are at:

<http://germinate.net/mission/germinate-enterprise/>

The first six sets of notes essentially follow the workbook in a much abbreviated form. If your group has recently been on the Germinate Enterprise course, skip over these and start on session seven (revision of top tips from the workbook) or session eight. Enjoy!

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