

Financial training For non financial staff



The financial training specialists

Birds, booze and fast cars (budgeting)

Some quotes make me smile. The Times recently listed 10 high earning personalities who died penniless. One was George Best, who explained his financial mismanagement as “Most of the money I spent on birds, booze and fast cars, the rest I just squandered.”

In the run up to the election the political parties are highlighting the waste they say exists in the public sector, and how they will resolve the country’s financial crisis by cutting back on this waste – the money the country is just squandering.

But the key issue in both the political propaganda and George Best’s summary is “What is squandering?”

From a budgeting (and profitability) point of view we need to be as aware as possible of any waste within our organisation’s processes. Waste might involve things that could be done more efficiently, things that we do but don’t need, and things we do to a far higher standard than we need.

The external view is interesting here. We know that all the things we do are essential, but what does the outside world think? The money George Best spent on birds, booze and fast cars wasn’t squandered – by his standards. We might think differently!

When working with a client recently, one of their managers was telling the group how efficient their organisation was. The new employee, who had previously worked with a charity, has a radically different viewpoint.

How can you get that external viewpoint of your department or organisation?