

The Forester

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2012



LEFT: Outstanding Apprentice of the Year Sam Elliott receives his award from Matthew Burgess of sponsors Gloucestershire College. Sam has contributed to his firm SPP Pumps' apprentice scheme over and above expectations. He is his firm's Apprentice Association chairman raising money for charity among other things.



LEFT: Julian Risby, centre, of sponsors Marstons Brewery presents the Pub of Year trophy to Farmer's Boy, Longhope landlords Phil and Manda Kiernan. The couple have put all their energies into making a name for the pub, whether it's on TV's Four in a Bed series or in opening their Deli & Gastro Pie Shop.



ABOVE: Veronica Godfrey, right, of sponsors Abacus Accounting presents Miranda Jenkins of Skills To Go with the Business Person of the Year award. Miranda's training and development business has been instrumental in helping and inspiring people to start their own ventures and advance their professional lives.

26 reasons

WORKERS at a Cinderford engineering firm are over the moon.

The 19 staff at Quickmach Engineering Pressings couldn't believe it when boss David Marfell told them they'd won Business of the Year 2012 at *The Forester* Business Awards.

The Station Road factory, which was set up 10 years ago by former Dowty engineers Geoff Thomas and his ex-apprentice David, is about to expand into new premises.

It exports a whopping 60 per cent of automotive products to the car and aerospace industries and has an annual turnover of £2.35 million.

"We were surprised and chuffed when we heard we had won," said David, who attended the awards evening with fellow director Geoff and business development manager Graham Adams. They have promised each member of staff £50 to go towards a slap-up meal to celebrate. The trio were presented with their award by category sponsor Richard Read, boss of the Longhope transport firm.

Runner-up was well-known builders'



DELIGHTED: Richard Read, second right, of sponsors Richard Read Transport, presents the Quickmach team with the Business of the Year Award. From left, director Geoff Thomas, business development manager Graham Adams, Richard Read and director David Marfell.

merchants Hale & Co of Drybrook. The glittering awards night held at Forest Hills Golf Club last Thursday saw 13 award winners and an equal number of runners-up receive trophies and certificates following a dinner for 200 guests.

The event, hailed a huge success, is the third Business Awards to be staged by *The Forester*, whose editor Viv Hargreaves said: "The fact that we have

received more entries than ever before says volumes about the need to celebrate our businesses both big and small, despite the economic climate. "It is interesting that an engineering firm won the top award because this underlines a growing revival in what the Dean has traditionally done best." The Forest is also seeing an increase in the number of small high-tech companies.

And it was Omnis Ltd, based at Vantage Point Business Village, who scooped the Small Business of the Year Award for its innovative approach. Staff members James Palmer and Tim Watkins were presented with their award by Terry Newby, of sponsors SPP Pumps. Runner-up was Mel's Top Cutz.

Business Person of the Year was a closely fought battle between high calibre contestants. It was Miranda Jenkins, who runs Skills To Go, who won the award for inspiring others to start their own business ventures. She received her award from Veronica Godfrey of sponsors Abacus Accounting.

Runner-up was Alex Weiss who runs Coleford fish and chip shop AI's Plaice.

Turn to Page 10



LEFT: Rob Baxter, right, of sponsors GlaxoSmithKline presents the Health and Beauty Award to Andy Griffiths of Rockets Health & Fitness Club. Andy aims to help his clients lose weight and change their body shape but he also helps them recover from injury with his physio clinic at the Coleford-based gym.



LEFT: Terry Newby, second right, of sponsors SPP Pumps, presents the Omnis Ltd team James Palmer and Tim Watkins with the Small Business of the Year Award. Tough decisions taken two years ago to move the direction of the business have paid off for Omnis Ltd, based at Vantage Point Business Village. They've had a runaway success with a new phone system called Bablevoice.

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LEFT: Brian Cook, second right, of sponsors Whitehouse Press presents the Tourism Award to Speech House Hotel owners Peter and Gill Hands with member of staff Sharon Winman, left. Peter and Gill have developed the quality of service, links with the community, as well as the general ambience for guests and visitors since buying the hotel in 2010.



LEFT: Sponsor Mario Constantinides of the Miner's Arms, Whitecroft presents the Restaurant of the Year to Coleford's Bluebell Restaurant team of chef Dean Wassell, left, and owner Sue Sparkes. The combination of experience and quality have made it a top eatery.

to celebrate



WORK: Workers at Quickmach Engineering Pressings Ltd, winner of the Business award.



LEFT: Sponsor Graham Wildin & Co presents Henry Gardner with the Young Business Person of the Year Award. Henry started his firm at 17 and has continued to expand and improve it four years on.



RIGHT: Will Smith of sponsors Clear Web Services, presents Alex Weiss, left, of Al's Place, with the Retailer of the Year award. The fish and chip shop owner places great emphasis on staff training and supporting his local community.



LEFT: Ian Price, right, of sponsors Griffiths Marshall presents the Family-run Business of the Year Award to the Littledean House Hotel team from left, Kate and Richard Bond, Clare Rooksby and Mathew Bond. The hotel prides itself on catering for everyone's individual needs and the owners are really putting it back on the map as an integral part of the community.



LEFT: Don Burgess, second right, chairman of sponsors the FSB, presents Woodgate Sawmills with Green Business of the Year Award. Founded in 1950, family-run Woodgate Sawmills has built up a considerable trade in supplying wood to the general public and it is planning to expand business by installing a new kiln. Pictured with Don, from left are Brian, Andrew and Darryl Humphries.

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APPRENTICE RUNNER-UP: Skye Beddington of Westbury Dental Surgery receiving her award from Gloscol's Matthew Burgess.



PUB OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP: The team from the New Inn at Shortstanding, from left Chris and Sue Barker and Neil Jeffs, Jenna Hughes, receive their certificate from Julian Risby of Marstons Brewery.



FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP: Landlord of The George at Aylburton Ian Lilley and his daughter Katy receive their certificate from sponsors Ian Price, of Griffiths Marshall.



RETAILER OF THE YEAR RUNNER UP: Rob Capindale, left, of Apollo Carpets, receives his award from Will Smith of sponsors Clear Web Services.



LEFT: The Restaurant of the Year Runner-up James and Becky Chilton of the Orepool Inn receive their award from sponsor Mario Constantinides.



RIGHT: Business Person of the Year runner-up Alex Weiss of Al's Plaice is presented with his award by sponsor Veronica Godfrey of Abacus Accounting.



LEFT: Green Business of Year Award runner-up Alex Weiss of Al's Plaice is presented with his certificate by Don Burgess of sponsors FSB.



RUNNER-UP: Ian Drew of i-design consultancy receives his runner-up prize for Young Business Person of the Year from sponsor Graham Wildin.



RUNNER-UP: Maria Young receives her certificate for Customer Service Award runner-up from Martin Scrivens of The Warranty Group, left, and her runner-up award for Health and Beauty from Rob Baxter of sponsors GSK, right.



RUNNER-UP: Melanie Hurrell receives her certificate as runner-up in the Small Business of the Year Award from Terry Newby of sponsors SPP Pumps.



RUNNER-UP: Jake and Les Hale of Hale & Co, Drybrook, are presented with Business of the Year Award runner-up certificate by sponsor Richard Read.

Guests raise £1.6k for



From Page 3

He managed a hat-trick of wins during the evening, winning Retailer of the Year, sponsored by Clear Web Services and becoming runner-up in Green Business of the Year, sponsored by the FSB. The runner-up of the retailer category was Apollo Carpets of Lydney and the winner of the Green category was family-run firm Woodgate Sawmills run by a quartet of Humphries brothers and sons.

New category for 2012 was the Outstanding Apprentice of the Year sponsored by Gloucestershire College, which was won by Sam Elliott of SPP Pumps. Runner-up was Skye Beddington of Westbury Dental Surgery. Celebrating winning the Tourism Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Whitehouse Press, were Peter and Gill Hands of the Speech House Hotel. While runner-up in this category was the Greenway Farm at Drybrook.

This year's winner of the Family Run Business of the Year, sponsored by Griffiths Marshall was the Littledean House Hotel, with runner-up The George Inn at Aylburton. The Customer Service Award, sponsored by The Warranty Group, was won by Keith's Kars of Longhope and for runner-up Maria Young Beauty & Massage it was a double whammy as she was also runner-up in the Health and Beauty Award. This category,



DINNER: Guests pack Forest Hills Golf Club for The Forester Business Awards. **INSET:** Editor Viv Hargreaves presents David Thompson and Elspeth Hardie, left with a giant cheque for £1,000. Photos: Martin Perry

sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, was won by Rockets Health & Fitness of Coleford. Pub of the Year was won by an ecstatic Phil Kiernan and his wife Manda from the Farmer's Boy at Longhope, while the runner-up was the New Inn at Shortstanding. The award was sponsored by Marstons Brewery. The Bluebell Restaurant at Coleford scooped the Restaurant of the Year Award, sponsored by past winner Mario Constantinides of the Miner's Arms, Whitcroft. Runner-up was The Orepool Inn at Sling.

Last but not least was the Young Business Person of the Year, sponsored by Wildin & Co, which was won by landscape gardener Henry Gardner with Ian Drew of i-design consultancy hot on his tail as runner-up. The master of ceremonies Tony Wisdom made sure the evening went smoothly introducing the chairman of the Forest of Dean District Council who said grace before the dinner. Guests excelled themselves by raising more than £1,600 in a raffle for charity of the night the Severn Area Rescue Association.

Two crew members David Thompson and Elspeth Hardie gave a personal insight into the work of SARA which rescues those who get into difficulties in our rivers or get stranded on Forest cliffs. They also persuaded a number of guests to follow *The Forester's* lead by taking part in the SARA Zip Wire Challenge in two weeks' time. Staff at Griffiths Marshall will be taking the plunge thanks to partner Ian Price! A giant cheque for £1,000 was presented to the charity by Viv Hargreaves from funds raised by the newspaper.

