

Gala awards celebrate cream of south London's business crop



Glittering evening: Everyone who is anyone in south London business

by PAUL CAHALAN

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THE cream of south London's business community gathered at Selhurst Park, the home of Crystal Palace Football Club, last Wednesday for the annual RBS South London Business Awards.

Under the cover of a specially-erected marquee, positioned in the middle of the pitch, nearly 600 people sat for the three-course gala dinner, followed by the Oscar-style awards ceremony hosted by DJ David "Kid" Jensen.

The awards, now in their third year, were launched last September at the Brit Oval and provide a showcase for businesses ranging from one-person local operations to those employing hundreds with international clients.

Some 52 companies, from each of south London's 12 boroughs, were represented in 11 categories, Wandsworth-based Z-Card, which won the Best Business for Marketing



The awards

Award, was crowned Business of the Year.

Liz Love, Z-Card managing director, said: "This has been a real team effort. We've gone through some tough times and we have fought very hard and it's just great to have this accolade."

Peter Pledger, chief executive of South London Business (SLB), which hosted the evening, said: "We are genuinely delighted to have organised these awards, and I would

like to congratulate our business of the year, Z-Card, and every finalist and every other winner on their tremendous achievement.

"The awards ceremony emphasises not only the strength of local business in south London, but also the sheer innovation, diversity and entrepreneurial spirit to be found here."

Sponsored by RBS, the awards were also supported by a number of companies, in-



cluding Your Local Guardian and News Shopper.

Barry White, regional director, business and commercial banking for RBS south London, said: "We have a long established history of working with local businesses in the region and we get to see many successful companies that are thriving despite the challenging times we are all working in. It's great to see these achievements being recognised."



Laughing all the way: Host David Jensen

"We have enjoyed being involved in celebrating this business success. Well done to everyone that was shortlisted."

Sir Peter Scott, chairman of SLB, added the record atten-

dance for the event, particularly in a recession, had proved the awards had "come of age".

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Movers and shakers: Guests showed their business moves



Keynotes: The band, Payback, crowned the evening's entertainment



Victorious: The winners gather to show off their trophies

South London Business Award winners

Business of the Year

Winner:

Z-CARD Ltd

Highly commended:

Henry Riley LLP
Rowland Brothers

Best Small Business

Winner:

Quay Assessment Training

Highly commended:

Resonant Media
Teachsport

Best Medium Business

Winner:

Eddie Catz Ltd

Highly commended:

Dotmailer
Rowland Brothers
Z-CARD Ltd

Best Large Business

Winner:

ITC Concepts

Highly commended:

Mott MacDonald

Best Business for Customer Service

Winner:

CCHA Ltd

Highly commended:

All Areas Security Ltd
Pimlico Plumbers

Best Business for International Trade

Winner:

MSE (UK) Ltd

Highly commended:

Mott MacDonald
Rowland Brothers

The Innovation Award

Winner:

TrueCall Steve Smith

Highly commended:

Cableduct Ltd
Proper Oils

Best Business for Training & Development

Winner:

Crystal Palace Physiotherapy
& Sports Injury Centre

Highly commended:

Henry Riley
Fusion Glass

Best Business for Marketing

Winner:

Z-CARD Ltd

Highly commended:

Warren House
Horniman Museum & Gardens

Best Business for Sustainability

Winner:

Chequers

Highly commended:

Solar Century
Aztec
First Impressions

Best New Business

Winner:

A Suit That Fits.com

Highly commended:

Schmidt
Eco Actif Services

Entrepreneur of The Year

Winner:

Independent mindbodysoul Ltd

Highly commended:

Le Cassoulet
JP Creative
DP Consulting Ltd

Excellence and talent recognised by judges

BUSINESSES in the area are celebrating after picking up a range of prizes at the South London Business Awards.

The annual event at Crystal Palace FC's Selhurst Park saw eight companies from the News Shopper patch win awards for their business success and skills.

Fifty-two companies from south London's 12 boroughs made it

by DAN KEEL

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through to the finals and more than 575 people attended the ceremony.

The Circle Podiatry Practice in Lewisham Road, which treats people with foot disorders, was highly commended for Best Customer Service, while Lewisham's music and lifestyle magazine, Gravity Guide,

was a finalist in the Best New Business section.

Staff at Forest Hill's Horniman Museum had plenty to smile about at the May 20 ceremony after walking away with the runner-up prize for Best Business for Marketing.

Meanwhile the youth sport training business, Teachsport, which operates from small premises in Abbotshall Road, Catford, was highly commended in the Best Small Business category along with New Cross-based IT company, Wauton Samuel and Co Ltd.

The title of Best Business for Training and Development was won by Crystal Palace Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Centre.

International English trainers, Twin Group, which also organises work experience trips for youngsters from its base in Lewisham High Street, was highly commended in the same category.

Finally MSE (UK) Ltd, which supplies laboratory equipment to businesses across the globe from its home in Worsley Bridge Road, Lower Sydenham, was named Best Business for International Trade. Speaking after the event, which



Celebrating: Alex Henderson and Mark Henderson of MSE (UK) Ltd with Alex Blakelock (left) of UK Trade Investment, who presented the award



Winners: Crystal Palace Physiotherapy and Sports Injury Centre directors Bevan Ellis (left) and Stuart Paterson (right) with Garf Taylor of the Learning and Skills Council

was organised by the Royal Bank of Scotland, chief executive of the awards, Peter Pledger, said: "We are genuinely delighted to have organised these awards, and I would like to congratulate every finalist and every winner on their tremendous achievement.

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