



▲ Some of the award winners pictured in the Park Plaza Tyrrelstown

A gala occasion

This year's D15 Chamber Gala President's Ball certainly lived up to its name. The event proved to be a truly gala affair with two hundred and thirty members of the local business and community sectors of Dublin 15 gathering for the 2009 Business and Community Awards ceremony at the Park Plaza Hotel in Tyrrelstown.

Speaking before the awards were presented, chamber president John Connolly told guests that "Dublin 15 is a phenomenal area and is now bigger than either Galway or Limerick. We have over 1,500 companies operating in the area ranging from SME's to large corporations. We also have the biggest retail centre in Ireland. D15 Chamber represents these businesses in the west part of Fingal county both at local and national government level," he said.

One of the evening's guest speakers was Ciaran Byrne, Mayor of Fingal who said "these business and community awards offer an outstanding demonstration of what Dublin 15 can do. Tonight you are recognising the excellence of these individuals and companies not just for their contribution to the economy of Fingal but to the national economy generally. SME's are the biggest contributor to the Irish

economy and it is great to see that contribution recognised," he stressed.

The main sponsor of the evening was the Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) and its external communications manager Siobhan Moore spoke of the involvement of the DAA with the D15 Chamber over many years. "We are acutely aware of the connection between the airport and Dublin 15 and in particular the importance of the airport to the 1,500 companies in this area and of course the importance of you and your clients to us," she said.

She also pointed out that work on the new Terminal 2 is progressing well and the new facility will open in November of next year saying "when it is built we will be ahead of the curve for the first time ever in terms of capacity."

According to county manager David O'Connor, "in these recessionary times the county council more than ever has a

responsibility to account for our stewardship of your money. Most of you here this evening are contributors through your rates. For every man, woman and child in this county, €3,000 is spent from our coffers.

"The investment we have made in this area is immense," said Mr. O'Connor. "Half our staff are now based in this area in our offices on Grove Road and in the Library which is the biggest in Ireland."

The Awards

The first award of the evening for best contribution to the community by an organisation went to **Community Voice**, which was nominated for the award by Draíocht. This was followed by another particularly popular decision when Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony received the award for the best contribution to the community by an individual. Making the presentation, Dr. Mary Meaney, president of ITB

Blanchardstown said that "Fr. Dan Joe's guardian angel had already worn out four pairs of wings just trying to keep up with him."

In the business categories, which were independently judged by Spotcheck, the Crowne Plaza Hotel won the best licensed premises award; Brasserie 15 scooped the best eating establishment award; Inspiring Ideas came away with the best retail premises award and Dunboyne Castle won the best customer service award.

The National Aquatic Centre received the award for best sales & marketing team, Denobi won the innovation in IT category and Java Republic Roastery took the environmental award.

The award for the best start up/new business category was won by Naoise O'Reilly, founder of the recently established Homework Club while BPM Media were presented with the best sme/sole trader award. ■

The award winners

The full list of nominees and winners is as follows:

Contribution to Community by an organisation

Nominees: Astellas; Institute of Technology Blanchardstown; Castleknock Construction; Community Voice; Blanchardstown Credit Union; Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living
Winner: Community Voice

Contribution to Community by an individual

Winner: Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony

Best Retail Premises

Nominees: Inspiring Ideas; Imaginarium; Mamas and Papas; 53 Degrees North; Tower Jewellers
Winner: Inspiring Ideas

Best Customer Service

Nominees: Clonsilla Blinds; Permanent TSB; Dunboyne Castle; Hutton & Meade
Winner: Dunboyne Castle

Best Eating Establishment

Nominees: Java Republic; Dunboyne Castle; Park Plaza Tyrrelstown; Castleknock Hotel & Country Club; Brasserie 15
Winner: Brasserie 15

Best Licensed Premises

Nominees: Crowne Plaza Hotel; Castleknock Hotel & Country Club; The Thirsty Bull
Winner: Crowne Plaza Hotel

Best Start Up/New Business

Nominees: Advanced Accounting; Brasserie 15; The Homework Club; Zannz Hair & Beauty
Winner: The Homework Club

Best SME/Sole Trader

Nominees: A&M Products Ltd; Ól Irish Pubs; BPM Media Ltd
Winner: BPM Media

Innovation in IT

Nominees: Denobi; Barrog Ltd; Spear Technologies; Emydex Technology
Winner: Denobi

Environmental Award

Nominees: Java Republic; IBM; Office Depot
Winner: Java Republic

Life saving award

A very popular award was made to two members of staff at The Blanchardstown Centre and a nurse from Connolly Hospital. The President's Award was presented to John Robinson and Joey Murray, both deputy customer care managers at the centre and Nurse Olive Hildago.

Making the award, John Connolly told guests at the dinner how "last September a lady of mature years shopping at the centre suddenly collapsed, having gone into cardiac arrest. The Centre's response team were quickly on the scene having been alerted by an off-duty nurse who happened to be nearby.

According to Mr. Connolly, "CPR was commenced within seconds and the automatic external defibrillators from Centre were deployed, returning the woman's heart to normal sinus rhythm. She was subsequently transferred

to Connolly Hospital where thankfully she made a complete recovery."

There was a further piece of good news for the two Centre staff to follow. As part of the auction to raise funds for the chamber, two tickets for the upcoming World Cup playoff game between Ireland and France including a limo to Croke Park and a champagne reception were put up for sale. After some brisk bidding the two tickets were eventually purchased for €500 by Joe Gavin, manager of the Blanchardstown Centre and presented to a delighted John and Joey. ■



▲ Fr. Dan Joe O'Mahony receives his award from Chamber president John Connolly and Dr. Mary Meaney