

199/04

11 November 2004

FAMILY FIRM IS CROWNED BRITAIN'S SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION

Noel Chadwick Ltd, a family run butchers shop, fine food emporium and restaurant from Standish, Wigan has won the coveted title of British Small Business Champion 2004.

Managing director, John Chadwick, attended the prestigious national award ceremony at Claridge's in London, where he was presented with the national title by newscaster and TV presenter Fiona Armstrong and Sir Christopher Meyer, the former UK Ambassador to Washington and current Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. John also picked up the winner's prize of a tailor-made business trip to New York.

In recognition of the achievements of all the small business award contenders, Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, hosted a reception at Number 11 Downing Street which John, along with all the finalists, attended before heading off to the award ceremony.

The awards, now in their third year, are held by the Federation of Small Businesses, Lloyds TSB, the Daily Mirror and Business in the Community, to highlight and celebrate the contribution small businesses make to the UK economy and to their local communities. This year, the ceremony also falls on the eve of National Enterprise Week, 15 - 21 November.

The 2004 Champion, Noel Chadwick Ltd, is an example of a family tradition being handed down through the generations and successfully built upon by the current owner.

.../more

FAMILY FIRM IS CROWNED BRITAIN'S SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION/...2

Starting out with a nationally acclaimed family butchers shop, John Chadwick has expanded the business and introduced a unique concept of "Farm to Fork", proactively promoting the best quality British produce sourced from local farms. Chadwick has also boosted the local economy by increasing its employment levels from 17 to 55 staff.

On being presented with the third national British Small Business Champion award, John Chadwick said: "Our business has a strong family ethos so winning this award gives great recognition to all our staff, who work hard to make Chadwick's what it is today - a winner. This has been a fantastic experience and I am a very proud man. But, looking at all the other small business contestants who were finalists, in my opinion we are all winners."

Michael R Peters, an independent electrical retailing business based in Bedford, was presented with a special Merit award for its commitment to the local community and its exceptional contribution and support to local charities. It is the main sponsor of the oldest UK Sunday football league and sponsors twelve community buses, which transport the elderly from door-to-door without charge, allowing them to get their shopping and attend medical appointments. The buses carry out over 300 journeys a week.

Stephen Pegge, head of communications for Lloyds TSB Business, said: "Both companies are shining examples of what make Britain's small businesses so great. The level of care and commitment they give to customers, staff and their community is inspiring. There can only be one overall champion, but I'm certain that Noel Chadwick will be proudly flying the flag for all British enterprises and innovation when they visit New York."

.../more

FAMILY FIRM IS CROWNED BRITAIN'S SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION/...3

John Emmins, for the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "These awards are in recognition of the achievements of Britain's diverse and vibrant small business community. We're now in the third year of choosing champion businesses and the sheer hard work, aptitude and vision demonstrated by all of this year's finalists have made it a more difficult task than ever."

-ends-

Notes to editors:

- Photographs and profiles available on request.
- The 5 other national finalists included: Bedfordshire firm, ALLDUN Property Maintenance Services Ltd, based in Dunstable, The Sussex Sign Company, a family business based in Newhaven, East Sussex, Pace Telecom Ltd, a telecommunications company based in Wrexham, Wales and Farmlay Eggs from Strichen in Scotland.
- The 5 national merit award finalists included: Pocklington Montessori School from Pocklington, Escot Ltd, an East Devon rural estate, Rosemount Children's Centre from Dollar in Scotland, Knock Travel from Belfast and Badgers Café from Llandudno in Wales.

For more information:

Jo Ganly

Lloyds TSB Press Office

Tel: 020 7356 2075

E: jo.ganly@lloydstsb.co.uk

www.mediacentre.lloydstsb.com