

SURREY DIRECTOR

March 2007

SURREY BUSINESS AWARDS

Golden smiles!

THE UK's largest supplier of pensions administration software solutions, Redhill-based aquilaheywood, was named Surrey Company of the Year at the glittering Surrey Business Awards ceremony at Mercedes-Benz World, Weybridge, last month.

Sponsored by Deloitte, the top prize hailed aquilaheywood as the leading company in the region. The group has grown rapidly and now employs over 220 staff.

David Ackroyd, chief executive of aquilaheywood, said: 'Taking part in the awards has been a rewarding experience and it is a great honour to be recognised with this award by the Surrey business community. Our success reflects the outstanding quality and dedication of all our staff.'

Clear focus

He added: 'The award entry process was extremely well organised and executed and the resulting ceremony was a very enjoyable event.'

Judge Neil Harris said: 'aquilaheywood has achieved growth and high profitability through a clear focus on its marketplace and a commitment to the delivery of a product designed for the needs of the pension and financial services industry.'

Chairman of Phoenix plc, Peter Knight, also took gold when he was named Surrey Business Person of the Year, sponsored by 96.4 The Eagle.

Peter's career began in sales and marketing with some of the leading housebuilders and estate agents in the UK. In 1989 he set up Phoenix, an integrated communications agency working with the property and professional services industries. Peter also writes for Real Business Magazine and as a trustee of the International Childcare Trust has cycled across India and Sri Lanka to raise money for children's projects in the developing world.

The evening was hosted by 96.4 The Eagle presenter Peter Gordon and began with a champagne drinks reception. Over 300 guests were given a privileged view of the gallery of Mer-

cedes-Benz cars, which contains some of the most expensive and beautiful vehicles in the world. A four-course dinner followed, before the Oscar-style awards ceremony.

A high-powered panel of judges made up of the area's leading business people chose the winners. Companies from all over Surrey, and from most sectors of industry and commerce, were among the 24 finalists.

The other award winners were:

- **International Business Award:** Aircom International, Leatherhead (sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland).
- **Small Business Award:** ramsac, Godalming (Surrey Advertiser).
- **Customer Service Award:** P & P Glass, Cranleigh (Barlow Robbins Solicitors and The Institute of Customer Service).
- **Marketing Award:** Eden Hair and Beauty, Haslemere (The Priory Partnership).
- **Innovation in Business Award:** Memset Ltd, Guildford (Bartercard UK).
- **Leisure and Tourism Award:** Guildford Spectrum Leisure Complex (Mercedes-Benz World).
- **Excellence in Training and Development Award:** Runnymede Hotel and Spa (Bristow Group).

The awards are created and organised by The Priory Partnership Ltd.

RIGHT: Samantha Powell (left) and Janet Rumbold, from Runnymede Hotel and Spa, winner of the Excellence in Training and Development Award.

FAR RIGHT: Rachel Cherryman, of Surrey Chamber of Commerce, with Eric Vardy, of Clydesdale Bank.



David Ackroyd (left), chief executive of Company of the Year aquilaheywood, with Neil Harris, partner with award sponsor Deloitte.



From left: Malcolm Bourner, of Management Back Up, Paul Mew, Robert May, Ruth Williams, Sally Cooper and Dan May, of ramsac, and Jeremy Gardener, of Roffe Swayne.