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Grimsby duo claim Chamber Awards success

An innovative local shopping centre and a leading wholesale exporter are proving that 'Business is Good for Britain' after securing three of the main titles in the Yorkshire and Humber heats of the Chamber Awards 2012.

Freshney Place Shopping Centre beat off challengers from across the region to win Marketing Campaign of the Year (sponsored by the RBS Group), with Ramsden International impressing the judges to land Achievement in International Business (sponsored by DHL Express) and the coveted Business of the Year Award (sponsored by Westfield Health).

The latter, which employs 48 people at its Grimsby facility, has enjoyed massive year-on-year growth and is currently on target to hit the £50m mark in 2012.

A member of Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce Industry and Shipping, the company's expansion has come from its commitment to customer service, investment in staff and a focus on exploiting key markets.

This has seen Ramsden International supply a 23,000-strong range of British groceries to over 700 customers in 120 countries, with its multi-lingual team able to speak fluently in 14 different languages.

President of the British Chambers of Commerce Martyn Pellew said: "There has never been a more important time for businesses to showcase the amazing work they are doing on a day-to-day basis.

"The Chamber Awards is a perfect platform for them to do just that and receive the recognition and profile they deserve for helping move the economy forward and create employment, often in local areas."

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2012 is committed to finding the best businesses in Britain through a series of regional heats followed by a National Final, due to be held at London's Guildhall on November 29th.

Now in its 9th year, the competition is one of the showcase events for the 'Business is Good for Britain' campaign that highlights the role of business as a positive force for the UK recovery and the success of local communities and individuals.

Located in the heart of Grimsby, Freshney Place Shopping Centre boasts over 100 shops and attracts more than 13 million consumers every year.

It successfully launched 'Dress for Success', an innovative six-week initiative that invited women to 'spring clean' their wardrobes by swapping their unwanted workwear for a 10% off voucher to spend at some of the centre's leading fashion retailers.

Over 800 people took part and all the clothes received were donated to local charity Women's Aid.

The campaign helped contribute to a 3.35% increase in footfall at a time when national retail figures were down.

Other successful companies in Yorkshire and Humber included:

- Brandon Medical Company (Excellence in Innovation)
- HBP Systems (Commitment to People Development)
- INATIV's Tony Sykes (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Shore Stewart Solicitors (Most Promising New Business)
- St Stephen's Shopping Centre (Sustainability Award)
- Weston Group (Excellence in Customer Service)

Martyn concluded: "A record number of firms have taken part this year, all determined to prove that 'Business is Good for Britain!'"

The Chamber Awards 2012 is supported by the RBS Group, BT Business, Dell, DHL Express, Westfield Health and Acua Limited.

For further information or to book your place at the National Awards Final, visit **www.chamberawards.co.uk**

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Notes to Editors

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the national voice of local business.

The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, serving over **100,000 businesses** across the UK, which **employ over five million people**.

For more information visit: **www.britishchambers.org.uk**