

THE QUEENS, LEEDS CROWNS YORKSHIRE PA OF THE YEAR

Last night saw five PA's from across the region pick up coveted awards to mark their professional achievements at a stylish red carpet ceremony held at The Queens Hotel, Leeds.

The QHotels Yorkshire PA of the Year awards were presented to Marion Lawrence of Yorkshire Universities (PA of the Year), Janet Read of RSA Group (Lifetime Achievement), Emma Butterfield of Odgers Berndtson (Rising Star), Michael Walsh from Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority (Above and Beyond Award) and the team at PriceWaterhouseCoopers (Team PA's of the Year).

The awards were judged by Deborah Green, CEO Marketing Leeds, Diane Marshman, Institute of Personal Assistants Regional Coordinator and David Kanarens, General Manager at The Queens.

Yorkshire Universities' Marion Lawrence was crowned PA of the Year for her exceptional performance in 2010. Nominated by a colleague for her seamless management of the office and support to her team, the judging panel were impressed by her enthusiasm to adapt to new challenges and to mentor others.

Janet Read of RSA Group, Leeds picked up the Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution to her industry to date. Janet's current employers not only praise the charity walk she organised this year that raised more than £6,000, but claim her efficient approach has transformed their working day. Meanwhile, newcomer Emma Butterfield of Odgers Berndtson was named 'Rising Star' with an amazing 15 nominations.

Michael Walsh from Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority was recognised for his determination and can-do approach by being presented with The Above and Beyond Award.

The team at the Leeds division of PriceWaterhouseCoopers scooped the Team PA's of the Year Award for their spirit, enthusiasm and professional service they deliver that goes beyond the call of duty.

David Kanarens, General Manager at The Queens Hotel, Leeds said: "We were overwhelmed with the number of strong entries from Yorkshire professionals. It was a tough judging process but all of tonight's winners really deserve their accolades. PA's are often the lifeblood of an organisation but too often are overlooked. The awards ceremony was the perfect way to say a huge thank you to PA's and to give them the

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recognition they deserve. Judging from the number of nominations we received, Yorkshire businesses clearly support this.”

The Queens Hotel - which is part of award-winning hotel group QHotels and sister hotel to Aldwark Manor Spa and Golf Hotel, near York, Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort, near Hull and Tankersley Manor, near Sheffield - designed the awards to recognise the commitment and hard work of PAs in organisations of all sizes who work their socks off to help keep the wheels of business in motion.

In addition to the accolades, winners were presented with prizes that included spa breaks, conference packages and membership to the IPA.

- Ends -

Notes to editors

Full list of the QHotels Yorkshire PA of the Year award winners are:

- Lifetime Achievement Award Winner - Janet Read, RSA Group Plc, Leeds
- The Team of PA's of the Year Award Winner – PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Leeds
- The Above and Beyond Award Winner – Michael Walsh, Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority
- The Rising Star Award Winner - Emma Butterfield, Odgers Berndtson, Leeds
- PA of the Year Award Winner – Marion Lawrence, Yorkshire Universities
- PA of the Year Award Runner-up - Georgina Cottam, BDO

The QHotels 21: **The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort** - Near Glasgow... **Aldwark Manor Golf & Spa Hotel** - York... **The Queens** - Leeds... **Forest Pines Hotel & Golf Resort** - North Lincolnshire... **Tankersley Manor** – Tankersley, Nr Sheffield... **The Midland** - Manchester... **The Park Royal** – Stretton, Warrington... **Crewe Hall** – Crewe, Cheshire... **The Nottingham Belfry** - Nottingham... **Telford Hotel & Golf Resort** – Telford, Shropshire... **Stratford Manor** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **The Stratford** - Stratford-upon-Avon... **Chesford Grange** – Kenilworth, Warwickshire... **Hellidon Lakes Golf & Spa Hotel** – Hellidon, Northamptonshire... **The Cheltenham Chase Hotel** - Gloucestershire... **The Cambridge Belfry** –

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Cambourne, Cambridge... **The Oxford Belfry** –Thame, Oxford... **The Hampshire Court Hotel** - Basingstoke, Hampshire...
Norton Park - Winchester, Hampshire... **Bridgewood Manor** – Chatham, Kent... **Ashford International Hotel** – Ashford, Kent

If you've got a question, need a few pictures or simply want to pay us a visit... you only have to ask:

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A little bit about us:

- QHotels prides itself in its collection of 21 carefully nurtured, unique properties throughout the UK. Some hide away in the most beautiful countryside, some preside over bustling city centres, but each with its own little idiosyncrasies, ensures guest enjoy a truly unique experience - whether staying for pleasure or business.
- Founded in 2003 by Managing Director - Michael Purtil, Sales Director - David Taylor, Finance Director – Ian Goulding and investment company Alchemy Partners;
- The collection has grown from 2 to 21 properties over the last six years.
- The collection, which boasts iconic properties including The Midland in Manchester, The Queens in Leeds and Crewe Hall in Cheshire, has been voted AA Hotel Group of the Year 2008/09 and is ranked 17th in The Times Buyout FastTrack register of the 100 fastest growing private equity backed businesses... one of the few companies to feature in the top 100 in two consecutive years. In addition to this... January 2009 alone saw QHotels shortlisted for the Business Hotel Brand of the Year Award at the Business Travel Awards and Winchester property Norton Park scoop two HRS Hotel Excellence Awards (Excellence in Meetings and Excellence in Business Management). Since then QHotels trophy cabinet is buckling under the weight of new awards, including 'Most Improved Brand' for the second year in a row in the 2009 BDRC UK Meetings Market Survey and the 'Excellence in Training Award' in Caterer & Hotelkeeper's Best Places to Work in Hospitality 2009
- Take a look at our website www.QHotels.co.uk

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**Hotel Group of the Year
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