



Junior Chamber Galway Young Entrepreneur 2003



In association with Galway Advertiser

NEWS

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Junior Chamber Galway Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2003 Liam Dilleen of EZ Living@Terryland Furniture

Liam Dilleen of EZ Living@Terryland Furniture, emerged triumphant after the four week contest, when he was awarded the title of Junior Chamber Galway Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2003 at the annual awards ceremony run in association with the Galway Advertiser in the Radisson Hotel last Thursday 9th October. He received his prize from Price Waterhouse Coopers of business consultancy valued at €5000. Liam set up business in 1996 at 20 years of age and since has established the new nationwide EZ Living furniture retail franchise providing quality furniture at competitive prices.

Second prize of €1500 business consultancy with Envision went to Aonghus O hEocha of O'hEocha audio visual design. Based in Rossaveal using cutting edge technology the company design and produce speaker systems for pc/mac, hi-fi and home cinema. The Aluminium composite speaker systems have received worldwide acclaim reaching customers like Warner Brothers and Columbia Tristar movies.

Third prize went to Patrick McKeown of Asthma Care, where the Buteyko breathing method is used with high success rates to treat people with Asthma and reduce inhaler dependency.

The awards ceremony was capably led by MC for the night Pádraig Ó Máille and was attended by Cllr Donal Lyons, who deputised on behalf of the Mayor, members of the business community and Junior Chamber. The sponsors were represented by Penny from the Galway Advertiser and Ken Johnston and Anne Lavin from Price Waterhouse Coopers. Special guest speaker for the night was internationally acclaimed trainer Rod Briggs. Rod comes from the Mindlink Foundation deals with Behavioural Self Management and he left everyone thinking having heard his anecdotes.

During the last week, all eight finalists of the competition were interviewed in their premises by an independent panel of judges, including representatives from Price Waterhouse Coopers, AIB, Supermacs, Envision as well as former winner Mike O'Connor of Bellissimo.

Speaking at the awards Ms. Fiona Glynn, President Junior Chamber Galway said 'I want to express my gratitude and admiration to all parties involved in this competition from the sponsors, the entrants, the judges and the Junior Chamber members who have dedicated time and effort to this competition. I know this project is very worthwhile and all involved gain immensely from the experience. I wish all the contestants the very best of luck in their future entrepreneurial careers and hope they feel they have benefited from the competition.

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Junior Chamber Galway - "Entrepreneurs in Action"

The competition highlights the accomplishments of entrepreneurs and rewards entrepreneurial endeavour in Galway, and thus acts as a means of encouraging and developing indigenous, sustainable employment, which is vital to the region in the current economic climate

Liam Dilleen delighted with Young Entrepreneur of the Year title

Liam Dilleen is delighted with the well-deserved recognition the competition has given him. It has brought to light, how, with the right amount of drive, determination and ambition, the success a person can achieve is regardless of age. At twenty seven, to have a business which involves a team of twenty work colleagues and simultaneously set up a franchise with ten members, while spending only nine months of the year in Ireland, some would say is a remarkable achievement. The other three months sees Liam travel to countries such as Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia, Italy, Spain, Malaysia and others sourcing and buying the products for his business and the EZ Living Group.

Liam has learned many valuable lessons along the way. At the ripe old age of twenty years he began importing and retailing second hand Dutch furniture, he soon realised the future of the business was in new furniture. However, this market was very competitive and the variety and quality of the product was limited. He set about offering a better quality product at a more realistic price by purchasing direct from the furniture manufacturers while still maintaining the highest standards of customer service. Using this unique approach to his business, he established Terryland Furniture as one of the leading furniture retail stores in Galway.

Future Plans

With EZ living now well recognised, Liam intends to focus on being proactive in developing the EZ living franchise. The name has been registered in Northern Ireland and the UK with the future intention of broadening his brand into these regions. Plans are already afoot for an aggressive marketing strategy and a series of commercials have been formulated for national television as well as local radio and newspapers. 'EZ living will become a household name' Liam predicts and it is his continued intention to bring a new level of service, display of products, choice, range and price to the consumer by Irish furniture retailers.

On receiving his award, Liam acknowledged and thanked his parents and family for their constant support and encouragement in forging ahead with his business plans. He also thanked Junior Chamber Galway, Price Waterhouse Coopers and the Galway Advertiser for organising and sponsoring such a beneficial competition.

The Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards competition is a project run by a voluntary committee of the members of Junior Chamber Galway. Junior Chamber is an international organization led and co-ordinated by volunteers involving over half a million members worldwide. Through its activities, it provides unique personal development opportunities for its members while at the same time contributing to the economic, social and cultural development of the community. Junior Chamber Galway holds its meetings on the second Tuesday each month at 8pm in the Ardilaun Hotel, Galway.

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