

AWARD FOR ANDY'S

The MD of a firm which battled to win back bank charges for customers is named as Business Person of the Year

**BUSINESS
PERSON
of the year**

by Leigh Robinson

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THE man who took on the banks and won millions of pounds compensation for customers is the Swindon Advertiser/Marriott Hotel Business Person of the Year.

Andy Humphries, who is the managing director of Renaissance, received the award along with his business colleague Seb Ward from Joanne Stagg, the general manager of the Marriott Hotel.

He said: "I'm pleased to win this because I believe we are doing a great job for local business people and getting money for them which actually is theirs, and not the banks."

Across the country thousands of people have been overcharged by the big four banks and have been successful in claiming the money back.

While the matter has been put on hold while a directive comes from the High Court, Renaissance were able to get back £5m from the banks for customers.

With its experience in financial matters Renaissance has also won more than £16m for its clients in endowment claims in the past three years.

"We have experience of tackling banks and understand the complaint process and what to do if a bank doesn't adhere to the process," said Andy.

"But we believe that for many of those that do decide to complain themselves, the Ombudsman rather than the courts would be the right place to refer their complaint if they don't get a satisfactory answer from their bank."

Andy had stiff competition from other people across the local business community, which varied from a pole dance instructor to a rock climber to a former RAF pilot.

Each month the Marriott and

GOLIATH FIGHT



DELIGHTED Andy Humphries, left, and Seb Ward of Renaissance with the award, and, below, Andy with Joanne Stagg, general manager of the Marriott Hotel
Pictures: DAVE EVANS

the Advertiser select a business person who has done something special for the community.

At the end of 12 months the nominations from the year are sifted to pick the winner of the year.

"We at the hotel regard it as a worthwhile exercise," said Joanne. "Swindon is one of the most important places in the country when it comes down to business."

"As well as the big companies like Honda, BMW and Motorola there are a host of small businesses employing thousands of people and providing the wealth

that keeps Swindon going at the top of the business pole."

Paul Briggs, the chief executive of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce which includes Swindon, said he was pleased to be associated with these awards.

"This another thing which we do well in Swindon because it is important to recognise success. I like the fact that small businesses are recognised because as Joanne said they are the lifeblood of the town."

"Renaissance have done a first class job, as have all the other winners."

