

AWARDS 2019

Winners' hard work rewarded

Independent English practices staged a comeback at this year's Optician Awards bash which saw 18 trophies presented at a 1980s themed night in front of more than 500 optical professionals

Practices from the Midlands and the North made their mark this year with the majority of awards going to business across England. This is in stark contrast to recent years which has seen the regions, home nations and multiple practices dominating the winners board.

Six of the individual practice awards went to the midlands with the north of England hot on their heels with four. A full round of the winners can be seen opposite.

In all 18 trophies were presented at a 1980s themed glittering black tie bash in the Hilton Metropole next to the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham coinciding with the Optifair weekend.

The evening started with a drinks reception, sponsored by Scope Ophthalmic, before the guests made their way through to the presentation room where they were treated to some electric 1980s graphics. A video sting themed on the 80s hit show Kids From Fame was played to the delight of the



Pat Sharp

audience. This was followed by a welcome from *Optician's* editor, Chris Bennett.

He called on the evening's theme to highlight the massive technological changes that have taken place since the 1980s and to remind guests what a momentous decade it was for optics. Despite this technology said Bennett the core values remained: 'Transport yourself back to a 1980s practice and it would be a very familiar place – only with bigger hair and shoulder pads.'

Dinner was then served during

which guests took part in a game of Heads or Tails hosted by Vivid Optical managing consultant Danny Alaimo which raised £2,118 for the evening's chosen charity Blind Veterans UK. The winner prize of a hamper was won by Vanessa Hammond of Parker and Hammond Opticians in Harrow.

Dinner was followed by the awards presentation which has hosted by Pat Sharp from the hit 1980s TV show *Fun House*. He entertained the audience before moving on to oversee the presentation of the 18 Optician

Award trophies.

After the Awards presentation guests were invited to dance the night away to the specially commissioned 1980s disco or try their hand at a range of 80s video games brought in for the guests to try their hand at.

Optician would like to thank all of the entrants to this year's awards and offer its commiserations to those who did not make it to the shortlist. *Optician* would also like to thank its sponsors for their support and enabling the Optician Awards to be such an unmissable event. All of the Award winners will be profiled in *Optician* over the coming months. ○



Optician editor Chris Bennett



caption for winners

Optician Awards winners and nominees shortlist 2019

Technology Practice of the Year

Winner: Tompkins, Knight and Son Optometrists
Hammond and Dummer Opticians
Parley Optometrists
Radlett Opticians
Specsavers Haverfordwest

Johnson & Johnson Visioncare

Winner: Querido & Davidson
Boots Opticians Braehead
Cooper & Barr Opticians
Specsavers, Derby
Specsavers, Keighley
Specsavers, Cannock

The Family Optician of the Year

Winner: Coleman Opticians Hearing and Vision Centre
Cooper & Barr Opticians
Heather Bailey Optometrists
Planit Opticians
Specsavers, Keighley
Valli Opticians

The Practice Growth Award, sponsored by A+E+L Markhams

Winner: Hammond and Dummer Opticians
Allegro Optical
Benjamin Opticians
Flint and Partners
Parley Optometrists
Sask Optics
Station Road Opticians

Multiple Practice of the Year

Winner: Specsavers, Bicester
Boots Opticians, New Milton
Specsavers, Chelmsley Wood
Specsavers, Haverfordwest
Specsavers, Sutton-in-Ashfield

Lens Product of the Year

Winner: Autograph Intelligence, Shamir
UVProtect, Carl Zeiss Vision
Crizal Sapphire UV, Essilor
Ultrathin, Waterside Laboratories

Independent Practice of the Year sponsored by Hoya

Winner: Frost Borneo Opticians
Glass & Glass Optometrists
Hammond and Dummer Opticians
Janjua Vision
Kings Hill Opticians
Lynne Fernandes Optometrists
Mackie Eyecare

Frame of the Year

Winner: Blackcap, Bird Glasses
1305, Cutler and Gross
Topanga, L.A.Eyeworks
Camila, Xavier Garcia model
Elena, Reykjavik Eyes Black Label -
Rapunzel S05, Specsavers
Atum, You Mawo

Fashion Practice of the Year

Winner: Mincher-Lockett & Co Opticians
Clarke & Roskrow Styling Opticians
Park Vision
Rachel Murray Eyecare
Spexbox

Contact Lens Product of the Year

Winner: Duette, SynergEyes UK
OptiExpert, CooperVision
Versa One Day Toric,
Mark'envoy Personalized Care

Contact Lens Practice of the Year Award sponsored by

Optical Supplier of the Year

Winner: Optos
24/7 Uptime
Heidelberg Engineering
Mainline Optical



Connections
Ocuco
Scope Ophthalmics
Waterside Laboratories

Clark Family Eyecare
Cooper & Barr Opticians
Specsavers, Bicester

The Low Vision Award

Winner: Stephanie Cairns, Sight Service
Judith Potts, Leicester Royal Infirmary
Mellis Eyecare
The Seeing Beyond the Eyes Team, Visualise Training & Consultancy

Contact Lens Practitioner of the Year sponsored by Alcon

Winner: Iain Johnson, Maloney Opticians
Christopher Nixon, Christopher Nixon Optometrists
Marc Drake, Osmond Drake Opticians
Dipesh Chhatralia, Parker & Hammond Opticians
Lisa Pipe, Parley Optometrists

Enhanced Optical Service Award

Winner: Rawlings Opticians, Croydon
Boots Opticians, Knightsbridge
Parley Optometrists
Specsavers, Alton
Specsavers, Haverfordwest

Dispensing Optician of the Year, sponsored by ASDA Opticians

Winner: Sheryl Doe, Allegro Optical
John Singh, Leightons Insight
Fraser McLean, Rachel Murray Eyecare
Tanja White, Specsavers, Bicester

Frame Stylist of the Year sponsored by Transitions

Winner: Sarah Neath, Lamertons Opticians
Amiee Wheeler, Eyeworks London
Janan Choudhury, Spectacle Emporium
Rachelle Garcia Russo, Station Road Opticians

Optometrist of the Year sponsored by CooperVision

Winner: Rebecca Rietdyke, Maloney Opticians
Cathy Dallimore, Edmonds & Slater Opticians
Keyur Patel, K3 Healthcare
Catherine McNamara, Liverton Opticians
David Barker, Rawlings Opticians

Optical Assistant Team of the Year

Winner: Glass & Glass Optometrists
Boots Opticians, St Helens
Bowen Opticians

Johnson & Johnson
VISION CARE COMPANIES



CooperVision

Alcon A Novartis Division

ASDA Opticians

Transitions light intelligent lenses

HOYA

A+E+L MARKHAMS

LEIGHTONS OPTICIANS & HEARING CARE