

MEDIA RELEASE



Date: **25th November 2005**

Release time: **IMMEDIATE**

BCC and The Telegraph Business Club announce the national winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Karen Finch, founder of The Hearing Care Centre Ltd, a member of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Shipping, has been announced as the national winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2005. Karen won the Telegraph Business Club-sponsored award due to her determination and persistence in making the Hearing Care Centre, which provides services for the hard of hearing, a success in a very competitive market. Despite significant investment costs in areas such as training, the company's gross profit stands is impressive.

Richard Collins, Head of the Daily Telegraph Business Club, said: "It was so encouraging to see so many 'new breed' entrepreneurs rising through the ranks and doing so well, despite challenging economic times. However, Karen really stood out from the crowd as she had the vision and determination to take her business to extraordinary heights. It really is an amazing story."

Karen Finch added: "What this award provides for me, in fact for us all at the Hearing Care Centre, is the recognition and approval of other business people. There is nothing more satisfying than hearing words of praise from those who are in the know; those who understand the trials and tribulations, the fear, the loneliness and self-doubt suffered by anyone who wants to start up in business."

Karen Finch saw off competition from eight other finalists in this award category. More information on these finalists can be found in the regional winner press packs on www.chamberawards.co.uk.

BCC President Bill Midgley said: “Karen is an inspirational figure. The success of her business despite the difficult business environment she operates in is truly amazing. She is definitely worthy of winning the national award.”

ENDS

For further information or requests for interviews please contact:

Simon Thompson
Tel: 07843 279977
simon@chamberawards.co.uk

or

Judy Osborn
Tel: 07834 60 20 30
judy@chamberawards.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

- The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the authentic voice of British businesses.
- The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce serving business across the UK, which employ over five million people.
- More information on each of the different categories and winners can be found on the Chamber Awards web site – www.chamberawards.co.uk. Photographs taken at the award ceremony can also be viewed and downloaded from this website.