

## **MEDIA INFORMATION**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

### **TOP HONOURS FOR ARC INSPIRATIONS IN BEST BAR AWARDS**

Leeds based independent bar operator, Arc Inspirations, scooped two gongs at the inaugural Class Magazine Bar Awards held at Bloomsbury Square in London last week. The awards, which highlight the very best of the UK's bar scene, saw Declan McGurk, the company's bars development manager, voted Best Bar Manager of the Year and The Hub in Chapel Allerton nominated Best Neighbourhood Bar. Both faced stiff competition from some of the industry's biggest bar operators.

The awards, regarded as the highest accolade within the bar industry, saw Declan, aged 26 years, go head to head with his counterparts from some of London celebrity hangouts including Mahiki and The Lonsdale. With eight years experience in the industry, Declan's bar management skills from product selection to communication skills and staff training were scrutinized and all seven bars owned by Arc Inspirations were visited by the panel of judges. The final decision was made by main judge, Class Magazine editor Tom Sandham following an intensive interview session.

In the Best Neighbourhood Bar category, The Hub was pitted against bars including The Lonsdale in London, The Old Fire Station in Brentford and Mix in Winchester. Once shortlisted, the bar received anonymous visits from members of the judging panel. Finally, main judge, Tom Sandham visited the bar and quizzed managing director, Martin Wolstencroft and The Hub team on their unique offering.

Commenting on the awards, Tom Sandham Class Magazine said:

"Winning a Bar Award is a huge accolade for any bar or individual within this competitive and ever-evolving market. We hope that the awards will go some way to recognising the level of expertise and talent within the industry."

Martin Wolstencroft, Arc Inspirations managing director commented:

"We are delighted with the award win and Declan's personal achievement. The awards are a tribute to the dedication and hard work of our team's and in particular, Declan's professionalism and commitment. We take great pride in delivering consistently high standards and the awards clearly demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction!"

**- Ends -**

**For further information contact:**

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## **Notes to editor:**

### *Arc Inspirations*

Arc Inspirations was formed in 1999 by Martin Wolstencroft, managing director and Chris Ure, chairman.

Martin Wolstencroft, formerly of Whitbread and Chris Ure, chairman of Headingley based property company, Associated Tower Cinemas, joined forces to launch a new student bar concept in Headingley.

The Arc was launched in September 2000 and was quickly followed by The Box in November 2001, Trio Bar & Grill in April 2002 and then in 2003, Zed was opened, the first in Chapel Allerton. In December 2004, The Hub, the second bar in Chapel Allerton was opened. Then in November 2006, Banyan Bar & Kitchen in Harrogate was launched. Napa Bar & Kitchen will be the company's seventh venture.

### *CLASS Magazine*

Class is THE magazine of bar culture and is widely regarded as the definitive guide to the UK's bar and premium pub industry.