

The Capitalist

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Left: Investor of the Year Award winner Mike Pinnis of Blacklock (left) with presenter Mishaal Husain

Right: Shama Khan of City Profile, with Ben Gillet and Andrea Cunningham of Granger

Far right top: Andy Roberts, Conica Securities with Darren Thrope and Colin Wilkins of Renaissance One



Left: Dane Gwilliam of Nelson Tilley with Sarah Jacobs and Jonathan Wright of Seymour Pierce



Right: Brian Winterlood with his Lifetime Achievement Award



A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS

THESE little that cheer the soul better after a lingering recession than a roomful of entrepreneurs, and last night's Quoted Company Awards were no exception, as banks and brokerages gathered to cheer on their new and growing clients.

Companies in attendance ranged from a bevy of smart media startups, including nine-month-old Digital Theatre and acquisition-hungry Progressive Digital Media, to household staples such as Domino's Pizza and ASOS.

BBC anchor Mishaal Husain, who compered for the packed tables seated among the Natural History Museum's massive dinosaurs, warmed up the night with reminiscences of the bad old days of the recession.

"It feels great to be liberated from the BBC newscast," she said, a far cry from the credit crunch workload of 2009 which left her spending "more time with Robert Peston than with my own husband".

It was a reminder of the remarkable feat the time winning execs and

their companies had pulled off by achieving stellar growth in daunting economic conditions.

John Kennocks of Nestor Healthcare received the headline Chairman of the Year Award for his work driving the firm to 83 per cent profit growth last year and overseeing its £124m takeover by Saga.

Peter Slabbert took home the Chief Executive of the Year Award for his leadership of Avon Rubber, while stock market veteran Brian Winterlood, the pioneer of the Aim

marketplace, scooped the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. Other winners included Domino's, in the Aim to Main category, and Chi-Med chief Christian Hogg, who was named Emerging Markets CEO of the Year.

Among the table talk was grumbles about tax. "For the amount of tax I pay, I deserve to have my name put on something like a hospital ward," one Leeds business owner said.

Others advised on the tricky world of non-executive directorships. "Back your own judgement," said Peter Hewitt, director of Provident and Regional Estates. "And make sure you have excellent insurance," added Chris Spencer-Phillips, chief executive of First Right Placements.



Above: Michael Gwilliam of Deutsche Bank (left) presents John Kennocks of Nestor Healthcare with the Chairman of the Year Award