

PRESS RELEASE

Travel Counsellors Conference 2006

Travel Counsellors Congratulates Award Winners

Travel Counsellors recognised its top performers both in the UK and overseas at a glittering awards ceremony during the company's annual conference which took place on board Royal Caribbean International's Voyager of the Seas this weekend (11-14 November).

A number of new awards were introduced this year to recognise those Counsellors who in the opinion of their colleagues most deserve an award and also to recognise the company's growing number of Counsellors overseas.

One of the new awards introduced for the first time this year is the 'Most Helpful Travel Counsellor'. This is voted for by the Travel Counsellors themselves, with each Counsellor being able to cast one vote on the company intranet and also give their reasons for nominating that particular Counsellor. This was awarded to Crawley based Travel Counsellor Barbara Charlton. Barbara was singled out by her colleagues for the advice she gives networking and marketing; and for always being among the first to reply on questions asked on the company's intranet advice board.

Another new award introduced for the first time this year was the TC Commitment Award, voted for by the company's management team. This was awarded to Stephanie Hogg. Stephanie joined Travel Counsellors in 2001 and has managed not only to continue as a Travel Counsellor, but to continue to grow her business, give fantastic customer service to her clients and attend the company's annual conference despite moving from Scotland to South Africa.

Edward Pearson won the Best UK Travel Counsellor Award for the second year in succession having made sales of over £2,000,000. Best Business Increase Award went to Joanne Plews Wood, who has achieved an incredible £1 million (273%) increase in sales, which is the biggest ever annual increase for a Travel Counsellor.

Also for the first time this year the different award categories have been divided by country, recognising the growing number of Counsellors overseas. Winners of the Ireland categories were Rosemary Chawke (best newcomer); Mary Foyle (best Phenix) and Gail Buckley (Best TC Ireland). There were also awards for the company's Counsellors in the Netherlands and the USA.

Chairman David Speakman said: "Our Travel Counsellors are the best of the best. Every one of them deserves our congratulations for the hard work, dedication and commitment to personal service they show to their customers. It is that commitment to personal service that has made this another successful year for Travel Counsellors and we are looking forward to an equally successful 2007 as we continue to build our reputation and international standing."

The full list of Travel Counsellors award winners is as follows:

Most Helpful Travel Counsellor: Barbara Charlton
TC Commitment Award: Stephanie Hogg

£5,000,000 millionaires: Kate Sykes; Dorothy Woolnough and Pat Wright
Best business increase: Joanne Plews Wood
Best cruise: Dorothy Woolnough
Best business travel: Kate Sykes
Best telesales: Melanie Westwell

Best Newcomer:
Ireland: Rosemary Chawke
Netherlands: Bianca Maasen Berensfreise
UK: Jeremy Wilson

Best Travel Counsellor:
Ireland: Gail Buckley
Netherlands: Helene van den Berg Hammerstein
USA: Diane Hutchins
UK: Edward Pearson

Best Phenix:
Ireland: Mary Foyle
Netherlands: Helene van den Berg Hammerstein
USA: Jeanie Leonard
UK: Heather Rigby

ENDS

About Travel Counsellors: Travel Counsellors PLC is one of the UK's largest independent travel companies with turnover at the end of its last financial year (Oct 312006) of £175 million, a 17% increase year on year. Founded in 1994 it currently has over 690 travel consultants who work from home with the support of over 120 staff at the company's head office in Bolton. In the UK Travel Counsellors places all customer money in a Trust account which guarantees a 100% refund in the event that a supplier collapses. The company also operates in Ireland, the Netherlands and the US. Travel Counsellors was the winner of the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2003, the technology category of the 2005 CBI Growing Business Awards and was voted 2006 Travel Agent of the Year by readers of the Guardian, Observer and Guardian Unlimited.

For further information contact:

Helen Furnivall, public relations manager

Tel: 01204 536047/ email: helen.furnivall@travelcounsellors.com

Sara Whines / Susie Aust / Helen Coop

bgb communications

Tel: 020 7902 2990 / email: swhines@bgb.co.uk