

DRAM AWARDS 2014

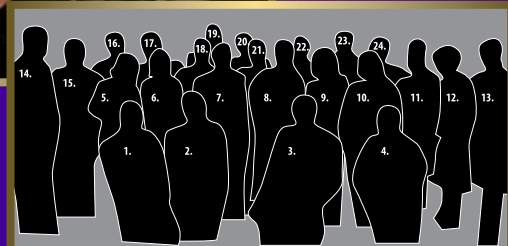


The 2014 DRAM Awards took place at the beginning of July at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. Licensees and staff from throughout Scotland joined sponsors and drinks company representatives to celebrate all that is good and great about the Scottish licensed trade. Compere Rob Deering, kept the audience entertained and the team at the Grand Central pulled out all the stops. A massive thank you to Chef Murphy and Zoltan and the rest of the Grand Central team. And of course a huge thank you to our sponsors who continue to support the DRAM Awards. It was a great celebration. Well done to all our winners and runners up.



TOP TABLE

1. Dave Steward 2. Rob Deering
3. Huw Pennell 4. Colin Blair
5. Denise West 6. Nicola Young
7. James Mortimer 8. David Wither 9. Susan Young 10. Alison Blair 11. Dorothy Beattie
12. Reena Mortimer 13. Stephen Rankin 14. Colin Barr 15. John Gilligan 16. Stephen Glancey
17. Neil Convery 18. Louise Rusk 19. James Rusk 20. Jim Rowan 21. Alan Rennie 22. Tom Cullen 23. Colin Beattie 24. Laurie Nichol



DRAM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT: JOHN GILLIGAN, TENNENT'S

John Gilligan has spent nearly 40 years in the Scottish licensed trade. He really is a legend in his own lifetime. He recently stepped down from his full-time role as MD of Tennents, but will continue on a part-time basis. On the night Walter Smith, Colin Beattie, C&C boss Stephen Glancey and John Gemmell of Heineken all paid tribute to John and his family joined in the celebrations.



The judges said of the winner, "This business continues to develop, expand and grow profit, but it was its commitment to developing its staff in order to ensure that the business moved forward in a positive and motivational way that really impressed the judges. By investing in its personnel, which included ensuring that staff enjoyed a better life/work balance, the company demonstrated that it has implemented a significant step change in its business practices which are already contributing to the success the company enjoys."

Finalists:

ARTISAN, Wishaw

CHEERS CAFE BAR & TAVERN, Fraserburgh
MANORVIEW HOTELS & LEISURE GROUP, Howwood



DEREK MATHER,
ARTISAN
Wishaw



DENNIS FORSYTH,
CHEERS CAFE BAR
& TAVERN
Fraserburgh



STEVE GRAHAM,
MANORVIEW
HOTELS & LEISURE
Howwood

BENROMACH AWARD FOR SUCCESS

WINNER: BUZZWORKS HOLDINGS, Prestwick



The judges said of the winner, "From the meet and greet to the attentiveness of the staff this busy venue pushes all the right buttons. It was clear that it works hard at ensuring that customers leave their venues happy. The judges certainly did. Staff were warm and friendly, motivated, conscientious, and hard working. The ethos of the company is that having great people allows the company to deliver WOW through customer service."

Finalists:

GRILL ON THE CORNER, Glasgow

LYNNHURST HOTEL, Johnstone

UPLAWMOOR HOTEL, Uplawmoor



GRILL ON THE
CORNER
Glasgow



LYNNHURST
HOTEL
Johnstone



UPLAWMOOR
HOTEL
Uplawmoor

BII CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

WINNER: LIDO, Troon



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CALEDONIA BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD BAR OF THE YEAR



Adele Montgomery and the team collect their
award from Wendy Espie, Senior Brand Manager
for Beer for Tennent Caledonia Breweries

WINNER: THE COMMERCIAL BAR & HOTEL, Wishaw

The judges said of the winner, "This pub and its staff work hard at ensuring that there is plenty to keep customers coming back – whether it's for family occasions such as christenings or birthdays or whether it is to get involved in the bars theme nights or famous DJ battles. The manager knows her customers and the end result speaks for itself. This is a perfect example of a great neighbourhood bar."

Finalists:

THE DEAN TAVERN, Newtongrange • NOVAR BAR, Kirkcaldy

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DESPERADOS NEW BAR OF THE YEAR

WINNER:

HOWLIN' WOLF, Glasgow



Paul Bright and Oliver McLean collect their award from Neil Convery (R),
Regional Sales Director, Scotland for Heineken

The judges said of the winner, "This was a really chilled out bar with a good atmosphere. The staff were very friendly and even after we had ordered drinks at the bar, table service was offered for further drinks. There was a DJ on the night we went in and music was easy listening but they also are well known for live music. It's the sort of place you would go with friends for a chilled night during the week or a full-on experience at the weekend."

Finalists:

HYDE BAR & GRILL, Glasgow • JUNIPER, Edinburgh
WHITE ELEPHANT, Glasgow

DIAGEO

DIAGEO AWARD FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

WINNER: DRIFTWOOD, Glasgow



L-R: Nicola Walker and Linsey Campbell collect their award from Mark Baird, Head of Alcohol in Society at Diageo GB

The judges said of the winner, "The winners demonstrated that they take social responsibility issues very seriously. They not only display posters, permanently, which set out their initiatives, but their care extends to disabled and blind people too. They now have food menu which is also in braille and have introduced special drinking cups for disabled people. They work closely with the police and are actively involved in their local pub watch. This venue stood out because of the passion of its manager and initiatives it has put in place."

JAMES CAMPBELL (BUTCHERS)

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for winning the
Diageo Award for Social Responsibility.



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Finalists:

CAMPUS, Glasgow

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, Glasgow

DRAM

DRAM DOG FRIENDLY PUB OF THE YEAR

WINNER: BRIDGE INN, Ratho

The judges said of the winner, "This was a very strong category, but this year's winner is not only situated in a great location for dog walkers, but the bar too is happy to accommodate dogs and makes them feel welcome. As well as being dog friendly it also offers a great menu, and lovely surroundings. Our mystery shoppers have been raving about it."

Finalists:

ARDLUI HOTEL, Loch Lomond

THE AULHOUSE ARMS, East Kilbride

THE SETTLE INN, Stirling



ARDLUI HOTEL
Loch Lomond



**AULHOUSE
ARMS**
East Kilbride



THE SETTLE INN
Stirling



Suzanne Nicholson collects her award from Susan Young



KOPPARBERG INDEPENDENT BAR OF THE YEAR WINNER: MEAT BAR, Glasgow

The judges said of the winner, "This bar is located on a busy and competitive street, but what makes it stand out is its quirky character, excellent service and attention to detail. The owners have taken a theme and carried it through its menu and bar offering. Creative thinking is definitely what this bar is all about."

Finalists:

CLARKS, Dundee

THE PACIFIC, Glasgow

THE PAPER MILL, Lasswade



L-R: Scott Hurst, Graham Swankie and team collect their award from Ben Turner (centre) and Ann Smith-Nixon of Kopparberg



CLARKS
Dundee



THE PACIFIC
Glasgow



THE PAPER MILL
Lasswade

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KRAKEN BLACK SPICED RUM COCKTAIL BAR OF THE YEAR

WINNER: SYGN, Edinburgh

The judges said of the winner, "This year's winner made a great cocktail and the staff showed their expertise when making up the cocktail for the judges. The staff here are obviously experts, serving up 100's of cocktails every week. They are also not afraid to experiment here, and its staff seem to enjoy themselves. It's award winning cocktail was called the Blood and Sea Mist."

Finalists:

BAR KOHL, Edinburgh

JUNIPER, Edinburgh

MEAT BAR, Glasgow



BAR KOHL, Edinburgh



JUNIPER, Edinburgh



MEAT BAR, Glasgow



**Simon Douglas and Murray Ainslie
collect their award**

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DIAGEO
DRAM



A WEEK
DRAM



It was an absolutely fantastic evening, and I couldn't have asked for better company at my table. All of Kopparberg's guests loved it and had a wonderful evening. I'd just like to say a massive 'Thank You' to Susan for inviting me, I had a genuinely great time.

Ben Turner – Kopparberg



It was very flattering to win an award, although rather unexpected. It's great to get some recognition and appreciation from the industry, it shows that our hard work paid off. I loved the event, it felt like the Oscars for the industry – lots of glitz, glamour and very professional. It was great seeing everyone getting dressed up and making an effort, we'd love to enter again next year if it means we get to attend the awards.

Mike Smith – The Bow Bar, Edinburgh



It was a great night, top class as always. The room looked amazing and suited the theme perfectly. Our whole team was very proud to walk away with an award, thanks so much to everyone.

Graham Swankie – The Meat Bar, Glasgow



The awards were great fun, and the consensus from those in my party was that it was one of the best awards nights they'd been to. The venue was very inventive, and suited the theme perfectly. Each of the winners were of good quality and highly deserving, which is always great to see. I really enjoyed being involved in the awards, it was a good learning opportunity for us.

Stephen Rankin – Gordon McPhail



It was a great show, and it was evident just how much effort Susan put in to making it happen. We were nominated for two categories, and although we were disappointed not to win the first it was a great feeling to lift the Tennent's Quality Award. Everything about the night was spot on, it ticked all the boxes. It was the first time I'd attended the DRAM Awards, and it was much more fun than I'd expected.

Neil Morrison – Macgochans, Isle of Mull



The whole event and atmosphere was very, very good, and the Top of the Pops theme was excellent. Everybody at my table thoroughly enjoyed themselves, it was a great celebration of the trade. It was fantastic to hear about the success of both individuals and companies, and having everyone together in the same room made for a very special evening.

Alice Caldwell Hodges – BII





MIXXIT BAR APPRENTICE 2014

WINNER: JOE MACKECHNIE, Tiki Bar, Glasgow

The judges said of the winner, "This person showed the most progress throughout the competition and is someone that we have very high hopes for in the future. He is definitely someone to watch out for. He applied himself and soaked up the course and also created an excellent cocktail for the judges. We have no doubt all of the Mixxit bar apprentices of 2014 will go on to do great things and will be part of shaping our industry in the future."

Finalists:

CALUM JOHNSTON, Bar Kohl, Edinburgh

PHIL JONES, Panda & Sons, Edinburgh

DOMINIC ROARTY, White Elephant, Glasgow



CALUM JOHNSTON
Bar Kohl, Edinburgh



PHIL JONES
Panda & Sons, Edinburgh



DOMINIC ROARTY
White Elephant, Glasgow



Joe collects his award from Huw Pennell,
Managing Director of Maxxium UK



MOLSON COORS

CHAMPION BEER PUB OF SCOTLAND

WINNER: INDIGO YARD, Edinburgh

The judges said of the winner, "This bar offers beer exploration in an approachable and inclusive way. Its commitment to customer service and staff product knowledge and training, as well as an excellent beer portfolio has really reinvigorated consumer interest in beer in this outlet. Over the past six months, after building its craft beer portfolio and revamped its premises to emphasis its new focus, the bar has seen a sales increase of 34.5% in its draft sales and 19.5% in bottled beer sales which has had a knock on effect on all other drinks categories too."

Finalists:

THE HOLYROOD 9A, Edinburgh

THE PAPER MILL, Lasswade

TEUCHTERS LANDING, Edinburgh



THE HOLYROOD 9A
Edinburgh



THE PAPER MILL
Lasswade



TEUCHTERS LANDING
Edinburgh



Paula Miller and Innes Bolt collect their award
from Tom Cullen Head of Strategic Development
for Molson Coors



SUNDAY MAIL CENTENARY FUND FAMILY PUB OF THE YEAR

WINNER: CHEERS CAFE BAR & TAVERN, Fraserburgh

The judges said of the winner, "This is an independent pub that appeals to all ages. In fact this is a pub that manages to appeal to multiple generations of the same family. Whether it's mums meeting for a coffee, or a pensioner popping in for a home-cooked lunch, 30 and 40 somethings enjoying cabaret at the weekend or 20 somethings popping in for cocktails and karaoke – this local definitely doesn't sit on its laurels. Add to that its fund raising initiatives, excellent service and a huge range of premium brands... and you can see why we were impressed."

Finalists:

THE OAK TREE INN, Balmaha
OLD CHAIN PIER, Edinburgh
WEST BREWERY, Glasgow



THE OAK TREE INN
Loch Lomond



OLD CHAIN PIER
Edinburgh



WEST BREWERY
Glasgow



Dennis Forsyth and the team collect their award from Heather Suttie, Sunday Mail Centenary Fund (far right)



TENNENT'S QUALITY AWARD

WINNER: MACGOCHANS, Tobermory

The judges said of the winner, "This outlet surprised us. Its cellar was first class and the owners clearly pride themselves on everything to do with quality. From the temperature of the beer to the cleanliness of its lines, this pub offered the perfect serve and a delightful environment too."

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

CLARKS, Dundee

Finalists:

THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL & BAR, Wishaw
THE DEAN TAVERN, Newtongrange



COMMERCIAL
Wishaw



THE DEAN TAVERN
Newtongrange




Neil Morrison (centre) and his team collect their award from Kenny Taylor (R), Tennent Caledonian Breweries Area Sales Manager for the North



Scott Clark and the team

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A Wee **DRAM**

WEE DRAM WHISKY BAR OF THE YEAR

WINNER: THE BOW BAR, Edinburgh



The judges said of the winner, "This bar really impressed our judges with its energy. Staff were enthusiastic and full of whisky knowledge and there was a real buzz in the bar itself. It's the sort of bar that you want to go back to time and time again."

Finalists:

THE POT STILL, Glasgow

TEUCHTERS LANDING, Edinburgh

WHISKI BAR & RESTAURANT, Edinburgh



media world

MEDIA WORLD PRIDE & PASSION AWARD

WINNER: JAMES & LOUISE RUSK, Hutchesons, Glasgow

Every year the DRAM makes a one-off award. This year the award is for Pride and Passion. Louise and James Rusk take a pride in everything they do and have a real passion for the industry. They have great energy, and are totally motivated. You can't help but be enthused when you are in their company. They have recently opened their second venue, Hutchesons, and it definitely has the WOW factor.





SUNDAY MAIL PUB OF THE YEAR

WINNER: THE KEYS BAR, St Andrews

The judges said of the winner, "The pub's regulars put it forward for this award. Not only is this pub an institution in its home town, but it is a favourite with tourists too. The warmth of the welcome by staff and customers make this a pub with real character, which is also reflected in the surroundings. It may be a small bar but it has a big heart."

Finalists:

Macgochans, Tobermory
The Park Bar, Glasgow
The Scotia, Glasgow



MACGOCHANS
Tobermory



THE PARK BAR
Glasgow



THE SCOTIA
Glasgow



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THE KEYS BAR, ST ANDREWS



Alchemy Inns Ltd would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Claire and her team at The Keys Bar, St. Andrews. What a fantastic achievement in winning the "Sunday Mail Pub of the Year for 2014." Your mum would be extremely proud.