



PRESS RELEASE

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Local chef takes top title in national Awards

A Hunstanton pub chef was crowned Seafood Chef of the Year last night at the Great British Pub Food Awards 2010 - the industry's 'Oscars' ceremony, held in London.

Philip Milner, executive chef at The Orange Tree in Thornham, near Hunstanton, took the top title ahead of competition from pubs across the country. After an initial 'paper' judging, Philip competed in a nail-biting national 'cook off', where he had to prepare his dish within a fixed period of time, and create another from a mystery box of ingredients, in front of a panel of expert judges.

The judges were bowled over by Philip's Fillet of Norfolk coast wild sea bass with accompaniments, saying, "Once again, the standard of entries to this competition has been extremely high, but this was an outstanding dish. Philip is clearly a very talented and creative chef."

Presenting Philip with his winner's trophy, Jo Bruce, food editor of pub industry 'bible', the Morning Advertiser, which runs the Awards, said, "As the recession has bitten deep over the past year, food has been a lifeline for many pubs. Those serving tasty, good quality and value-for-money food have continued to do well, despite the overall decline in pub customers."

She continues, "The good news is that many of the 'credit crunch' customers who traded down from restaurant dining have been so impressed by the standard of food in pubs that they'll continue to eat in them post-recession. For pubs that get their food right, the future looks bright."

Philip's winning dish in full was: Fillet of Norfolk coast wild sea bass with sautéed sea beets, warm saffron fruits de mer of razor clams, Brancaster cockles & mussels. He will be adding last night's trophy to the one he took away from the same Awards ceremony last year, as Pub Classic Chef of the Year.

The Great British Pub Food Awards – formerly the PubChef Food Excellence Awards – are now in their sixth year and attract hundreds of entries from talented chefs nationwide. The Seafood category is sponsored by Gourmet Classic, the UK's leading supplier of alcoholic cooking ingredients.

www.gourmetclassic.com

For more information on the Awards, visit www.greatbritishpubfoodawards.co.uk

Caption to attached image: l-r: Jo Bruce, food editor, Morning Advertiser; John Retallick, chef ambassador at Award sponsor Gourmet Classic; winner Philip Milner, executive chef at The Orange Tree, Thornham and Paul Charity, editor, Morning Advertiser, at the Great British Pub Food Awards 2010

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