

## **WESTERN ISLES YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR PICKS UP PRIZE AT A TOP BUSINESS AWARDS CEREMONY**

- **A Stornoway health and beauty therapist behind a thriving family business has won a coveted award for young entrepreneurial Scots and £1000 in cash**

Today, 28, November 2005 – Stornoway-based young entrepreneur, Iline Afrin (23), narrowly missed out on the top prize at the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust / The Royal Bank of Scotland 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' Awards, taking second place and a cash prize of £500.

Glasgow based Louise Carruthers (28) and Paula Russell (26) of Strung Out Guitars who are fast becoming the leading guitar gurus to Scottish music stars, won the overall title and a cash prize of £1,500.

Runner-up Iline is the founder of Stornoway's 'Body and Sole', which she set-up two years ago when she returned to the Western Isles following the completion of an HND in Beauty Therapy in Glasgow. She was later joined in the business by her father, a local chiropodist, hence the name 'Body and Sole'. Offering a full range of skin care treatments and massage therapies, the business was so successful, Iline recently purchased a two storey building to house more staff and allow her sister to join the thriving family concern as a nail technician. Iline also picked up a second award and another £500 on the day for being best in the 'Health and Beauty Sector'.

Iline was one of six finalist businesses vying for the award, following a three month search for the best young business owners in Scotland.

Guests at the award ceremony heard from **Nicol Stephen MSP, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning**, and TV personality, **Viv Lumsden**, who is a longstanding ambassador for the PSYBT, chaired the awards. Iline received her award from successful Scots entrepreneur and TV personality - **Duncan Bannatyne**, who was also the keynote speaker at the final.

Robin Bulloch, Director, Retail Relationship Banking with RBS, said: "Our congratulations extend to all the winners. The Royal Bank of Scotland Group is delighted to support the work of the PSYBT because we recognise the importance of new businesses like Iline's and the Scots entrepreneurial spirit which plays a vital role in Scotland's economic development. I am sure that 'Body and Sole' will be an inspiration to other would-be entrepreneurs."

Mark Strudwick, Chief Executive of the PSYBT said: "We have watched the impressive progress of Iline over the last two years and are delighted she has won the runner-up prize today. All our young entrepreneurs are a true inspiration and wonderful role models for anyone who is thinking about starting their own business. We want our clients to talk about the support available and encourage others, proving to them that if you have a simple idea, there is help and support to nurture those ideas."

Over 500 businesses across Scotland were eligible for this year's Awards, which were open to all PSYBT supported businesses, which began trading in the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2004.

The following individuals also received sector awards on the day and cash prizes of £500 each.

**Hospitality Sector:** Borders based burgeoning sandwich deli 'Baguette N Go', founded by Brian Dodds and Tommy Farrell; **Technology Sector:** Stuart Reid, Stuart Anderson and Brian McNicoll of Dundee-based Dynamo Games; **Service Sector:** Isla Hargreaves, whose specialist Fife-based company 'Canine Healthcare & Fitness' helps rehabilitate injured canines; **Creative Industries Sector:** Andrew Sinclair, artist and founder of 'Resipole Studios' in Acharacle; **Trade Sector:** Glasgow based Louise Carruthers and Paula Russell of Strung Out Guitars.



Photo of Iline Afrin, Body and Sole with her runner-up Award in Glasgow