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January 2009

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ARCHANT LIFE



INSPIRATION



Paula and her fellow winners at the BT Fresh Ideas Businesswoman Mentor Awards. Paula looks forward to being mentored.

Changing the way we work is a winner

THE founder of an environmentally-aware on-line employment agency has, just months into her new venture, picked up two important national awards. And this despite undergoing four operations on an injured shoulder.

Paula Wynne, from Wokingham, is the owner of Remote Employment, which matches employers and employees looking for home-based, flexible work. Already a Women's Enterprise Ambassador for South East England Development Agency, she has been awarded the responsible business prize from BT Business, in partnership with environmental charity Global Action Plan. She is now adding to her success as one of the winners in the BT Fresh Ideas Businesswoman Mentor Awards.

Yet all the while she has been battling with severe pain. Paula explains: "I had a minor keyhole shoulder operation last January to ease my right shoulder joint, which went horribly wrong and I was left with a dislocated collar bone for over a month."

Three more operations and several hours of intensive physiotherapy ensued and although Paula's pain has eased, she is still not back to her normal self.

Despite her problems, she made it to the last ten in a competition devised by Fresh Ideas Events, a networking organisation for business women, to be matched with a mentor who is already running an established and successful business. After a series of interviews, Paula was matched with Karen Darby, the founder of Simply Switch, who sold her

company two years ago for £22m.

Karen will be guiding Paula until May, helping her to move her business to the next level and they will then present their achievements to the judging panel. Says Paula: "Karen has so much enthusiasm and energy for the concept of remote working."

Remote Employment isn't an employment or recruitment agency in the traditional sense, stresses Paula. Employers post their vacancies, which can be anything from administration to construction, and at any level, employees post their CVs.

Paula's mentor Karen, commented: "Remote Employment is a concept that can help employers recruit talented job seekers and help job seekers improve their quality of life while maintaining a career path at the same time. I look forward to helping the business grow and achieve its vision."

SUCCESS STORY



Winning smile

DR Komal Suri of Smile Design Dental Practice, Wendover, is the winner of the Young South East Dentist of The Year award. Dr Suri, who at 33 is one of the youngest ever contenders for the award, specialises in complex restorative and aesthetic dentistry. She is also a senior instructor for the

Aesthetic Advantage Continuum at Guy's Dental Hospital, London. The award is part of The Dentistry Awards, which recognise outstanding individuals, teams and practices that have an active interest in continuing professional development and staying at the top of the dental profession.