

Company secretaries go under the spotlight

5 October 2008: Matthew Phillips from Imperial Tobacco Group scooped the award for Company Secretary of the Year at a glittering awards ceremony hosted by Robin Ince and held at London's Landmark Hotel on Thursday 2 October. Commenting on his Award, Matthew Phillips said 'I'm very pleased to have won this award. It's a great accolade for the Company Secretarial team, as well as all the many, many other people who have supported us in what has been an eventful, challenging and extremely busy year.'

The award for Company Secretarial Team of the Year was won by Cadbury. During 2007 and 2008 the team faced a cost reduction programme, an office move, a corporate reorganisation and the largest and complex demerger handled by a FTSE company in at least the last ten years.

Francesca dal Bello from Eni UK was identified as the High Flier of the Future, having successfully managed all company secretarial matters for EniUK and over 40 other subsidiaries with operations around the world during 2007. Francesca also completed her ICSA qualification and Msc Corporate Governance in the same year.

Other award winners included Cadbury for Most Effective Shareholder Communication, Standard Life for Minimising your Environmental Impact, Barclays for Best Approach to the Induction, Training or Evaluation of Board Members, GSK for Most Effective Use of IT, IHG for Most Innovative Approach to CSR, Aviva for Best Annual Report – Transparency of Operations and Birmingham Children's Hospital for Best Annual Report – Judges Special Award

For further details please contact pressoffice@icsa.co.uk or call 020 7612 7062

Award sponsors were as follows:

Company Secretary of the Year – Computershare
Company Secretarial Team of the Year – Capita Registrars
The One to Watch – High Flier of the Future – DMJ Company Secretarial
Best Approach to the Induction, Training or Evaluation of Board Members – ICSA
Board Evaluation
Best Annual Report – Transparency of Operations – Santander
Most Effective use of IT and Minimising your Environmental Impact – ICSA
Software International