

# Echo backs search is for the city's best bar



MORE than 100 nominees from across Southampton attended the launch of this year's search for the best bar in the city.

The Best Bar None competition was a great success last year and 2007's event promises to be bigger and better than ever.

The daily Echo-backed competition is being opened up to pubs, clubs and bars across Staines and Shirley as well as the city centre and Portwood areas that competed last year. At the search held at St Mary's

Stadium, 100 nominees signed up for application packs.

The competition, run in partnership with Southampton City Council and the city's police licensing unit is sponsored by David Brown-Forman Brands.

Search's external affairs director Bruce May used the search to announce that the winners of the competition will be flown over to

America for an all expenses paid trip. Once applications are returned teams of licensing and council officers will visit each premises to assess how they fare in areas including health and safety, staff training, responsible drink promotion and crime reduction.

The awards ceremony will take place in April where the winners in each category of best bar, club and

pub will be announced, along with the overall winner of the Best Bar None title of 2007. This year also sees the introduction of a new Daily Echo reader's award category where the public will be able to vote for their favourite venue.

Featured are Suzanne Gadsden of the Crown Jester Suite and Alan Craig of The Royal Oak, back row left to right John Beer of the city council and Chief Supt Paul Stieber, Tom "Smack" Harvey of Mondo and Decadent's Bruce May.

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