

Diamond Alumni

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Gatwick Diamond Business Awards: Diamond Alumni

Inaugural Lunch at The Grand Hotel Brighton

DIAMOND ALUMNI is a prestigious new business club exclusive to Gatwick Diamond Business Awards' winners, sponsors and partners. It brings together a selection of the very best of Gatwick Diamond businesses as recognised by the region's premier business awards since their inception in 2009.

In partnership with Creative Pod, we are launching DIAMOND ALUMNI on 1st October 2021 with a lunch and networking event at The Grand, Brighton sponsored by the Thakeham Group, Richard Place Dobson, Custodian Insurance and EY Breakthrough Incentives.

The Alumni Lunch will be an annual event offering high-level networking opportunities and adding value for sponsors and winners of our Awards. But the lunch is just the start - we plan to develop DIAMOND ALUMNI to provide other exclusive opportunities for members.

The lunch will also 'cut the ribbon' for GDBA 2022 - planning is in full swing for our usual high-profile programme culminating with the Awards dinner and ceremony in March. Following the virtual Awards ceremony delivered in December 2020, we will also take the opportunity to further celebrate the success of last year's winners and acknowledge the support of sponsors and partners.

Members of DIAMOND ALUMNI can now book their places at the lunch for themselves, and guests (both gdb members and non-members). We are very pleased with the support DIAMOND ALUMNI is receiving from sponsors. If you are interested in being associated with this top-level event, please let us know. (See below for contact details).



For more information, please contact sally@gatwickdiamondbusiness.com

For opportunities to sponsor this new prestigious event contact james@creativepod.uk.com

Event programme

The event will start at mid-day with a VIP drinks reception supported by Custodian Insurance. The Thakeham Group, as lunch sponsor and Gatwick Diamond Business Champions, will then give the pre-lunch address.

The sumptuous three course lunch will be served in the Empress Suite. During lunch Alumni and guests will experience a short trip down memory lane, as we look back over past award ceremonies and then round things off with a look forward to GDBA 2022.

After lunch, Matthew Tyson, Director of Richard Place Dobson, will introduce our keynote speaker, Lara Morgan, British Entrepreneur, Investor & Inspirational Leader.

The formal proceedings will end at 14:30 but all will be welcome to remain in the splendid setting of the Grand to enjoy further informal networking or just to relax.

The event will be expertly and entertainingly hosted by Steve Bustin, broadcast journalist and professional speaker.



Keynote speaker - Lara Morgan

Lara founded her first business, Pacific Direct, in 1991 at the age of just 23. Having arrived in the UK from Hong Kong with little or no hotel experience, Lara quickly grew Pacific Direct into a specialist global supplier of luxury high end brands for five-star hotels. Seventeen years later, she sold Pacific Direct for £20 million.

A proud mother of three girls and a committed volunteer and philanthropist, Lara is a world class engaging speaker on subjects where she can bring direct experience and shared lessons. She has also commented live on current affairs and business issues with Sky and BBC News, and is a published author of the Amazon best-selling business book "More Balls Than Most".



Your host for the day Steve Bustin

Steve has worked in various facets of communication throughout his career including as a Broadcast Journalist for BBC Radio and TV News. He is also an award-winning print journalist.

As a professional speaker on engaging communications, he was named National Speaker of the Year 2015 by the Professional Speaking Association. He has spoken in world famous auditoria to audiences of all sizes and performed as a stand-up comic for some years, which taught him how to work pretty much any audience!

Spaces at this prestigious annual event are filling quickly, so we encourage you to book early.



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