

**MEDIA INFORMATION  
July 2008**

**LOCAL BUSINESSMAN WINS HOTEL 'OSCAR'**



Manchester resident Simon Davis, General Manager of Arora Hotel Manchester has just been awarded a prestigious Caterer and Hotelkeeper 'Acorn' award. The award celebrates hospitality's highest achievers under the age of 30.

Peter O'Meara, Group Operations Director for Arora Hotels said, "Simon is truly a high flyer in his field and it is fantastic to see the hospitality industry recognise his hard work by presenting him the 'Acorn' award. Simon strives to achieve the very best for his team and continually impresses us with his ambitions and opportunities for the hotel."

Simon's career in the hotel industry began in Zimbabwe where he worked as trainee manager at the famous Meikles Hotel in Harare. He rapidly moved to restaurant manager, assistant food and beverage manager and then to banqueting manager. Emigration to the UK in 2002 meant that he got his first position as conference executive at the Arora Hotel Gatwick/Crawley. Although the position was more junior, he was determined to use this as a fresh start on his career path.

Simon moved to Manchester in 2004 where he held a number of various positions at the newly opened Arora Hotel Manchester and helped the hotel win a number of accolades. He was promoted to General Manager of the hotel in October 2007. In particular, Simon was commended for inspiring individual team members outside of work hours by assisting and coaching staff with their respective educational qualifications.

Since being appointed as General Manager, Simon has also been awarded with the Pride of Manchester award in January 2008 for being the best hotel in the whole of Manchester.

## **Note to editors**

### **About Arora Hotels**

Arora Hotels is an independent hotel company owned and founded by Surinder Arora in 1999. It is the UK's leading specialist hotelier to the airline industry and one of the fastest growing private hotel companies in the UK.

The portfolio currently comprises of 7 hotels with over 2500 bedrooms. Prime locations include Arora Hotel Heathrow, Arora Hotel Gatwick/Crawley, Arora Hotel Manchester city centre, the flagship Sofitel London Heathrow, directly connected to Terminal 5, Sofitel London Gatwick at the North Terminal and Mercure London Gatwick. Both Sofitel hotels and the Mercure operate under a franchise agreement with Accor Hospitality.

At the Brit Oval, Arora is currently working in partnership with Surrey County Cricket Club on the development of a four-star, 168-bedroom hotel. Each of its hotels is Investors In People accredited.

The company recently announced that it had secured an agreement to design and construct four new budget hotels at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports. Subject to planning, the hotels will open on a phased basis from autumn 2011.

Discover Arora Hotels on [www.arorahotels.com](http://www.arorahotels.com)

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