

Pep talk works its magic for resort DJ

Disc jockey is crowned the best in Britain



by
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AROUND 15 years ago an unemployed disc jockey from Morecambe wrote to London clubbing giant Peter Stringfellow to ask him for a job.

Nearly two decades later, that very same fellow walked onto stage at a swanky awards ceremony to accept the title of Britain's top club DJ – from none other than Peter Stringfellow himself.

For DJ Pep, last Sunday's triumph at the British Entertainment and Disco Association (BEDA) awards – the nightclub industry's equivalent of the BAFTAs – marked the pinnacle of an incredible 'rags to riches' rise from humble beginnings to his current status as the best nightclub DJ this country has to offer.

And for once, it rendered Pep almost speechless.

"It's unbelievable...all I can say is 'wow!'" said Pep (real name Peter Roberts), who lives in Heysham.

"To accept the award from Peter Stringfellow, who wrote a nice letter back to me all those years ago when I was a struggling DJ, was amazing.

"He gave me the trophy and I

gave him some sticks of Morecambe rock in exchange."

Pep, who DJs at Lava & Ignite in Preston and Liquid in Wrexham, beat 17 other club DJs from all over Britain – including former Morecambsians Lee Watson and Neill Maguire – to scoop the prize at the annual BEDA gathering at the Hilton Metropole Hotel in Birmingham, hosted by TV comic Patrick Kielty

Work

Judges had selected the 18 finalists after watching hundreds of DJs at work in clubs all over the country.

They said of Pep: "(He) has the skills and experience to create a really professional set that can suit any club. Warm, witty and highly entertaining, DJ Pep has his fans in the palm of his hand."

Pep said: "In the past

the winners of this award have been mixing DJs who get their heads down, but I try to introduce some personality to DJing."

The former Bay radio presenter's win means he has landed a lucrative contract to make guest appearances at some of the UK's biggest nightclubs, and he is also negotiating with the Big Bang Management agency, who represent soap stars Steve 'Phil Mitchell' McFadden and Antony Cotton, as well as Lee Watson.

But despite the chance to build on



CLUBBING GIANT: Peter Stringfellow

Our Entertainments Editor, GREG LAMBERT says:

I'M chuffed to bits that DJ Pep has been crowned Britain's top nightclub DJ.

Pep is an acquired taste – people seem to either find him hilariously funny or intensely annoying – there's no in-between.

I first met him when he worked in a Lancaster clothes store. He seemed to spend more time cracking jokes than selling shirts and ties.

At first I thought: "Who's this clown?" but when I got to know him, I realised there isn't a malicious bone in his body.

He is generous to a fault, a laugh-a-minute, works extremely hard and wherever he goes, will always do his bit to promote Morecambe.

He's also very good at his job, a fact that has now been recognised on the highest stage.

A friend of mine once described him as "Timmy Mallett on speed", although that was to describe his always-upbeat, hyperactive personality because believe it or not, he's strictly teetotal!

Pep's also due a bit of good news because he and his family have had a difficult year personally.

So congratulations to Pep – officially the best club DJ in Britain, a title no-one can take away from him and that he thoroughly deserves!

his success, Pep says he will keep his feet firmly on the ground.

And as his victory was sinking in, his first thought was for his mum.

"She's not been well recently but hopefully seeing my trophy will cheer her up."

No doubt Mrs Roberts will be very proud indeed.