

IN BRIEF

Disposable toric and multifocal contact lens specialist mark'envoy has acquired monthly disposable contact lens company Visaq for an undisclosed sum. Visaq's full range of contact lenses will continue to be shipped to customers from its manufacturing plant in Romsey, Hampshire. George Sarrouf, chairman and CEO of mark'envoy, said: 'The manufacturing technology and excellent production team at Visaq can now continue to bring its lenses to the market and will complement the tailor-made contact lenses of mark'envoy, sold exclusively to opticians'.

The General Optical Council has appointed lay member Stuart Heatherington for a five-year term, following the resignation of Shaheen Chaudhury last month. Heatherington has been a lay member of the General Medical Council since 2003 and sits as a magistrate in the youth and adult courts in West Sussex. Prior to this he was chairman of a mental health trust for two years, followed by six years as chairman of an acute hospital trust.

Nearly 7,000 registrants have yet to apply for retention on the register, the GOC said this week. The Council will be sending out a notice of failure to apply to outstanding registrants after March 15, reminding them that failure to take action will result in removal from the register on April 1.

Several Emporio Armani frames were stolen from Martyn Kemp Opticians in Walkly last month after thieves broke through the shop window. Practice manager Ron Dolman is warning customers to be wary of anyone selling cheap designer frames with plastic dummy lenses fitted and advised anyone with information to contact local police.

The contact number given by PCS Cheltenham for its practice management system (Product News, March 3) was incorrect. The company would like interested parties to please telephone: 01242 254802.

OPTICIAN AWARDS

The judges decide

Final shortlists have now been drawn up for the 2007 *Optician Awards* following the final judging sessions.

Trophies in all 10 categories will be presented at a James Bond-themed black tie dinner on the evening of April 21 at the Birmingham Hilton

Metropole. The evening will feature a stunning audio visual show, dancing, a charity casino, a fantasy imaging booth, competitions and other entertainment. The event will be hosted by an A list celebrity.

Around 500 of the great and good from the profession

and industry will watch the presentation which coincides with the Optrafair exhibition.

● Tickets for the Awards are on sale to anyone who wishes to attend. For more details call Alma Watson on 0208 6528250 or email alma.watson@rbi.co.uk

The full shortlists

- **Technology Practice of the Year sponsored by Grafton Optical**
Cameron Beaumont, Wetherby Parley Optometrists, West Parley, Dorset
Andrew Martin Optometrist, Sutton Coldfield
Frederick McShaw, Devon
- **Charity Campaign of the Year Award sponsored by The Outside Clinic**
Dollond & Aitchison for its Moorfields campaign
Saving Sight in Grampian
4 Sight (West Sussex Association for the Blind)
The Friends of Moorfields
- **Applied Spectacle Technology Practice of the Year sponsored by Optovision**
Webb & Lucas of Stafford
Kelly Eyecare of Brockenhurst
The King's Cross Eyecare Clinic, London
- **Outstanding Dispensing Optician of the Year Award sponsored by BBGR**
Kelly Carr of Nethercott Opticians, Tadworth
Parminder Bhachu of the King's Cross Eye Clinic
Sarah Thomas of Webb & Lucas Optometrists, Stafford
- **Optical Product of the Year**
Bluesky Optical
CIBA Vision
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care
Essilor
Anglo Italian
Inspecc
- **Software Practice of the Year Award sponsored by Ocuco Relcon**
The King's Cross Eye Clinic
Kathryn Stott Optometrists
- **Freshlook Optical Assistant of the Year Award sponsored by CIBA Vision**
Carmel Sanders of Goodlooking Optics in Enfield
Joan Twyford from Boots Opticians in Staines
Debbie Dobson of Boots in Lincoln
Archana Boga of Special Eyes, Glasgow
Deborah Bruce of Hughes, Macdonald and Davidson, Aberdeen
- **Independent Practice Website of the Year sponsored by Essilor**
www.matheson-optometrists.com
www.blankstoneopticians.co.uk
www.hmdopticians.co.uk
www.linklaterwarren.co.uk
- **Healthy Sight Practice of the Year Award sponsored by Transitions**
Keith Holland & Associates, Cheltenham
Optomise Eyecare, Newtownards, Co Down
Seen Opticians, Manchester
Webb & Lucas, Stafford
- **Contribution to CET Award sponsored by Dollond & Aitchison**
New treatments for AMD by Richard Newsome
Keratoconus treatments by David O'Brart and Robert Petrarca
Advantages of new CL materials by Ian Cameron
Vision and autism by Robert Cubbidge and Amy Whiskens
Red eye differential diagnosis by Chris Hemmerdinger, Say Aun Quah and Stephen Kaye

