

THE DME JOURNEY BEGINS



DME WINNERS WITH JEFF BRAZIER CENTRE
R2L KEITH WELCH CAROLINE MCKENNA
TRACEY BUCK ELEASHA NEWBERRY

Dream Makeover Essex winners have begun their life changing journey which gave four people a chance to win a unique life changing opportunity of a fabulous top-to-toe Dream Makeover worth up to £25,000 for each winner.

Over 2000 email enquiries were received and the short listed 32 finalists were interviewed by cosmetic dentist Ash Parmar, skin specialist Frances Furlong and laser eye expert Mr Pillai.

OUR WINNERS

CAROLINE

Caroline McKenna, aged 44, hails from Ireland's County Neath and has lived in the Isle of Dogs for 20 years with husband Martin. Caroline is a stay at home Mum but admits to spending perhaps too much time at home and not thinking about herself. Being a DME winner has put a stop to that. Now there is a buzz around the household and procedures to have done and treatments to enjoy.

Although not suitable for laser treatment, Mr Pillai at AVC will insert miniature tailor made lenses into her eyes, known as Implantable Contact Lens. This is permanent and inserted behind the human eye so is invisible. This is a unique treatment which is done by very few centres in the UK. So Caroline will be able to read for herself the price tags while out shopping and recipes on the backs of packets.

Caroline gave her smile just 3 out of 10 as she is unhappy with the shape of her teeth. At Smile Design by Ash she will receive a Mini Makeover to include cosmetic contouring, teeth whitening and her old amalgam fillings changed to composites.

KEITH

It was a toss up who was more excited when news came through that Loughton Dad Keith Welch was a DME winner. Daughter Emily, aged 15, who entered him for the competition, or her Dad who was convinced he wouldn't win - things like that never happen to him!

Keith, aged 54, claims he is not a shy man or unconfident but it's been a challenging few years with death in the family, divorce,

moving and being made redundant as a building site manager. He says "I think Emily felt a bit sorry for me." Emily's comments about her Dad were compelling and together with the views of the judges, propelled him to the final four.

Keith had laser treatment on his eyes and is delighted not only with his new look, minus glasses, but also his eyesight. "When reading became difficult I got myself a pair of those cheap glasses thinking they would be OK, but working on a building site they just made life more difficult. I had never been to an optician let alone thought about corrective eye surgery. It turns out I am long sighted in both eyes but, after laser treatment I am amazed how clear my vision is and I have achieved almost 100% in both eyes. It's like magic and now I can even see myself in the mirror!"

Keith's dental health was another issue with major problems to overcome. One tooth had fallen out and others threatened with problems, and although he has stopped smoking, the effects are lasting. Several sessions with the hygienist, teeth whitening, and cosmetic contouring from Smile Design by Ash will fix the problems. Skin enhancement procedures from Frances Furlong at Perfect Skin are working wonders on his wrinkles and lines and already he is feeling more confident about himself.

TRACEY

When Tracey Buck, Deputy Out Patients Manager at Harlow's Princes Alexandra Hospital, heard from a nursing colleague about the free competition she didn't really think it was for her. But after being badgered by her friends and colleagues at the hospital she decided she had nothing to lose.

Tracey, aged 47, lives in Harlow. "When they told me I was short listed I was delighted but when I heard I was a winner I screamed and cried down the phone. To say I am thrilled is an understatement."

"I'm still in shock. You can't dream this can you? Not in a million years. I've never had something for myself before and I still have to pinch myself to know it's real! All my colleagues at the hospital are thrilled - they fell off their chairs when they heard and now they can't wait to see the new me."