

Cancer fight is foundation of winning business



■ Fiona Wright, left and Catherine Stone, right, receive their award from Barclay's Joanna Costin.

Three Willenhall women who triumphed over adversity to establish their own business have picked up an award.

Fiona Wright, Bernice Fletcher and Cath Stone, who started Lingerie Illusions this year, have been named the Central Regional Winner in the 2008 Barclays Trading Places Awards.

Fiona was 44 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. Fiona's sister-in-law Cath introduced her to Bernice who had also been diagnosed with breast cancer aged 49, that same year.

Bernice and Fiona both underwent surgery to treat their cancer. A course of gruelling chemotherapy followed

Bernice's mastectomy.

Unfortunately Fiona's cancer returned in 2007 and in a fight for survival, she elected to have a double mastectomy.

The women's own troubles with finding bras for prosthetic inserts prompted them to start up their own business.

John Davis, Barclays marketing director for Local Business and a judge on the panel, said: "I congratulate Fiona, Bernice and Cath on becoming the central regional winner and hope their inspiring story will prove to other people in the West Midlands that self employment can be possible if you've got a dream and the guts and determination to make it work."