

REAL RADIO PRESENTERS COOK UP A STORM AT THE FISHERMAN'S LODGE

On Friday Real Radio presenters donned their chefs' whites to cook up a storm for 60 guests after accepting a challenge from one of Newcastle's longest established restaurants to find the best chef, in 'The Real Food Fight'.

The Fisherman's Lodge restaurant based in Jesmond Dene, challenged Real Radio hosts Craig Beck, Kelly Scott, Jonathan Morrell, Lisa Shaw, and Ben Weston, to find out who had the best culinary skills.

The presenters took turns hosting a dinner party in their own home, cooking for each other and marking each meal to determine the eventual winner, Real Radio's Morrell in the Morning host Jonathan Morrell.

Victorious Jonathan played Restaurant Manager for the night at The Fisherman's lodge, greeting his guests and giving out orders, while his colleagues cooked in the kitchen. He said: "It was great to be in charge for the night and call the shots for a change. I was glad to be doing that rather than being in the kitchen; my brother is a chef and I know that it can be frantic with so many diners to serve. Thankfully winning the challenge gave me the choice of what I did on the night."

The presenters undertook training from visiting suppliers to source the freshest local ingredients to skills in wine tasting, attending a session with Fisherman's Lodge Head Sommelier Leo Battaglia.

Head Chef and Co owner at Fisherman's Lodge, Alan O'Kane said: "After attending each dinner party and revealing my scores I wanted to return the hospitality with a challenge. I invited the presenters to become real chefs and take over my kitchen. They were given ten days of training to become master chefs and excellent hosts which ranged from bread making to wine pouring and had jobs on the night preparing each course and attending to the needs of our guests. I think they did extremely well as all our guests seemed to have a great time."

Real Radio listeners called the breakfast show every day for two weeks to win tickets to the event and were the eventual judges of the Real Food Fight crowning Ben Weston as the winner with superb preparation of the main course which was a salmon dish.

Trading as a restaurant since the 1900's, Fisherman's Lodge is a historic venue. In partnership with former city financier Jamie Howell, Alan took over the restaurant this summer, launching new menus representing modern British cuisine at its best at affordable prices to appeal to diners in today's tough economic climate.

As one of the regions brightest young Chefs, Alan has carved a name for himself in the North East as a highly regarded and successful Head chef and restaurateur. He also owns the Brasserie 1883 at Tynemouth and had previous success as the Head Chef at the Angel, Corbridge, as well as stints working with Terry Laybourne, another regional food favourite.

To view footage of the presenters dinner parties and many photos from the fantastic night at The Fisherman's Lodge visit www.realradionortheast.co.uk and click on the Real Food Fight banner.

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