

# TALK THE TALK



**Sean Taaffe: Staff training always a good investment.**

Sean Taaffe, salon director and owner of Sean Taaffe Hair and Beauty in Killarney, Co Kerry, talks to NIAMH HENNESSY

**Tell us about yourself and the line of work you are in?**

I'm a 34-year-old hairdresser and salon director working in Killarney with a team of 16 creative people, having great fun and making people happy.

**What was your first job and how much were you paid?**

My first job was working in a supermarket and I got paid £5 a day.

**What is your best investment and why?**

Staff training is always a good investment. We have very low staff turnover in the salon and a lot of this I put down to our training programme. By developing the team individually it challenges them and keeps them really happy and secure in their jobs. And a happy team means happy clients who return time and time again.

**What has been your worst investment and why?**

Spanish Property. Why? Don't get me started.

**What is the most expensive item you have purchased apart from your house and car?**

A motorbike —Yamaha R1

**Whom do you most admire in business and why?**

Brian McCarthy of Fexco, for leaving the comfort zone, taking a chance and succeeding in such an amazing way.

**What is your most prized possession and why?**

Not sure. If you would call them possessions, my two dogs, rottweilers. When I am not at work they are always with me and are constantly happy to see me, no matter how late it is.

**What is currently pressing your passion button and why?**

All the talk of recession. I feel it is our opportunity to bring customer service levels to a peak and make our business evolve and rise to the challenge.

**What drives you to succeed and why?**

I'm not very comfortable just being static. I need to push all the time and am never happy standing still. It's in my nature to constantly look to learn and improve and work towards being the best at whatever I am doing.

**Did you take out an SSIA?**

Yes.

**Anything else we should know about you or your line of work?**

We are the first hair and beauty salon in Ireland to offer online bookings, on our website [www.seantaaffe.com](http://www.seantaaffe.com). Also I would like to dispel a misconception about hairdressing as a career. When I was training I was always told that hairdressing was limiting as a job — that I'd just about make a living out of it and that would be it. But I have to say that it is the best job on the planet, really exciting and everyday is different. If anyone young or old has ever thought of it, bite the bullet, follow your dreams. It's well worth it.