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Bottoms up! Merseyside stars claim Rear of The Year accolade

NEWSREADER Fiona Bruce found her bottom to be her crowning glory as she was named Rear Of The Year – and admitted she had already become the butt of jokes.

The star, from Heswall, had a fit of giggles as she collected the title and said many viewers had no idea she even had legs after sitting behind a desk for so many years.

Former Hollyoaks and Strictly Come Dancing star Ricky Whittle, of Billinge, won the men's title.

Bruce, 46, is best known for being in the hot seat on BBC News At Ten and Crimewatch, as well as hosting Antiques Roadshow, but said her bottom began to receive admiring glances during a documentary about Queen Victoria.

As she collected her trophy in London she said: "For some reason, that programme has led to me being here today. I do not quite know how."

The lingering shots of her in tight trousers as she presented Victoria: A Royal Love Story promp-



Ricky Whittle

online. One viewer wrote on the Points Of View messageboard: "Is Fiona Bruce looking to win Rear of the Year with those jeans she is wearing? I reckon she has got a ruddy good chance."

She took the award in her stride yesterday and said she was rather flattered anyone had noticed.

Bruce said: "This award has caused some hilarity among family, friends and colleagues, as you might imagine."

"What I tell them, when they have picked themselves up off the

floor, is if someone had told me I had been nominated for this 20 years ago, I would have poked them in the eye. Now I am just flattered anyone is still looking."

She added: "I think probably the reason I have got this is not so much 'presenter has nice bottom – shock', it is 'presenter has legs – shock', because normally I am behind a desk."

"So I think the fact I have a bottom at all was enough of a shock to get the nomination for Rear Of The Year."

Whittle was unable to attend the ceremony at the Dorchester Hotel.

The 28-year-old grabbed the nation's attention with his performances as runner-up in Strictly Come Dancing.

Bruce was not taking the award too seriously though as she contemplated future accolades for her assets.

She said: "It could be ear of the year, elbow of the year – the world is my oyster."

"It is a totally surreal moment, I have to say."