

WINNER: COLLECTION OF BEER TRAYS IMPRESSES JUDGES AND LANDS HIM TOP PRIZE

Cheers! Richard handed top prize

by **PETER REEVE**

A homeowner and brewery memorabilia collector is toasting his success on a TV property show.

Richard Percival, of Waltham on the Wolds, near Melton, scooped the £1,000 prize on the ITV1 daytime programme *May The Best House Win*, which was shown yesterday.

The 48-year-old battled it out with three other contestants in the light-hearted contest.

Richard said: "It was a really good experience, we all got on really well and it was a really good way to spend a few days."

Richard claims to have the world's largest collection of beer trays at his house in the village's High Street.

He beat *Star Trek* fan Tony Alleyne, 57, who turned his



PICTURE: SHIVER

COLLECTION : Richard Percival has at least 1,500 beer trays

Hinckley flat into the *Starship Voyager*, glamour model Holly Bartram, 25, who has a pad in Rupert Street, Leicester, and farmhouse owner Jeff Stone of Wibtoft village, near Hinckley.

Contestants judged each other on interior design, homeliness, comfort, hospitality and overall viewing experience.

Richard reckons his brewery memorabilia collection went down well with his guests.

"For 30 years I have been collecting British brewery advertising items," said Richard.

"My true passion is collecting pre-1970 British brewery trays and, in particular, trays with black backs indicating that



PICTURE: SHIVER

ON SCREEN: Richard Percival shows off his impressive collection on *May The Best House Win*

they were made before the war. "In fact, I believe I have Britain's, if not the world's, biggest collection with over 1,500 trays, some dating as far back as the 1880s."

Richard first became interested in beer trays while in a pub in the 1980s.

"I got the first one for my own

use, for putting beer on," he said.

"The Shipstons Brewery tray was from the 1960s and had a picture of two dray horses on it. I thought 'I like that'."

Richard then started bartering with bar staff as he noticed more and more attractive beer tray designs.

"I was literally asking the landlord if I could have them and putting a few pounds in the charity box on the bar in exchange."

His wife Susan said: "He was thrilled to win because he only went on the programme to get publicity for his brewery collection."