

Axle Whitehead is Cleo Bachelor of the Year



Winner ... Cleo Bachelor Of The Year Axle Whitehead. Photo: Getty Images

April 23, 2009

Spunky singer Axle Whitehead has nudged out Channel V presenter Danny Clayton to be crowned the Cleo Bachelor of The Year in a controversial competition.

Whitehead, 28, was announced the winner at a glitzy ceremony at the Swiss Grand at Sydney's Bondi Beach.

Whitehead, who controversially exposed himself at the ARIAs a few years ago, said it was "wonderful" to win, and was now hoping to find a nice "outdoorsy" girl with "good moral values".

"One of my brothers is about to have a kid and the other had a kid the other day," Whitehead said.

"I'm a little off kids yet, but I'd love to find love."

The competition was, however, mired in controversy with 10 of the 50 contestants failing to turn up including comedian Lawrence Leung and AFL star Chris Johnson.

It is also understood that almost half of the bachelors are in relationships.

Among them *Packed To The Rafters* star Angus McLaren, who admitted his girlfriend wasn't too happy about him being in the competition at first, while guitarist Matthew Nicholas said he started out in a relationship, but it had now ended.

Another is believed to be engaged.

Editor-in-chief Sarah Oakes defended their inclusion.

"As long as they're not married they are still essentially on the market," Oakes said.

"Throughout the whole three months that we've been doing this, boys have been breaking up, meeting people, but I'm fairly confident that everyone in the winning line-up is still on the market and very much looking for love."

She praised Whitehead as winner.

"He is that perfect combination of good looks, charm, charisma and the kind of guy you'd be really happy to take home and introduce to your mum," she said.

Whitehead asserted he was very single.

"I came out of a long-term relationship about a year and a half ago and have had one or two small relationships but very single at the moment," Whitehead said.

Runner-up Clayton said he was just delighted to be in the competition and was also looking for love with a girl who can "rock a mohawk" immediately.

"It'd be a cool place to meet a girlfriend," Clayton said.

He said he had expected Whitehead to win, and joked that him getting his "wang" out at the ARIAs might have helped.

The competition, won by Jason Dundas last year, was controversial from the start this time around.

Earlier in the year, reformed AFL player Ben Cousins was angered when he was put forward as a contestant against his will.

This month Cleo organisers found that someone had set up an automated computer voting system to try to scam the competition.

The contestant was not disqualified but the votes, in the thousands, were discounted.

Despite 10 failing to turn up, the other 40 strutted their stuff on the red carpet wearing tuxedos after being made up in a Clinique pampering room.

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