



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE BROCHURE

2022



Stars of the Future in
association with Sunbelt Rentals

CPA STARS OF THE FUTURE

★ 10TH YEAR ★

Headline Sponsor



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF CPA STARS OF THE FUTURE 2022

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CPA Stars of the Future is organised by the Construction Plant-hire Association
27/28 Newbury Street, Barbican, London EC1A 7HU



In July, the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) was delighted to welcome over 250 attendees to the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry for the 2022 awards ceremony for the CPA's apprentice and trainee awards - Stars of the Future.

The 2022 event was a landmark year for Stars of the Future as it marked the tenth year of the awards programme. Each year it has grown in stature and it is now firmly established as the premier event of the construction plant hire sector for recognising and rewarding the skills and calibre of the industry's apprentices and trainees.

We were very pleased that former TV presenter, newsreader and journalist Merryn Myatt joined us at the awards this year. Prior to the awards presentation, some of the judges and former Stars of the Future winners joined Merryn on stage to give insight into their experiences of the Stars of the Future Awards.

Despite the many challenges that employers, training providers and apprentices faced over the last few years due to the pandemic, we received a total of 72 nominations this year. This is the highest number of entries we have ever received in the awards programme's 10 year history.

The standard of entries for 2022 was exceptional and the judges had a difficult task on their hands choosing the winners. There were some fabulous prizes, including tool kits, training courses, iPads, an overseas trip to visit a crane manufacturing plant and a trip to the Bauma exhibition in Munich, Germany.

We hope you enjoy reading this special Stars of the Future 2022 commemorative brochure which celebrates the nominees and winners, and features interviews with the national winners.

Kevin Minton

KEVIN MINTON
CPA Chief Executive



KEVIN MINTON
CPA Chief Executive



JUDGING PANEL

This year, Stars of the Future had a two-tier judging process - the CPA selection panel and a panel of external judges who decided the eventual winners of each category.



Nominations for a number of categories were initially filtered by the CPA selection panel comprising:

1

KEVIN MINTON

Kevin is Chief Executive of the CPA and has worked for the organisation since 2007. He has been instrumental in working with members and other organisations to promote and develop safe and efficient use of construction plant.

2

ROB SQUIRES

Rob is the CPA's Training and Safety Manager and one of the co-ordinators of the Stars programme. Prior to joining the CPA, following a long career in the armed forces, he spent a number of years managing training, card and certification schemes with experience at CITB managing a range of CSCS-based schemes.

3

LISA COLLINS

Lisa is a Communications Consultant to the CPA and the other co-ordinator of Stars, having been involved in the organisation of the event for several years. Prior to setting up independently, Lisa headed up the Marketing Communications Department at A-Plant, now known as Sunbelt Rentals, for almost 10 years.

4

PETER BROWN

Peter is the CPA's Technical and Development Manager. He has a long background in plant technical operation and maintenance, followed by experience in plant-based education, training and development, including 18 years at CITB as a standard-setter for plant occupational standards, qualifications, training standards and CPCS.



5

ARRAN WILLIS

Liebherr GB

A former apprentice, Arran is now employed as the After Sales Operations Manager for Liebherr's crane division who kindly sponsor the Lifting Technician of the Year award. Liebherr has been a major employer at all levels of apprenticeships over many years.

6

SIÔN MORGAN JONES

ACOP Group

Coming from a family-based plant hire company, Siôn heads up a leading plant-based training organisation and is the CPA Council Vice Chair. He is a CPCS Management Committee Member and the joint sponsor of the Plant Operative of the Year award.

7

KIRSTY ARCHBOLD-LAMING

Southern Hoist Services

Kirsty acts as Chair of the working group for the Hire Controller trailblazer apprenticeship, successfully getting the apprenticeship approved and delivered to industry. She is also the current Chair of the Construction Hoist Interest Group (CHIG) and is a CPA Council Member.

8

LEIGH SPARROW

Vertikal Press

Leigh is the owner of The Vertikal Press which produces the industry-leading Cranes and Access magazine and hosts the successful Vertikal Days crane and access trade show. A long supporter of training, Leigh comes from a family which has a long association with the crane and lifting world.



9

KATIE KELLEHER

Select Plant Hire

A former Lifting Technician apprentice, Katie is currently working as a Crane Operator and an Appointed Person, following a career change. Katie is a champion of getting more women in the workplace and is a prolific contributor to endless training, safety and careers initiatives, task forces and working groups.

10

GRAHAM BLACK

Earthmovers Magazine

As Editor of the very popular Earthmovers magazine, Graham has a long interest in training and seeing new talent come into the industry, evidenced by the many articles written in Earthmovers featuring new and young plant operators. He has great insight and knowledge into the plant world.

11

TIM BROWNBRIDGE

BAM Nuttall

Tim has a long background in plant and civil engineering, having started as a Plant Operator. He is employed as BAM Nuttall's Academy Manager and has a high level of involvement with apprenticeship development. He chaired the Groundworker Trailblazer Group and is a member of the Plant Operative Trailblazer Group. Tim represents the civil engineering sector on the CPCS Management Committee in a Vice Chair role.

12

BOB HARPER

Sunbelt Rentals

Bob joined A-Plant back in 1986 from which he has worked in various roles including Fitter, Hire Negotiator, Depot Manager and in operational management before his current role as Head of Training for Sunbelt Rentals. Bob is also Chair of CPA's Training of Plant in Construction (TOPIC) group, which originally devised the Stars of the Future programme, and he is also a member of many training and apprenticeship working groups.



13

ROB ALLEN Independent

Rob started a long career in the plant sector back in 1979 as an Apprentice Mechanic from which he finished his career in industry as H, S & E Manager at Clee Hill Plant. Rob was a member of many plant and H&S training and technical working groups and was Co-Chair of the Construction Equipment Maintenance Mechanic Trailblazer Working Group.

14

GARY BARNES Independent

Having recently retired, Gary has over 40 years of earthmoving and construction plant experience, including operating, maintenance and fleet management. He worked for Costain for over 18 years and was the Costain Group, Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Plant and Vehicles Standards Manager. He also established a Plant Steering Group within Costain.



MERRYN MYATT

Merryn Myatt hosted Stars of the Future this year. Merryn is a former television newsreader, presenter and journalist, and is now one of the UK's most experienced media and communications experts. In demand as an inspiring speaker, an engaging chairperson and an even-handed discussion panel host, Merryn guides events with appropriate gravitas, warmth and humour!

Merryn has worked on local and national radio where her credits included presenting BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour and flagship consumer affairs programme You & Yours. Her television experience covered 20 years and included presenting numerous BBC national news programmes/debates as well as ITV and Channel 4 documentaries, news programmes and other shows. She was also senior presenter on The Money Channel.

Merryn is one half of Perris-Myatt; together with Sarah Perris they deliver bespoke training in media management skills and crisis handling.



THANK YOU



The CPA would like to sincerely thank each of the Stars of the Future judges for their time, enthusiasm and diligence in carrying out the challenging task of identifying the eventual winners from the high calibre of nominees for 2022.

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Due to the high number of entries, the Level 2 Plant Mechanic of the Year Awards were split by region. On receipt, nominations from either the colleges or employers were entered into one of five regional categories. The regional winners won a Snap-on student tool kit.

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All the regional winners are pictured with CPA Vice Chair, Siôn Morgan Jones.



JONATHAN JONES



JACK HOWELL



JACOB CLARK



LOUIE MASSON



MICHAEL WOOD

We would like to congratulate all nominees and winners.

NOMINEES

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - NORTH

Jonathan Jones	CRH Plant	Askham Bryan College	★ WINNER ★
Natalie Coulton	Allan J Hargreaves Plant Engineerst	Myerscough College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Thomas Joynt	Sunbelt Rentals	Gen2	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Joe Tyas	Sunbelt Rentals	Gen2	FINALIST
Jon Kittoe	Story Plant	Myerscough College	FINALIST
Thomas Meadow	Ainscough Crane Hire	Myerscough College	FINALIST

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - MIDLANDS

Jacob Clark	Chris Clark Plant Services	NSCG Stafford College	★ WINNER ★
Lucas Creasey	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage	Essential Site Skills	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Callum Richards	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage		FINALIST

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - SOUTH

Michael Wood	AK Plant Services	Wiltshire College & University Centre	★ WINNER ★
Ed Totman	Liebherr GB	NSCG Stafford College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
William Curzon	Speedy Services	Askham Bryan College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Dominic Hunt	Cotswold Roller Hire	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Harry Tuplin	McGee	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Jesse Tula-Coyle	Nationwide Platforms	NCC East	FINALIST
Karl Jenner	Eagle Plant	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Lloyd Harvey	The Bristol Port Company	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Max Bartlett	Corr Plant	NCC East	FINALIST
Tom Walton	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage		FINALIST

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - WALES

Jack Howell	Marubeni-Komatsu	NSCG Stafford College	★ WINNER ★
Thomas Jones	GT Access	Bridgend College	HIGHLY COMMENDED

PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - SCOTLAND

Louie Masson	GAP Group	NCC Scotland	★ WINNER ★
Andrew Manson	A & D Sutherland	NCC Scotland	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Fraser McQueen	Marubeni-Komatsu	NSCG Stafford College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Conan Wood	GAP Group	NCC Scotland	FINALIST
Jak Liddell	Nationwide Platforms	NCC East	FINALIST

NATIONAL PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR AWARD

All of the regional Plant Mechanic of the Year winners were put forward for the National Plant Mechanic of the Year accolade.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



NATIONAL PLANT MECHANIC OF THE YEAR - NOMINEES			
Jack Howell	Marubeni-Komatsu	NSCG Stafford College	★ WINNER ★
Louie Masson	GAP Group	NCC Scotland	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Jonathan Jones	CRH Plant	Askham Bryan College	FINALIST
Jacob Clark	Chris Clark Plant Services	NSCG Stafford College	FINALIST
Michael Wood	AK Plant Services	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST



HIGHLY COMMENDED

A Highly Commended accolade was awarded to:

LOUIE MASSON
GAP Group, NCC Scotland

Photograph (L - R): Bob Harper of Sunbelt Rentals, CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Louie Masson and Matt Reed of M O'Brien Plant Hire



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the National Plant Mechanic of the Year Award for 2022:

JACK HOWELL
Marubeni-Komatsu, NSCG Stafford College

WHAT IS A PLANT MECHANIC?

Mechanics carry out servicing and repair activities on a wide range of construction plant, equipment and accessories, either in a workshop or on site. Activities include routine servicing, breakdowns, fitting additional equipment or carrying out repairs to damaged equipment.

“Plant maintenance is a brilliant job role for anyone who’s interested in mechanics. There’s so much potential to learn from all the people around you.”

Spotlight on

JACK HOWELL

National Plant Mechanic of the Year 2022

Jack Howell, an apprentice plant and construction engineer who works at Marubeni-Komatsu’s Cardiff depot, won the Plant Mechanic of the Year award for Wales and then went on to win the National Plant Mechanic of the Year accolade.



Marubeni-Komatsu’s Cardiff depot already has an enviable reputation for developing new talent, as a former apprentice - Rhys Nigel John - was a previous CPA Stars of the Future winner as the National Plant Technician of the Year back in 2020. Following such a successful apprentice could have been daunting for some, but Jack relished the opportunity to make his own mark within the industry.

Jack, 22, is very highly regarded by both his employer and his tutors at NSCG Stafford College who describe him as an ‘inspiration’ to others and an individual who is striving for perfection in everything he does and will never turn down a learning opportunity.

When Jack finished school, he initially embarked on another career path as a UPVC window and door fabricator. However, after working in a factory for three years, he realised that he wanted to pursue his real passion of mechanics. With a keen interest in motorbikes and mountain biking, the plant maintenance apprenticeship at Marubeni-Komatsu more closely aligned with his interests and fitted the bill perfectly for a career change.

Jack has recently commenced the third year of his apprenticeship and is way ahead of where his employer would expect an apprentice to be at this stage of his career. He is entrusted to perform complex repairs and has successfully carried out major tasks such as rebuilding engines and swapping engines.

Much of the third year of his apprenticeship will be spent out in the field, honing his skills even further. He has also volunteered to buddy up with Marubeni-Komatsu’s recently appointed apprentice to develop his mentoring skills.

When we caught up with Jack he said: **“I really enjoy my job - every day is different and I get a real sense of satisfaction successfully completing repairs and getting equipment up and running again for customers. It’s still early days for me in my career, but I’d like to progress to becoming a fully-fledged field service engineer at Marubeni-Komatsu out in the field fixing machines every day.**

“I was so shocked when I won the National Plant Mechanic of the Year award - I didn’t know what to say but I’m glad that my hard work and effort have been noticed and appreciated. My colleagues were just as happy as I was and the Snap-on tool kit I won as part of my prize will serve me well in my career.

“Plant maintenance is a brilliant job role for anyone who’s interested in mechanics. If you work hard, be disciplined and keep your head down, you can’t go wrong really. There’s so much potential to learn from all the people around you.”

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Like the Plant Mechanic of the Year Awards, the Level 3 Plant Technician of the Year Awards were split by region. Nominees were entered into one of five regional categories. The regional winners won a Snap-on student tool kit.

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AWARD SPONSOR



All the regional winners are pictured with CPA Vice Chair, Siôn Morgan Jones.



LUKE COOPER



JACK CHUBB



RYAN BODEN



MARTIN DELANEY



BILLY MITCHELL

We would like to congratulate
all nominees and winners.

NOMINEES

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - NORTH

Luke Cooper	Boels Rental	Reaseheath College	★ WINNER ★
Ben Thomas	Brandon Hire Station	Myerscough College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Haydon Measor	Sunbelt Rentals	Reaseheath College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Charles Kett	Ainscough Crane Hire	Myerscough College	FINALIST
Craig Ditchfield	SMT GB	Reaseheath College	FINALIST
Eliot Gee	Power Tool Rentals	Askham Bryan College	FINALIST
Harry Watson	Banner Contracts	Askham Bryan College	FINALIST
Kieran Blackburn	Wolffkran	JTL	FINALIST
Morgan Walker	AFI Uplift	Askham Bryan College	FINALIST
Sean Benson	Flannery Plant Hire	Reaseheath College	FINALIST
Thomas Luscombe	TC Harrison JCB	NCC East	FINALIST
Tom Baxendell	Bachy Soletanche	Reaseheath College	FINALIST

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - MIDLANDS

Ryan Boden	Sunbelt Rentals	Stephenson College	★ WINNER ★
Liam Laverty	M Group Services - Plant & Fleet Solutions	NCC East	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Jake Hull	Work Platform	NSCG Stafford College	FINALIST
Ryan Mitchell	Falcon Tower Crane Services		FINALIST

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - SOUTH

Billy Mitchell	AmeyBriggs	Wiltshire College & University Centre	★ WINNER ★
Adam O'Grady	Liebherr GB	NSCG Stafford College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Dean Johnston	Liebherr GB	NSCG Stafford College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Faris Cooke	Brandon Hire Station	Myerscough College	FINALIST
George Douglas	GAP Group	Reaseheath College	FINALIST
Harrison Ion	Buckingham Plant	NCC East	FINALIST
Harry Cook	Balfour Beatty	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Lewis Monk	CBL	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST
Thomas Potter	Molson Equipment Services	Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - WALES

Jack Chubb	Phoenix Hire & Sales	Bridgend College	★ WINNER ★
Adam Rees	Machinery Movements and Crane Hire	Bridgend College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Aled Durham	Pioneer Pump Solutions	Bridgend College	FINALIST

PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - SCOTLAND

Martin Delaney	Briggs Equipment	NSCG Stafford College	★ WINNER ★
Connor Campbell	Briggs Equipment	NSCG Stafford College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Jack Clark	Scot JCB	NCC Scotland	FINALIST

NATIONAL PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



All of the regional Plant Technician of the Year winners were put forward for the National Plant Technician of the Year accolade.

NATIONAL PLANT TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR - NOMINEES

Jack Chubb	Phoenix Hire & Sales	Bridgend College	★ WINNER ★
Billy Mitchell	AmeyBriggs	Wiltshire College & University Centre	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Luke Cooper	Boels Rental	Reaseheath College	FINALIST
Ryan Boden	Sunbelt Rentals	Stephenson College	FINALIST
Martin Delaney	Briggs Equipment	NSCG Stafford Collegee	FINALIST



HIGHLY COMMENDED

A Highly Commended accolade was awarded to:

BILLY MITCHELL

AmeyBriggs

Wiltshire College & University Centre

Photograph (L - R): Aaron Davis of Flannery Plant Hire, CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Billy Mitchell and Bob Harper of Sunbelt Rentals



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the National Plant Technician of the Year Award for 2022:

JACK CHUBB

**Phoenix Hire & Sales
Bridgend College**

WHAT IS A PLANT TECHNICIAN?

Technicians carry out more complex technical repairs than Plant Mechanics and require a higher level of understanding on the principles and workings of key components and functional equipment. They deal with complex breakdowns, upgrades or conversions.



Spotlight on

JACK CHUBB

National Plant Technician of the Year 2022

Jack Chubb of Phoenix Hire & Sales was declared a very worthy winner of the National Plant Technician of the Year award. Jack, who is 22 years of age, completed his Level 3 Plant Maintenance Apprenticeship at Bridgend College earlier this year.

After Jack finished his GCSEs, he went into sixth form and was hoping to become a Personal Trainer as he was heavily into sport at the time. But after finishing the first year at sixth form, he found it wasn't for him. He was keen to start earning money and wanted an active job, as opposed to an office based job. It was at that point that he came across the Plant Maintenance Apprenticeship at Phoenix Hire & Sales.

When Jack first started working for Phoenix some four years ago, he made an immediate impression and the company recognised his enormous potential. He soon transitioned from a trainee to a confident mechanic able to share his knowledge with others.

Within just 18 months of starting his apprenticeship, the company considered Jack so competent that they provided him with his own works vehicle to allow him to carry out site work independently. And once Jack had completed his Level 3 apprenticeship, he was promoted to Workshop Foreman. A position that ordinarily could take up to 10 years to achieve.

During his apprenticeship, Jack also 'fast-tracked' his qualifications to make himself more available to his employer. He avoided being away from the workplace for a full week at a time due to the block release nature of the programme delivery. Jack felt this was important in order to make himself as accessible to Phoenix Hire & Sales as possible as a mobile engineer, in recognition of the confidence his employer had shown in issuing him with a works vehicle.

In October 2020, Jack was hospitalised with Meningitis and whilst in hospital, he unfortunately contracted COVID-19. Despite being seriously ill in hospital, such was his dedication to assist with his plan of early programme completion, he still kept in contact with both his college tutor and employer and managed to complete his written assignments early.

In his new role as Workshop Foreman, Jack now manages the Phoenix workshop with responsibility for assigning jobs to other members of workshop staff, stock control, ordering parts, creating service schedules and making sure that repairs meet manufacturer standards.

The majority of Jack's work is carried out in the Phoenix workshop, but he also carries out work on sites, primarily in Wales but also England. Jack is excelling in his new role and a veteran fitter of 66 years old who works at Phoenix but has worked all over the world on all types of plant and machinery, is so impressed he's declared "that Jack Chubb is something else!"

Jack told us: "Winning the Star of the Future award was one of the proudest moments of my life, especially after putting so much time and effort into my apprenticeship. It was also nice to be able to represent Phoenix as the company has given me the opportunity to develop my career. Everyone was over the moon for me."

So what's next for Jack? He told us: "My main focus in the short-term is to continue to grow my skills set and to be the best that I can in my current role. Longer term I'd definitely like to work my way up within the company, maybe by taking on a more challenging role with more responsibility and gaining experience in other areas - not just in the workshop.

"I'd strongly encourage others to enter the sector. It's an amazing opportunity to be able to improve yourself. Not just in terms of work-related skills but general life as well. I've always been quite a quiet person with little self-confidence, but over the past four years since I started my apprenticeship I'm a completely different person. My apprenticeship has really boosted my confidence and improved my communication skills, allowing me to be the best version of myself."

PLANT OPERATIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD

A total of eight candidates were shortlisted for the accolade of Plant Operative of the Year. The winner - Eleanor MacMillan-Currie of WM Currie and Son - has the opportunity to complete a CPCS training course of her choice at ACOP Group's training facility in Wales, with overnight accommodation provided.

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AWARD SPONSORS



NOMINEES

PLANT OPERATIVE OF THE YEAR		
Eleanor MacMillan-Currie	WM Currie and Son	★ WINNER ★
Jessica Holmes	Flannery Plant Hire	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Ryan Walker	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Allan Clack	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage	FINALIST
Ben Harris	Plantforce Rentals	FINALIST
David Gillick	L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage	FINALIST
Jack Wareing	Plantforce Rentals	FINALIST
Luke Patrick	Plantforce Rentals	FINALIST



HIGHLY COMMENDED

Highly Commended accolades were awarded to:

JESSICA HOLMES Flannery Plant Hire
RYAN WALKER L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

Photographs: Jessica and Ryan are pictured with CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones and Carl Hassell of NOCN Group



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the National Plant Operative of the Year for 2022:

ELEANOR MACMILLAN-CURRIE
WM Currie and Son

WHAT IS A PLANT OPERATIVE?

Plant Operatives operate one or more items of plant on site safely and efficiently such as earthmoving equipment, material handlers, cranes, etc. Their role is a safety critical one as they usually work within a team who may be in close proximity to the machine and are responsible for others' safety.

Spotlight on

ELEANOR MACMILLAN- CURRIE

Plant Operative of the Year 2022

The Plant Operative of the Year award was one of the most fiercely contested categories at Stars of the Future, with eight very impressive nominees shortlisted for the award. After intense deliberation by the judges, Eleanor MacMillan-Currie of WM Currie and Son was announced as a very deserving winner.



Eleanor, 19, lives on the Isle of Islay, a Scottish island which is the most southerly of Scotland's Inner Hebrides, so unfortunately she wasn't able to make the awards ceremony due to work commitments and the long distances involved. But she was over the moon when she found out that she'd won the coveted title of Plant Operative of the Year.

Family business WM Currie and Son was founded by Eleanor's Grandpa, who is still involved today and who Eleanor describes as her 'inspiration'. Initially a one man operation initially providing road haulage services, Eleanor's Grandpa expanded the business to include plant machinery such as diggers and dumpers. Today, the business is run by Eleanor's Dad supported by Eleanor who joined the company once she had left school.

Eleanor has carried out plant operative apprenticeship training at CITB's training facility in Bircham Newton and she has got her tickets for forward tipping dumpers, 360 degree excavators, telehandlers and slinger signaller for cranes.

Her trainers said she displayed very good flair for machine operating and believe she will be an outstanding plant operator for many years to come. As part of her prize for winning the Plant Operative of the Year award, Eleanor has won a training course of her choice at ACOP Group to expand her skills even further.

Eleanor has a broad based role at WM Currie and Son. As well as operating plant machinery, she carries out manual work such as concreting. She's also currently studying for Transport Management qualifications so she can take over the transport function from her Grandpa in due course. Outside of her main job, she helps out on the family croft looking after all the cows and sheep and helping deliver new arrivals.

When we caught up with Eleanor, she said she was shocked but very pleasantly surprised to win the accolade of CPA Plant Operative of the Year. Eleanor's talents have been recognised far and wide, as just a few months before the Stars of the Future awards ceremony, she also won the Apprentice of the Year award at the Scottish Plant Owners Association (SPOA) Awards 2022.

She said: "I didn't expect to win the CPA Star of the Future award - I couldn't believe it when I found out. My Dad was very excited when I told him and said I should put a story in the local paper! I took the glass award and certificate to show my Grandpa and he asked me if he could keep it in the house for a while so he could show people.

"I'd like to thank my Dad and my Grandpa for inspiring me and pushing me on this journey. I've learnt so much during my apprenticeship - I've managed to speed up my plant operating a lot and I'm also much tidier and more organised. I love working on different sites and meeting new people.

"As far as I'm aware, I'm the only girl working in construction on the island and I'd like to encourage more females to enter the industry. When people who don't know me see me driving a digger, they don't believe that I'm old enough! But they're impressed when they see what I can do. As a female working in construction, it's important to be confident and to be your own person."

So what does the future hold for Eleanor? She'll continue working closely with her Dad, getting even more of a grasp on the business. She said: "As my knowledge grows, I'd love to help my Dad run the business so that when he retires I can run the company just as successfully as my Dad and Grandpa."

PLANT INSTALLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We would like to congratulate all candidates who were nominated for the Plant Installer of the Year Award. The winner - Jake Hodgson of Wolffkran - received a voucher to spend up to £500 on Snap-on equipment of his choice.

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AWARD SPONSOR



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the Plant Installer of the Year for 2022: JAKE HODGSON Wolffkran

Photograph (L - R): CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Jake Hodgson and Merrill Lynch of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage



WHAT IS A PLANT INSTALLER

Plant Installers assemble, commission and disassemble large items of plant such as cranes, hoists, tunnelling equipment, material processing equipment, etc. which are stored and transported in component form and built up and disassembled on site.



“I’ve learnt so much during my apprenticeship and I’ve been given the opportunity to work on some really prestigious developments.”

Spotlight on

JAKE HODGSON

Plant Installer of the Year 2022

The winner of the Plant Installer of the Year award was Jake Hodgson who forms part of the crane erection team at Wolffkran.

Before Jake, 22, joined Wolffkran four years ago, his background was in engineering and welding. He heard about the Wolffkran apprenticeship by word of mouth and hasn’t looked back since. His role involves erecting, dismantling and climbing tower cranes all around the country and even further afield.

Jake has been involved in some of Wolffkran’s most prestigious contracts across the UK, Belgium and France. He was part of the erection team for the cranes at Mace’s huge 40 Leadenhall development and Lendlease’s 43-storey One Bishopsgate Plaza project - both in the City of London. He has supported in tying cranes to buildings, changing hoist ropes, jib extensions, sheave replacements and exchanging gearbox motors.

Jake is due to complete his Level 3 Electrical Technician Apprenticeship later this year, but he has a natural aptitude for erecting and dismantling cranes. This is the role he enjoys the most and where he sees his future.

He told us: **“My job is a little bit different and it’s not a role that a lot of people do. I’ve learnt so much during my apprenticeship and I’ve been given the opportunity to work on some really prestigious developments.**

“It’s good to get about with my job. I live in Yorkshire but I work away the majority of the time, usually in London.

This is a great career choice for someone who isn’t afraid of hard work and likes working away. 100% this is a good sector to be in. Longer-term, I’d like to be become a Crane Supervisor.”

As part of his prize for winning Plant Installer of the Year award, Jake won a £500 voucher to spend on Snap-on Tools. Jake told us he was very happy when he was announced the winners at the Stars of the Future awards ceremony:

“I was proud to even be nominated for an award, so to go on and win it was brilliant. I’ve been able to order a load of tools with my Snap-on voucher so it’s great to have extra equipment that I can call my own. Since I’ve won the award, there have been so many people congratulating me so I’ve very grateful.”



Jake worked on Mace’s 40 Leadenhall project in the City of London

LIFTING TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

We would like to congratulate all candidates who were nominated for the Lifting Technician of the Year Award. The winner - Steve Lumb of Wolffkran - is travelling to Germany, courtesy of Liebherr, to visit Liebherr's crane manufacturing plant in Ehingen. Accommodation and flights are being provided as part of the prize.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



HIGHLY COMMENDED

A Highly Commended accolade was awarded to:
ANDREW BOWRING
Ainscough Crane Hire

*Photograph: Award accepted on Andrew's behalf.
CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones (left)
and Arran Willis of Liebherr (right)*



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the Lifting Technician of the Year for 2022:
STEVE LUMB
Wolffkran

*Photograph (L -R): CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones,
Steve Lumb and Arran Willis of Liebherr*

WHAT IS A LIFTING TECHNICIAN?

A Lifting Technician is someone who has the responsibility to set up and operate, to a high standard, either a tower, wheeled or crawler crane to lift and place materials and equipment to designated work areas on a construction site. They need to interpret and comply with given lift plan information and work in close proximity with the lifting team to carry out the lifting activities as well as undertaking slinger/signaller duties.

“I’d really encourage anyone who’s interested in becoming a crane operator to go for it. It’s changed my family life for the better.”



Spotlight on

STEVE LUMB

Lifting Technician of the Year 2022

Steve Lumb of Wolffkran won an amazing prize of an all-expenses trip to Germany courtesy of Liebherr when he was declared Lifting Technician of the Year at the Stars of the Future awards.

Wolffkran was one of the first crane companies to use the Trailblazer Lifting Technician apprenticeship standard and Steve has successfully completed his training. Before joining Wolffkran, Steve previously worked for a pallet company and he’s also a qualified plumber, but he told us that the apprenticeship programme has developed his skills massively.

He said: **“I’ve operated various different types of cranes in cities all across the country - in Manchester, London, Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham. I’ve helped build a university, a multi-storey residential project and I’ve been involved in some amazing concreting and steel developments.**

“But it’s not necessarily just about developing my skills as a crane operator. My apprenticeship has really helped my communication skills. I wasn’t a very good people person before but I’m now much better at talking to different people as I’m working on so many different projects.

“The financial rewards are also great. It’s a fantastic job role if you enjoy meeting people and rising to challenges - whether it’s operating taller cranes or weekend working.”

Steve, 30, lives in Yorkshire but travels up and down the country to work on various developments. He’s currently on standby, which means he could be working for two weeks in London, a week in Edinburgh and a week in Wales, before being placed on a project on a longer-term basis. As part of his apprenticeship, he has also spent weeks operating as a slinger signaller. Requests for Steve are plentiful, as he makes a great addition to any lifting team.

Steve has described crane operating as his ‘dream job’ and his immediate goal is to become the best crane operator he can be at Wolffkran. He’d like to work his way up to becoming a crane supervisor and eventually an appointed person on site responsible for writing lift plans.

When we caught up with Steve, he was just weeks away from going on the trip to Germany. He told us: **“I was really shocked to win the award. I’ve never won anything before like that in my life! But I was buzzing and everyone was really happy for me. I got so many messages afterwards saying congratulations.**

“The prize of a trip to the Liebherr factory in Germany is amazing. I actually get to go with Luke Reddish who’s also from Wolffkran and previously won the Lifting Technician of the Year award, but he wasn’t able to make the trip at the time due to COVID restrictions.

“I’d really encourage anyone who’s interested in becoming a crane operator to go for it. I’ve got a young family and it’s changed my family life for the better. Since I started my apprenticeship, I’ve been able to buy a house! You’ve got to be prepared to work away from home and make lots of sacrifices that people don’t necessarily see, but if you’re willing to put the effort in, you’ll get the rewards.”

HIRE CONTROLLER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We would like to congratulate all candidates who were nominated for the Hire Controller of the Year Award. The winner - Yasmin Bell of Sunbelt Rentals - has received an iPad to assist her in her job role.

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AWARD SPONSOR



NOMINEES

HIRE CONTROLLER OF THE YEAR		
Yasmin Bell	Sunbelt Rentals	★ WINNER ★
Shilaya Weekes	Speedy Service	FINALIST
Jay Campbell	Sunbelt Rentals	FINALIST



Huge congratulations to the winner of the Hire Controller of the Year for 2022: YASMIN BELL Sunbelt Rentals

Photograph (L - R): Bob Harper of Sunbelt Rentals, CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Yasmin Bell and Merrill Lynch of L Lynch Plant Hire & Haulage

★ WINNER ★

WHAT IS A HIRE CONTROLLER?

Hire Controllers act as the interface between their organisation and the customer and offer advice to customers, deal with hire and technical queries and complete contractual documentation for the hire, both when commencing and on completion. They work with the wider team and have a wide range of product knowledge for the equipment they hire out.

“I really enjoy my job as there’s so much variety. When I come into the depot each morning, I never know what to expect as every day brings new challenges.”



Spotlight on

YASMIN BELL

Hire Controller of the Year

The winner of Hire Controller of the Year was Yasmin Bell who works at Sunbelt Rentals’ Whitehaven depot in Cumbria. Yasmin, 19, decided to go down the apprenticeship route after successfully completing A-levels in Business, Engineering and Construction.

Although Yasmin has only been with Sunbelt Rentals for just over a year, she confidently carries out duties to the same exacting standards as colleagues who have been with the company for many years. Never afraid to push herself out of her comfort zone, she thrives on new challenges and additional responsibilities.

Whitehaven is one of Sunbelt Rentals’ busiest depots and is in the vicinity of nuclear sites such as Sellafield, so her role requires the completion of a great deal of paperwork, such as booking in vehicles and drivers and completing risk assessments and method statements.

She is often the first port of call for customers, either interacting with them face-to-face on the hire desk or via telephone or email. She takes hires, off-hires equipment and resolves customer queries, amongst many other tasks.

When customers enter the depot, Yasmin is often the first person to the hire counter making sure people are being served and won’t hesitate to go out to customers’ vehicles to get the fleet numbers of equipment they are returning.

Yasmin told us: **“I really enjoy my job and I chose the Hire Controller apprenticeship because it is something a little bit different. When I come into the depot each morning, I never know what to expect as every day brings new challenges. There’s a lot of variety in my job which I really like.”**

Although Yasmin has received high praise from her colleagues and tutors alike, she was still very surprised when she was announced the winner of the Hire Controller of the Year accolade.

She said: **“I was very shocked but obviously really pleased to win the CPA award. I won an iPad which is a very generous prize and I’ve been able to use it in my job role. I always use it in my monthly meetings with my training provider Gen2.”**

The Stars of the Future judges were very complimentary about Yasmin, stating she is a ‘true team player’ and that ‘her drive and enthusiasm for the role really stand out’. She was praised for her can-do attitude, willingness to go beyond the call of duty and for being ‘reliable, hard-working and responsible with great potential’.

Yasmin’s Depot Manager has also said she is ‘a shining example of what an apprentice should be’ and that ‘she will become an inspirational leader to other apprentices in the future’.

So what does the future hold for Yasmin? She is due to finish the Hire Controller apprenticeship towards the end of this year and plans to continue growing in her role and acquiring as much knowledge as she possibly can. Yasmin clearly has a very bright future ahead of her.

COLLEGE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The colleges who nominated apprentices for Plant Mechanic of the Year and Plant Technician of the Year were shortlisted for this award. The College of the Year Award recognises the FE college which is deemed to have best supported the Stars of the Future awards programme through the quality of their nominations and high level of engagement throughout the nomination process.

The winning training provider - NSCG Stafford College - received a voucher to spend up to £500 on Snap-on equipment of their choice.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



NOMINEES

COLLEGE OF THE YEAR	
NSCG Stafford College	★ WINNER ★
Bridgend College	HIGHLY COMMENDED
Askham Bryan College	FINALIST
Myerscough College	FINALIST
National Construction College (NCC) East	FINALIST
National Construction College (NCC) Scotland	FINALIST
Reaseheath College	FINALIST
Wiltshire College & University Centre	FINALIST



HIGHLY COMMENDED

A Highly Commended accolade was awarded to:
BRIDGEND COLLEGE

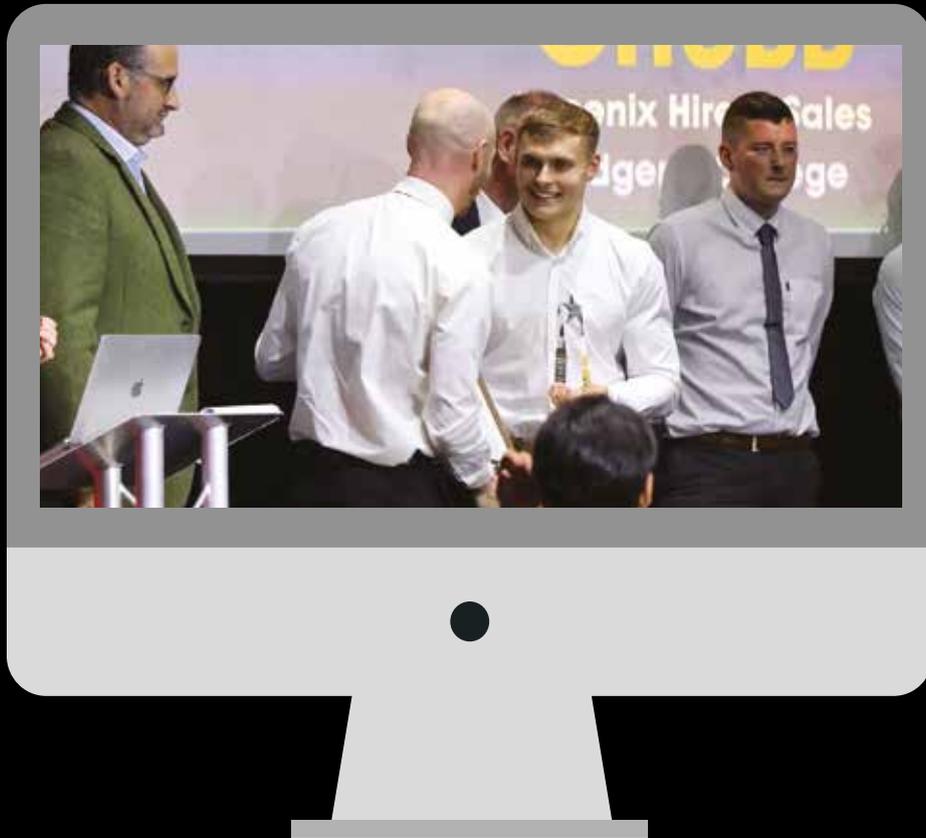
Photograph (L - R): CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Paul Thomas of Bridgend College and Matt Reed of M O'Brien Plant Hire



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the College of the Year for 2022:
NSCG STAFFORD COLLEGE

Photograph (L - R): CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Eddie Peake of NSCG Stafford College and Matt Reed of M O'Brien Plant Hire



HAVE YOU SEEN THE STARS OF THE FUTURE AWARDS 2022 VIDEO?



Take a look at: <https://youtu.be/PKG7ZTDEo-U>



JUDGES' SPECIAL AWARD

This award is for a nominee who the judges feel deserves special recognition of some form or another. This could be a candidate who has for example, overcome some form of adversity or who has shown particular initiative, achievement, progression, enthusiasm or a life-altering decision to enter the sector.

The judges chose Luke Cooper of Boels Rental as winner of this year's Judges' Special Award. He received a voucher to spend up to £500 on Snap-on equipment of his choice.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



★ WINNER ★

Huge congratulations to the winner of the Judges' Special Award for 2022:
LUKE COOPER
Boels Rental

Photograph: CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Luke Cooper and Aaron Davis of Flannery Plant Hire



Spotlight on

LUKE COOPER

Winner of the Judges' Special Award 2022

Not only did Luke Cooper of Boels Rental win the Plant Technician of the Year - North award at the Stars of the Future awards, he went on to win the special accolade of the Judges' Special Award.



At the time of Luke's nomination for a Star of the Future award, he was only 16 years of age and he'd been with Boels Rental for just six months, but he made such an impression in that short space of time that his employer deemed him worthy of an award - and the judges certainly agreed.

Despite his young age, the judges said he came across as 'confident, capable, well organised and popular with customers'. They described him as 'incredible' with clear respect for his peers but with plenty of ideas that will take him far in the industry.

Luke is currently carrying out the Level 3 land-based service engineering technician apprenticeship at Reaseheath College alongside his role as an apprentice plant fitter at one of Boels Rentals' depots near Liverpool. This is his first job role in the industry since finishing school, but Luke isn't easily phased. Despite having to take a round trip of 100 miles by train and bus to get to Reaseheath College, he's never missed a session.

When he first started college and the new apprentices were asked to deliver a presentation to the whole class, Luke was the first to volunteer to stand up and go first. He was one of just two apprentices to do so.

He's had plenty of innovative ideas since starting at Boels Rental, including the suggestion of a trainee exchange programme across the 18 countries that Boels operates in, to share best practice. Senior management at Boels believe this is a great idea and are currently considering its implementation to enhance the career opportunities of young apprentices. Luke will no doubt play an integral role if it comes off the ground.

When we caught up with Luke, it was clear to see that he has a pure love of the industry. He told us: **"I love plant mechanics and seeing how things work. When I see an engine, I see another form of life. I just love fixing machinery and feeling that sense of achievement when it has been fixed.**

"I love working with different parts and engines. Every day there's something new and every single day is a learning day. If you'd have asked me a year ago if I'd have known what I know now, I'd never have believed it. When you get the right tutor and the right job role, the knowledge comes with time and it becomes second nature.

"I'd love to become the number one fitter at Boels and maybe one day run a workshop for the company. Longer-term I'd love to work abroad for Boels, maybe working on bigger kit such as 8 tonne dumpers. I'd recommend this industry to anybody as you get loads of experience with the machinery around you."

Despite Luke's many achievements in his career so far, Luke was still surprised to be an award winner at the Stars of the Future awards ceremony. He said: **"I was really happy when I won the regional Plant Technician award. I sat down and thought I'm happy with that and then I got the second one! It was brilliant and felt amazing. It's given me a boost in my job and my family is really happy for me. Everyone at work has been very supportive and congratulated me."**

In recognition of his achievements, Luke won a Snap-on student tool kit, as well as a £500 Snap-on Tools voucher which he has used to purchase more tools to assist him in his job role.

BEST PERSONAL STATEMENT AWARD

In support of nominations for a Star of the Future Award, all nominees had the opportunity to submit a short video clip or a written statement. This award is given to the nominee who provided the most inspiring, enthusiastic, genuine and well conveyed personal statement about their journey on their apprenticeship, what it means to them and what they hope to achieve. The judges were very impressed to see some exceptional statements and video clips submitted this year. Over 40 candidates sent in a video statement for the 2022 awards.

As part of his prize, the winner of the Best Personal Statement for 2022 - Tom Baxendell of Bachy Soletanche - received two tickets for Bauma, courtesy of Wolffkran, including flights and one night's accommodation. Bauma is the world's leading trade fair for construction machinery and it takes place in Munich, Germany, in October 2022.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



Huge congratulations to the winner of the Best Personal Statement Award for 2022:
TOM BAXENDELL
Bachy Soletanche

Photograph (L - R): CPA Vice Chair Siôn Morgan Jones, Tom Baxendell and Richard Coughtrey of Wolffkran



A screenshot from Tom's creative video statement

“As part of my prize organised by Wolffkran, I get to go to Bauma in Germany which is amazing.”

Spotlight on

TOM BAXENDELL

Winner of the Best Personal Statement Award 2022

The winner of the Best Personal Statement award was Tom Baxendell, an apprentice plant fitter working for piling contractor Bachy Soletanche.



Tom, 21, who is carrying out the Level 3 land-based service engineering apprenticeship at Reaseheath College, was originally put forward for the Plant Technician of the Year - North award, but the judges were particularly impressed with the slick video that he submitted as part of his nomination. Choreographed all by himself, Tom took the viewer on a highly visual journey around the depot where he works, highlighting his apprentice journey so far and what he hopes to achieve in the future.

Before joining Bachy Soletanche, Tom had no knowledge or previous experience in the industry, but he was keen to learn. He was actually studying graphic design at college at the time when a friend told him about the apprenticeship vacancies at Bachy.

On a day-to-day basis, Tom's role involves the repair and maintenance of piling rigs to ensure that they are ready to go out on site. When we caught up with Tom, he was out on his first site job at HS2 in Birmingham. Bachy Soletanche is carrying out extensive geotechnical works for the new high-speed rail connection.

Tom said: **“I've been working for Bachy Soletanche for about a year now and I love the fact that the job is so different every day. It's great to be able to go out on site now and have that freedom to help deliver a really high profile project.**

“I was very shocked to win the Best Personal Statement award - I wasn't sure what other peoples' videos would be

like but it's great that the judges thought mine was unique. My colleagues were very happy for me and I've even been in the Bachy magazine!”

Tom has won an amazing prize from Wolffkran who have organised for Tom and a guest to go to Bauma, the world's largest construction exhibition in Germany. When we spoke to Tom, he was due to travel to Germany in a matter of weeks.

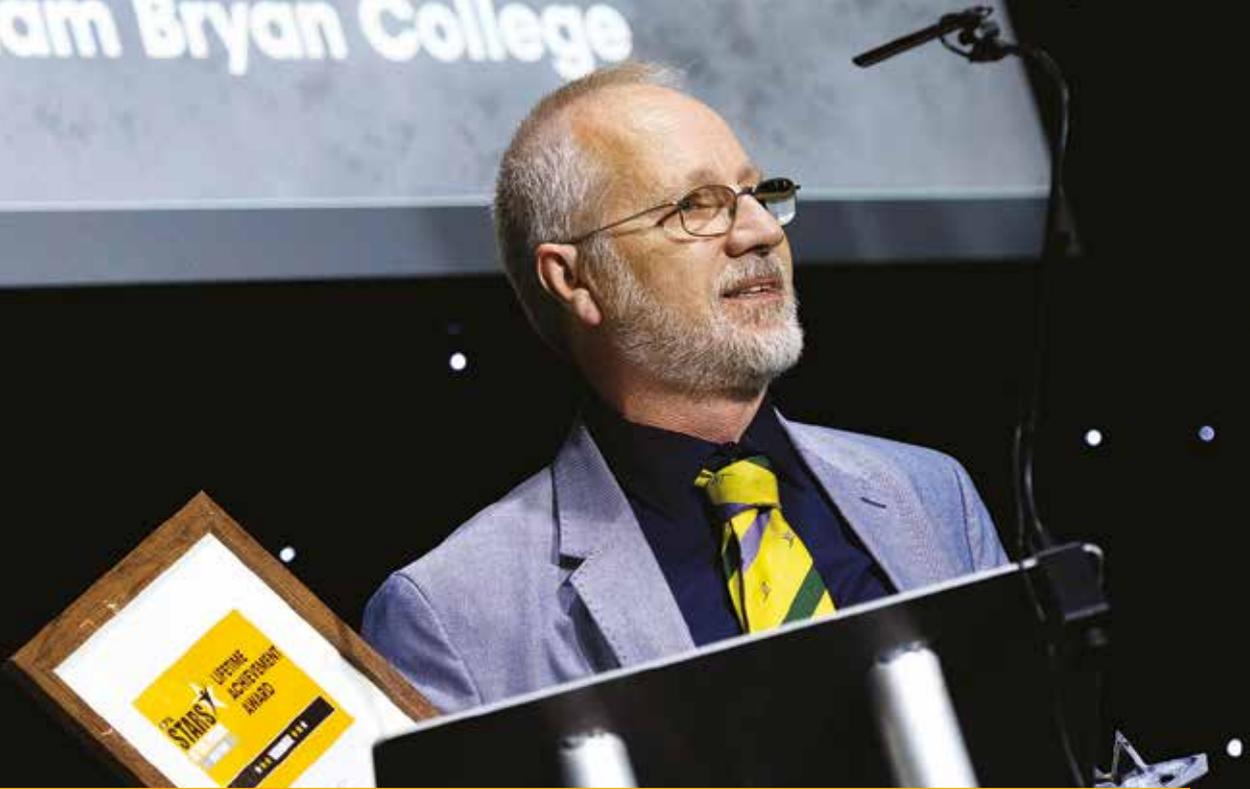
He said: **“It's a great prize and I can't wait to go. It'll be a good experience for me. I'm actually taking my friend who told me about the apprenticeship position at Bachy Soletanche, so I'm returning the favour.”**

Tom was one of three apprentices who started at Bachy Soletanche at the same time and he was the one selected to be put forward for a CPA Star of the Future award. Tom's employers and tutors have praised him for his excellent communication skills and for having the correct mindset, maturity and professionalism to make him an invaluable employee.

Once Tom has finished his apprenticeship and gained more experience on sites such as HS2, Tom's ambition is to work abroad as Bachy Soletanche is the UK subsidiary of the Soletanche Bachy Group, the world's largest specialist geotechnical contractor with over 10,000 employees in 31 countries worldwide.

PETER CHAPMAN

Askham Bryan College



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The final award of Stars of the Future 2022 was a very special one - the Lifetime Achievement Award - which was presented to Peter Chapman of Askham Bryan College in recognition of his sterling efforts in delivering apprenticeships.

Peter started his apprenticeship in back in 1973, finishing his time in industry as a Workshop Foreman and Plant & Transport Manager before joining his college in 2008 to deliver training to construction plant maintenance apprentices.

He quickly made an impact with staff, students and employers as he had direct experience of what was expected by employers and industry from which due to his efforts, oversaw an increase in student numbers.

He has long been an advocate of apprenticeship training and life-long learning, and has enthusiastically undertaken training in the education sector - including his own Level 5 teaching qualification and Quality Assurance qualification.

Peter has now retired from Askham Bryan College and he will be dearly missed by his colleagues, students and the CPA.

“The CPA would like to thank Peter for his valid contribution in helping get the plant apprenticeships out to industry, particularly the hire controller apprenticeship, and we appreciate his ongoing support and involvement for the forthcoming level 3 technician apprenticeship.”



HAVE YOU GOT STAR APPRENTICES OR TRAINEES IN YOUR ORGANISATION?



Nominate them for a Star of the Future Award in 2023.

Nomination forms will be available on the CPA website at www.cpa.uk.net in January 2023.





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