

Most promising apprentices

This year's CPA Stars of the Future apprentice awards ceremony was held at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre near Coventry. Around 300 people attended the ceremony including apprentices, family members, college tutors and employers. In total 21 winners were selected from the 700 apprentices that were eligible for the awards, which are now in their sixth year.

Stars of the Future is an awards scheme for apprentices in the construction equipment industry, run in conjunction with UK colleges offering mechanic apprentice training. This year's awards were for apprentices who have been assessed throughout the academic year on their work in college and in their work environment. There were a total of 19 regional winners for both NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 apprentices, plus two national winners. Prior to the awards, a presentation was delivered by Steve Bradby, engineering leader at Select Plant Hire and Chris Gatheridge, head of service and compliance at Explore Plant and Transport Services, supported by Katie Kelleher, lifting technician and trainee Appointed Person at Laing O'Rourke.

National Level 2 winner Dan Pickles said: "I really didn't expect to win such a prestigious industry award and I can't thank Askham Bryan College and Charles Wilson Engineers enough for the support they have given me. I have been given the responsibility of working as a mobile service engineer by my employer, which is a great position for an apprentice to be in as I work all over the country covering 18 depots nationwide. I'd like to go on to become a Senior Service Engineer or Foreman in the near future but my ultimate ambition is to continue to work in this industry."

CPA chief executive Kevin Minton added: "The standard of this year's Stars of the Future entries really was exceptional and the judging panel had some difficult



National Winners Ciaran Warnes (L) and Dan Pickles

decisions to make. Stars of the Future is one of the highlights in the CPA's calendar and we welcome the opportunity to reward and recognise some of the industry's brightest talent. It is also pleasing to see just how well some of the previous winners have progressed in their careers since."

The two national winners received Snap-on roll cart tool kits and the 19 regional winners won Snap-on student tool kits. Dan Pickles was the winner of the National Level 2 award but five other national finalists were in contention for the accolade, namely John Higgins who attends Bridgend College and is employed by Komatsu Mining, Cameron Evans who attends National Construction College Scotland and is employed by Story Contracting, A-Plant's Imran Ahmed who attends Reaseheath College, Scott Paskin of Dewsbury

and Proud who attends Stafford College and Joe Hughes from ALC Vehicles and attends Wiltshire College. The standard was so high that Scott Paskin from Dewsbury and Proud was announced as the Highly Commended National Level 2 finalist.

A total of three national finalists were shortlisted for the National Level 3 award. TXM Plant's Ciaran Warnes was declared the winner, also in contention were A-Plant's Tyler Lloyd who attends Reaseheath College and Liebherr's Adam Counihan who attends Stafford College and was last year's National Level 2 Star of the Future winner.

For the first time, Stars of the Future was held directly alongside a Schools Experience Day, with more than 100 children aged 11 to 14 from schools in the Coventry, Birmingham and surrounding areas attended the 'Can U Dig It? Yes U Can' event.



Stars of the Future regional winners

The 2018 Stars of the Future Winners

Regional Level 2 Winners

Dan Pickles

John Higgins
Harry Wood
Cameron Evans

Amy Kirkham
Rhyss Cunningham
Michael Barton
Imran Ahmed
Scott Paskin
Joe Hughes

Regional Level 3 Winners

Joe Hobson
James Power
Ciaran Warnes
Kyle Maitland

Archie Shorten
Ross Logan
Callum Bradley
Tyler Lloyd
Adam Counihan

National Winners

Dan Pickles

Ciaran Warnes

College and Employer

Askham Bryan College,
Charles Wilson Engineers
Bridgend College, Komatsu Mining Germany
National Construction College, SMT GB
National Construction College (Scotland),
Story Contracting
Finning Academy, Finning UK (Cannock)
Glasgow Kelvin College, NRS Group
Myerscough College, Chippindale Plant
Reaseheath College, A-Plant
Stafford College, Dewsbury and Proud
Wiltshire College, ALC Vehicles

College and Employer

Askham Bryan College, Peter Duffy
Bridgend College, Associated British Ports
National Construction College, TXM Plant
National Construction College (Scotland),
Leiths (Scotland)
Finning Academy, Finning UK (Leeds)
Glasgow Kelvin College, Marubeni Komatsu
Myerscough College, Hire Station
Reaseheath College, A-Plant
Stafford College, Liebherr GB

Askham Bryan College,
Charles Wilson Engineers (Level 2)
National Construction College,
TXM Plant (Level 3)