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# Future Stars

The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) announced the future stars of the UK construction equipment sector at a live awards ceremony attended by 220 people in mid-September.



In spite of the challenges that employers, training providers and apprentices have faced during the pandemic, there were almost 70 nominations this year, one of the highest in the programme's nine year history.

The top awards were won by:

- **National Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)** - Dean Johnston, Liebherr
- **National Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)** - Luke Thornton, GGR
- **Plant Operative of the Year** - Jim Baraclough, L Lynch Plant Hire
- **Plant Installer of the Year** - Liam Basson, Falcon Tower Crane Services
- **Hire Controller of the Year** - Amy Wicks, L Lynch Plant Hire
- **Best Personal Statement** - Beth Doel, HSS
- **Judges' Special Award** - Lucy O'Rourke, Sunbelt Rentals

CPA chief executive Kevin Minton, said: "The standard of entries for this year's Stars of the Future awards was exceptional and we were delighted to welcome the nominees and winners and congratulate them in person. The judges really had a difficult task choosing the winners, and it was reassuring to see that the future of the sector really is in safe hands."

The awards are intended to recognise and reward outstanding apprentices and trainees who not only bring ability and commitment to their learning and work, but also possess those extra capabilities which mark them out as potential leaders - the Stars of the Future.

The award categories reflect the key occupations in the equipment industry, and correspond with apprenticeships available, including

new 'Trailblazer' apprenticeships in England. A new category for 2021 was Plant Installer of the Year.

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.

The external judges included Martyn Price of O'Halloran & O'Brien, Kirsty Archbold-Laming of Southern Hoist Services, Graham Black of Earthmovers Magazine, Siôn Morgan Jones of ACOP Group, Katie Kelleher of Select Plant Hire, Gary Barnes of Costain, Leigh Sparrow of the Vertical Press and Arran Willis of Liebherr.

The winners also won prizes, such as snap-on tool kits, training courses, iPads, vouchers and a trip to Liebherr's crane plant in Ehingen, Germany.

The complete list of winners is as follows:

## Plant Mechanic of the Year - North

**Ben Thomas, Brandon Hire Station, Myerscough College**  
*Highly Commended*  
**George Johnson, Bachy Soletanche, Reaseheath College**  
**Jake Dyer, Warwick Ward Machinery, Askham Bryan College**

## Plant Mechanic of the Year - Midlands

**Jason Pritchard, Focus Environmental/Edg-Tec, NSCG Stafford College**  
*Highly Commended*  
**Kyle Pollard, UK Tool Hire, NCC East**

## Plant Mechanic of the Year - South

**Dean Johnston, Liebherr, NSCG Stafford College**  
*Highly Commended*  
**Billy Mitchell, Amey Briggs, Wiltshire College**

**Michael Coulson, Sunbelt Rentals, Reaseheath College**

## Plant Mechanic of the Year - Wales

**Lochlan Lewis, Fitzgerald Plant Services, Bridgend College**

## Plant Mechanic of the Year - Scotland

**Calum MacKenzie, A & L Stronach, NCC Scotland**

*Highly Commended*

**Jay Whitefield, GAP Group, NCC Scotland**

## Plant Technician of the Year - North

**Thomas Sealeaf, Brandon Hire Station, Myerscough College**

*Highly Commended*

**Jack Martin, Asphalt Grid Systems, Reaseheath College**

**Steven Behn, SMT GB, Reaseheath College**

## Plant Technician of the Year - Midlands

**Tom Willgoose, Traction Equipment (Stafford), NSCG Stafford College**

*Highly Commended*

**Jack Coupland, Babcock International, NCC East**

**Tyler Pearson, Wirtgen, NCC East**

## Plant Technician of the Year - South

**Luke Thornton, GGR Group, Activate Apprenticeships**

*Highly Commended*

**Beth Doel, HSS, Reaseheath College**

**Oliver Vickery, GAP Group, Bridgend College**

## Plant Technician of the Year - Scotland

**Angus MacDonald, Briggs Equipment, NSCG Stafford College**

*Highly Commended*

**Regan Dunn, Brandon Hire Station, Myerscough College**

## CPA focus

### National Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)

**Dean Johnston, Liebherr, NSCG Stafford College**  
*Highly Commended*

**Jason Pritchard, Focus Environmental/Edg-Tec, NSCG Stafford College**

**Lochlan Lewis, Fitzgerald Plant Services, Bridgend College**

### National Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)

**Luke Thornton, GGR Group, Activate Apprenticeships**  
*Highly Commended*

**Tom Willgoose, Traction Equipment (Stafford), NSCG Stafford College**

*Highly Commended*

### Plant Operative of the Year

**Jim Baraclough, L Lynch Plant Hire**  
*Highly Commended*

*Highly Commended*

**Sid Verrill, L Lynch Plant Hire**

### Plant Installer of the Year

**Liam Basson, Falcon Tower Crane Services**  
*Highly Commended*

*Highly Commended*

**Danny Walden, L Lynch Plant Hire**

### Hire Controller of the Year

**Amy Wicks, L Lynch Plant Hire**  
*Highly Commended*

*Highly Commended*

**Lucy Adams, GAP Group**

### College of the Year

**Askham Bryan College**  
*Highly Commended*

*Highly Commended*

**Reaseheath College**

### Best Personal Statement Award

**Beth Doel, HSS, Reaseheath College**

### Young Business of the Year Award

**Grasmere Plant Hire owner:**

**Joseph Rollitt**

### Judges' Special Award

**Lucy O'Rourke, Sunbelt Rentals, Reaseheath College**



(L-R) Luke Thornton, Lucy O'Rourke, Amy Wicks, Liam Basson, Beth Doel, Jim Baraclough and Dean Johnston

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **C&A**



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## Spider and mini crawler cranes

The versatile spider crane as well as the mini crawler crane have earned their reputation as a 'go-to' solution for a wide range of challenging lifting applications. Compact and lightweight, smaller models can travel through single doorways, fit into lifts, manoeuvre into the tightest of spaces, including rooftops, often doing the work of much larger cranes. We take a look at some of the latest developments.



## Spider & atrium lifts

Staying with the spider theme, we'll look at the latest developments in these compact and lightweight platforms designed specifically to allow working in tight spaces where access is restricted and on rugged sloping terrain.

## Glass handling products

We look at some of the latest innovations in what is becoming a fast growing market as even domestic glazing panels grow in bulk and weight to meet products higher insulation criteria.



## Pick & carry cranes

An overview of the latest products and developments in what has become a rapidly changing market sector.

## Vertikal Days review

The UK's Vertikal Days event was held at its new East of England Showground & Arena venue in Peterborough last month with plenty of new machines on display. After a 30 month absence, the lifting industry was clearly ready to meet up and check out the latest new products 'in the iron'. The weather helped generate a very high turnout from rental companies, major contractors and all manner of end users. Our review will include photos along with personal 'takes' from Nick Johnson and Will North.



Send any information, news, photographs or ideas on these subjects to [editor@vertikal.net](mailto:editor@vertikal.net)

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