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NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR STARS OF THE FUTURE

The CPA has opened nominations for this year's Stars of the Future Awards, which hope to discover the most promising apprentices and trainees in the industry.



Now in its 14th year, the awards are entirely free of any charge to enter and are open to all trainees, both those working with CPA members as well as non-members as long as they are employed by a company associated with the construction-related equipment industry. This includes but not limited to, all types of rental companies - cranes, aerial work platforms, earthmoving, etc - along with equipment manufacturers, contractors, suppliers and others operating in the sector with apprentices and trainees in their workforce.

The deadline for entries is the 20th March, with winners announced at the annual awards ceremony on the 9th July at the Heart of England Conference and Events Centre in Fillongley, near Coventry, which will be hosted by industry journalist Peter Haddock.

CPA chief executive Steve Mulholland said: "Recognising the significant contribution of apprentices and trainees to our industry and supporting their development has never been more crucial. Stars of the Future is a fantastic celebration of the positive impact apprentices have within our sector, and it highlights the opportunities available for others to join the equipment rental industry."

"To all employers, not just CPA members, if you have apprentices in your business who you believe will be the leaders of tomorrow, please don't hesitate to nominate them for a Stars of the Future Award. Past winners have said that being nominated by their employer or training provider was an incredible achievement, and it truly makes a difference to both their careers and to the industry as a whole."

Last year's winners received prizes such as tool kits, machine training courses, iPads, a visit to Liebherr's crane plant in Southern Germany, a trip to the Wolffkran tower crane facility in Luckau, Northern Germany, and VIP days with JCB.

You can find more information and make a nomination at: <https://cpa.uk.net/product/stars-of-the-future/>



Last year's National Winners

ILLAPG YEAR END MEETING

The Industry Lifting Lead AP Group (ILLAPG) held its final meeting of 2025 on December 11th which was once again hosted by GGR.

This was the 40th meeting for the group and provided an opportunity to review progress. Key agenda items included updates to the ILLAPG project log, continued discussion on EN 13000 - with a particular focus on mobile and crawler crane work at height - as well as feedback from recent industry surveys.

The wider session included presentations from Tom Pawson, chief engineer at engineering company Costain, on design for lifting, standards developments, CPA updates, CITB engagement, and continuing professional development, with a focus on slinger-signaller competence and lift planning guidance. Attendees also participated in Christmas Jumper Day, with the ILLAPG raising £77 for charity as part of GGR's Christmas fundraising.

Dates for this year's ILLAPG meetings will be released in the coming months.



Attendees in their Christmas jumpers



The meeting

CPA AT EVENTS FOR 2026

The CPA will attend the Executive Hire show taking place in Coventry on the 11th and 12th of February.

The association will have the new Tenstar construction simulator on its stand, which enables the remote operation of telehandlers, tower cranes, and other lifting equipment using realistic controls and 3D motion. The CPA will then use this simulation at schools, colleges, and careers events across the country to promote the lifting industry and encourage young people to consider it as a career.

The CPA team will also be on hand to offer all manner of advice and information. Other CPA events include the CPA Conference and lunch in London this May, Vertical Days in Newark in September and the CPA Gala Dinner which returns to Liverpool in November.

