

# MiddleWalkTimes

A memento of UK Bus Driver of the Year 2019



## Third time lucky for Adam

bus driver  
of the year   
championing excellence since 1967

**"As the results were read out in reverse order my fingers were crossed tighter and tighter..." was how Adam Stitt recalled the final moments before those magic words "And this year the winner is..." followed by his name!**

The journey began in 2017 in Edinburgh where Adam, a driver with Lothian buses for eight years at that point, decided he'd quite like to try the local heats of the Bus Driver of the Year competition and to his surprise and delight he won, getting to his first final in Blackpool where he finished 34th. In 2018, again reaching the final where he improved to 23rd place.

When the 2019 competition was announced Adam jumped at the chance to enter again, winning the local rounds and once more making the Blackpool final, hoping to continue to improve. He certainly did that, winning the overall title and a host of other awards too. It was one of those which gave Adam real hope at the awards. "As the results were being called in reverse order I noticed that nobody had won the ALBUM Trophy, awarded to the highest competitor from an ALBUM member, which Lothian Buses are, that's when the fingers were getting really squeezed! I knew I had had a good run in the competition and I was hoping for a place, but the tension towards the end of the awards was very high and when Joe read out my name it was the most amazing feeling!"

**"I had a late run which I think helped..."**

Looking back on the day Adam recounted "I managed quite well in the theory test and then had a late run on the road, which I think helped. I was drawn 80th and had plenty of time to watch and get into the right frame of mind. I think the hardest part of the test is judging the distance of the back wheels from the post, they should be exactly 1 metre. They make sure nobody drives a bus from their own company too so no chance of having practised in the bus you drive on the day!"

So how does a winning driver prepare before the event? "Lothian Buses really encourage their drivers to take part in the BDoY



● "Destination as shown!"

● Left: "Adam receiving his winning awards."



competition because they know it helps with driving skills and passenger safety. In the 4 days before Blackpool, when we weren't on duty, we were able to spend time practising with the driver training team. I'd like to thank everybody at Lothian for all their support, they have been brilliant!"

What plans does Adam have for enjoying his winnings from this year's competition? "I'm a keen motorcyclist in my own time and I'm thinking about putting it towards a new motorcycle, I haven't quite made up my mind yet!"

Will he be back next year? "I'm certainly going to try!"

**Congratulation to Adam and all the finalists and award winners in the 2019 Bus Driver of the Year competition.**

# Hello and cheerio to Council members

I am pleased to say that it has become a regular feature for the Worshipful the Mayor of Blackpool and the Mayoress to be invited to the gala dinner and the presentation of trophies. Unfortunately, this year they were unable to attend themselves but were well represented by Councillor Jim Hobson, who we thank very much.

In a break from tradition I invited the Vice Chairman of BDoY Council, Andrew Braddock, to officiate the awards as it was to be his last appearance at the national competition as a member of council. In his introduction before the presentations Andrew told us a bit about his 34 years of involvement at BDoY, including securing sponsorship, allocation of awards, tending to the trophies, writing press releases, PR and many other tasks

There haven't been many retirements from council in the twenty plus years I have been involved but 2019 was an exceptional year in which, in true bus cliché style, *'three came along at once'*. As well as Andrew were Douglas Bailey MBE, (24 years) and Frank Llewellyn, (12 years). Douglas, who was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in recognition of his contribution to the bus industry, was faithfully custodian of the test at bus stop 1 in all weathers for many years and brought wisdom to the council. Frank was our health and safety adviser, helping to prepare the essential risk assessments for the competition. All three will be missed from council, not only for their expertise but also for their friendship and enjoyable company. Thank you, Andrew, Douglas, and Frank, and your respective wives Jan, Helen and Diane, for your unfailing support.

Andrew and Frank were at the event to receive a crystal gift as a token of our appreciation but unfortunately Douglas was unable to attend for health reasons. However, I was pleased to visit Douglas at home in Chorley to present him with his gift, from where he sent a message of warm thanks to all his friends and



● Committee members and marshals gave Andrew and Frank a good send off.

colleagues at BDoY. We all wish Douglas well.

We are delighted to welcome three new members onto the Council - Mike Morgan, formerly Editor of RouteOne magazine, Pat Toner, Training Manager at Lothian Buses and John Jardine, Driving Instructor, also from Lothian Buses. Mike Morgan will take over as our PR and media expert with John Winstanley, our Finance Director, assuming responsibility for securing sponsorship. I am also pleased to say that Amanda Thompson has agreed to look after the lovely array of trophies and hand them to the presenter in the correct order (a very important task!).

A very big thank you to all the competitors, their supporters, volunteers and Council members who made the competition another success.

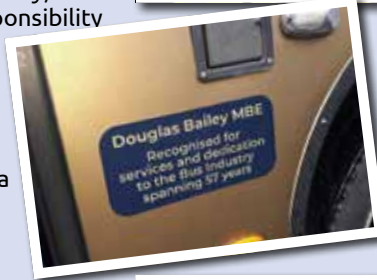
Since the 2018 competition we have been re-evaluating the hotel venue for the competition and I am pleased to advise that in 2020 our National Final will be based in the Imperial Hotel just a short distance south of the Grand. Full details will be sent out by Paul MacKay, our Event Secretary and we look forward to your company over the weekend 4 to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Joe Mackie**, Chairman UK Bus Driver of the Year Association.



● Douglas in his familiar role at Bus Stop No1 alongside Colin McCardell.

● Stagecoach in Chorley has named a bus in honour of Douglas's contribution to the bus industry.



● Andrew (left) and Frank (centre) receive their awards from Joe.

## Runner up, 2nd overall- Adam Ksiazek, First Aberdeen, 2017 winner

"This year I came back to Blackpool with the target of repeating my success from 2017. Some tricky questions in the theory test made me think I'd failed. Then I messed up one exercise on the driving test and I was 100% sure that I was not going to be at any of the top places. When you read out my name as second best driver in UK I couldn't believe it! It was so unexpected I was even happier than two years ago when I won.



## 3rd overall Amanda Hough, First Hampshire, Dorset & Berkshire

"Just to be a part of the BDoY finals 5 times is amazing, it is always such a great weekend. I was totally shocked when my name was called out for third place. It was lovely to be congratulated by so many people including my colleagues back in Portsmouth. The prize money was a great bonus and went towards a Caribbean cruise with my husband!"



## 4th overall - Stephen Wibden, Lothian Buses

"Being my first year in the competition my ambitions were limited and I would have been very happy with top 20. So, to come 4th overall was a massive shock but I'm very proud to have achieved it".





# National Final Results, Blackpool, Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019

(in order of presentation)

## The Vice-President's Award:

Best-presented buses in use at the National Final

- (a) Newly-delivered or up to one-year old: **HF68 DXO Go South Coast - Bluestar**
- (b) One to five years old: **L TZ 1000 - RATP Dev London**
- (c) Over five years old: **BX13 JWE - National Express - Xplore Dundee**

● **All received commemorative plaques.**

## Highest-placed RATP Dev competitor:

● The RATP Dev Trophy and £1,000 cheque.  
**Delfino Gouveia de Freitas**, RATP Dev London



## Second-highest-placed competitor from a Stagecoach company:

● The Stagecoach Shield and £500 cheque.  
**Brian Usher**, Stagecoach North East



## Highest-placed Stagecoach competitor:

● The Stagecoach Trophy and £1,000 cheque.  
**Graham Hall**, Stagecoach South East



## Second-highest-placed Go-Ahead Group competitor:

● The Go-Ahead Shield and £500 cheque

## Highest-placed London Buses competitor:

● The London Buses Cup and £1,000 cheque.  
**Raj Viswanathan**, Go-Ahead London



## Fifth Place:

● BDoY Trophy and £500 cheque

## Highest-placed Go-Ahead Group competitor:

● The Go-Ahead Trophy and £1,000 cheque.  
**Steven Williams**, Oxford Bus Company



## Fourth Place:

● BDoY Trophy and £750 cheque

**Stephen Wibden**, Lothian Buses



## Third Place:

● BDoY Trophy and £1,000 cheque

## Best competitor from a depot in England:

● The Giles Fearnley Shield and £100 cheque

## Second-highest-placed competitor from a FirstGroup company:

● The FirstGroup Shield and £500 cheque  
**Amanda Hough**, First Hampshire, Berkshire & Dorset



## Runner-up:

● BDoY Trophy and cheque for £1,500

## Highest-placed competitor from a company in membership of the Road Operators' Safety Council:

● The ROSCO Trophy and £500 cheque

## Highest-placed competitor from a FirstGroup company:

● The FirstGroup Trophy and £1,000 cheque

● *The winner also receives a two-night break at the Grand Hotel in Blackpool, courtesy of the Britannia Hotel Group*

**Adam Ksiazek**, First Aberdeen



## Best competitor from a depot in Wales:

● The Donald Macdonald Memorial Shield and £100 cheque.  
**Michael McDonnell**, First Cymru



## Highest-placed competitor from an independent company:

● BDoY Trophy and £1,000 cheque.  
**Marks Nobrega**, Yellow Buses - Bournemouth Transport



## Second-highest-placed London Buses competitor:

● The London Buses Shield and £500 cheque.

**Stephen Appiah**, Go-Ahead London



## Second-highest-placed National Express competitor:

● The National Express Trophy and £500 cheque.  
**Craig Lockyer**, National Express - West Midlands



## Highest-placed National Express competitor:

● The National Express Trophy and £1,000 cheque.  
**Liam Bishop**, National Express - West Midlands



## Second-highest-placed RATP Dev competitor:

● The RATP Dev Shield and £500 cheque.  
**Stephen Tyrrell**, RATP Dev London



## Bus Driver of the Year 2019

**Adam Stitt**, Lothian Buses



● **The Coventry Trophy** Donated by Coventry Road Accident Prevention Council

● **The Road Operators' Safety Council Award** £1,500 cheque

● **The Unite Trophy** and £1,500 cheque

● **Highest-placed competitor from an ALBUM company:**

The ALBUM Trophy and £1,000 cheque

● **Best Theory Test Result:**

BDoY Trophy and £300 cheque

● **Best competitor from a depot in Scotland:** The Joe Mackie Shield and £100 cheque

● **The John Boxall Medallion**

Donated by the UK BDoY Council  
● *The winner also receives a mini-holiday in London, courtesy of TfL, which will include visits to the capital's Surface Transport Control Centre and other places of interest, plus a "New Routemaster" bus driving experience.*





● "It's like Victoria bus station here!"



● "I do like to be beside the seaside."



● ...the Professionals...

# Blackpool

## 2019



● "A tight fit!"



● "Trams? Must be Blackpool!"



● "Millimetres matter."



● "Well blow me!!"



● "A shining example..."



● "Guess where we're all going..."