



Middle Walk Times

A memento of UK Bus Driver of the Year 2017

On a rainy day in Blackpool...

bus driver
of the year 

championing excellence since 1967

● Adam receives three of his winner's trophies from Unite National Officer, Bobby Morton (left) ...assisted by daughter Ala.



Hard work pays off for 2nd placed Michael Leech, First West Yorkshire



Adam hits the jackpot!

After finishing fourth in 2016 at only his first ever attempt at UK Bus Driver of the Year, Adam Ksiazek shows what it takes to win...

"It was my second time in Blackpool and I was feeling more relaxed this year because I knew what to expect and how the competition flows. I spent more time preparing for the theory test, brushing up my highway code and driver knowledge. Last year some wrong answers kept me off the podium.

"So here I was in Blackpool on Sunday 3rd of September as ready as I could be for competition...

"For the driving test I was given a Stagecoach Enviro 200, thinking 'Lucky me' because we use the same buses in Aberdeen. But my happiness quickly ended when I spotted the big advertising

frame on the offside, restricting my view of the rear of the bus. The weather wasn't being kind either. It was raining and the view in the mirrors was seriously reduced, but it was the same for everyone.

"The driving seemed to go quite well, especially the bus stops and layby, but I was unsure about the stopping distance, as well as the new exercise overtaking a cyclist. At the end of the day it turned out that I was worrying unnecessarily.

"After the theory test I returned to my hotel room with a big smile on my face. 'The theory test was easy', I told my wife. Then I started to check my answers with the Highway Code and I realised that I was wrong! Straight away I found five wrong answers so the smile quickly disappeared from my face....

"As we waited for the final results I was

"...I wasn't particularly nervous this year as I knew what to expect, and I also genuinely enjoy the BDoY experience. The day is FUN, with the potential to walk away with some serious prize money as well as the kudos of being amongst the bus driving elite of the UK.

"I was surprised and delighted when my name was read out as the overall second place finisher, winning a total of £2100 in prize money as well as a suitcase full of trophies!

"I can't wait for next year's competition..."

convinced I would not be placed higher than the top twenty - if I was lucky!

"When Joe Mackie read out my name as the winner I could not believe it. "It must be some mistake" I thought, I was speechless, but delighted too!

"I would like to thank to my wife Monika, my family and all my colleagues from First Aberdeen for all their support. Also huge thanks to all drivers taking part in BDoY 2017 and to the organisers and volunteers on the day who braved the rain to run the event so well for us."

Adam Ksiazek – First Aberdeen

It all began as fun for 3rd placed Scott Crosbie, Lothian Buses...

"I first entered the local UKBDoY competition in 2012 as a bit of fun, spurred on by my partner

Zoe. This year in Blackpool winning 3rd place and the ALBUM trophy again was a huge surprise. You're up against the best so I'm both happy and proud that I'm good enough to compete against them..."



4th place for 'lucky' Kevin McCormick, Stagecoach West Scotland...

"I was lucky to get there this year as the driver who came first in our local competition unfortunately had to pull out. This year the new course provided a fresh challenge which made it even more enjoyable..."

It was so exciting to hear my name being called out as 4th overall and 1st Stagecoach competitor. It's an honour to be recognised as one of the top four bus drivers in the UK. ..."



Second time success for 5th place Raj Viswanathan, Go-Ahead Metrobus, Croydon...

"In 2016 I came to Blackpool for the very first time and finished in 70th place. This year I won locally again and came back knowing more about it and finished 5th place overall, and 1st for the London bus operators and for Go-Ahead Group. Thank you to the whole BDoY team for this, the ultimate award for UK bus drivers. I will try very hard to be back and improve again next year!"



More prizes, more winners, more fun!



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

In 2016 we celebrated the 50th UK Bus Driver of the Year Competition. During the first 50 years there were major changes in the bus industry including styles and intricacies of buses, fuel types, ticketing systems, information gathering, deregulation and privatisation.

Over the same period BDoY has also changed the national final competition to reflect industry changes. We have modified the theory test, introduced breath testing and made the format of the competition more representative of a driver's daily work routine such as sign on, on-road driving, carrying passengers and, thanks to member companies, provided modern (sometimes brand new) buses for use on the day. We also recognise the sterling work that drivers do by rewarding financially and by recognising not only the winners in the competition but all competitors..

In 2016 the prize money total was doubled to £20,000 and we maintained that level in 2017 thanks to the sponsoring bus groups, who put up their own awards, and the other generous sponsors who have supported the competition in both good and difficult times. There was a new award and prize money to compete for in 2017 - the ROSCO award to the best competitor from a ROSCO member company. Once again TfL made a three-day holiday in London available to the winner, The Deputy Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Gary Coleman and Deputy Mayoress Councillor Debbie Coleman

joined us for dinner on Saturday and the presentations on Sunday. Bobby Morton, National Officer, Passenger Transport, for Unite the Union, made the presentations to the winners and in his speech he made a commitment to increase the Unite prize money to the overall winner. We are grateful to both Bobby and Unite (Formerly the T&GWU) for their support over many years.

2017 was the year we changed from negative to positive scoring and that worked very well. If there was a downside in 2017 it was the weather! Thankfully over the years it has not often been wet, but this year wet it was and we are all extremely grateful to the many marshals and stewards who stood out there for over four hours without much shelter from the elements.

A big "Thank You" to Bill Holmes who, after ten years as Competition Secretary, decided to step down but continue as a director of BDoY. Paul MacKay takes over the baton as Competition Secretary and we wish him every success.

The Vice-President's Award for best presented buses used in the National Final was given a revamp and we are extremely appreciative of all the buses provided for the competition.

It is now time to look forward to the 2018 competition, to welcome back previous competitors and say "Hello and welcome" to those with us for the first time.

BDoY reminiscences

I first became involved with the UK Bus Driver of the Year competition in 1988 as a marshal. Over the years my involvement in the event increased and in 1999 I was invited to become a UKBDoY Director, as part of the team which organises and runs the annual event in Blackpool. We all gain a great deal of satisfaction from the enjoyment of the participating teams when competing.

Of course there have been changes to the competition over the years and recently it has been pleasing to see it grow as more companies have recognised the benefits

which BDoY brings to driver training.

Technology has also developed in leaps and bounds including vastly improved engines and transmissions; hybrid buses to reduce emissions; stop/start ability to improve fuel consumption; wi-fi for passengers; contactless payment and smart cards to improve dwell times.

At the heart of a good bus service,



however, is the ability of a driver to treat their passengers well and to navigate the vehicle competently and safely through the ever-increasing traffic on today's busy roads. UKBDoY aims to reward those drivers who reach the pinnacle of ability. I truly hope that companies

will continue to participate in the event for the benefit of themselves, their drivers and their passengers.

Bill Holmes

And the 2017 winners were...



UK Bus Driver of the Year Competition National Final Results, Blackpool, Sunday 3rd September 2017

Overall winner Bus Driver of the Year 2017:

Adam Ksiazek (First Aberdeen)

The Coventry Trophy, donated by Coventry Road Accident Prevention Council

The Road Operator's Safety Council Award and £1500 cheque

The Unite Trophy and £1000 cheque

The John Boxall Medallion, donated by the UK BDoY Council

Mini holiday break in London sponsored by Tfl

Adam also won:

Best competitor from a depot in Scotland, the Joe Mackie Shield and £100 cheque

Highest-placed FirstGroup competitor, the FirstGroup Trophy and £1000 cheque

Highest placed competitor from a company in membership of the Road Operators Safety Council, The ROSCO Trophy and £500 cheque

Runner up: Michael Leech (First West Yorkshire)

BDoY Trophy and £1500 cheque

Michael also won:

Best Competitor from a depot in England, The Giles Fearnley Shield and £100 cheque

Second-highest placed FirstGroup competitor, The FirstGroup Shield and £500 cheque

Third Place: Scott Crosbie (Lothian Buses)

BDoY Trophy and £1000 cheque
Scott also won:

Highest placed competitor from an ALBUM member, The ALBUM Trophy and £1000 cheque

Fourth place: Kevin McCormick (Stagecoach West Scotland)

BDoY Trophy and £750 cheque
Kevin also won:

Highest placed Stagecoach competitor, The Stagecoach Trophy and £1000 cheque

Fifth Place: Raj Viswanathan (Go-Ahead London)

BDoY Trophy and £500 cheque
Raj also won:

Highest placed Go-Ahead Group competitor, The Go-Ahead Trophy and £1000 cheque

Highest-placed London Buses competitor, The London Buses Cup and £1000 cheque

Best competitor from a depot in Wales:

The Donald Macdonald Memorial Shield and £100 cheque

Michael Myatt

First Cymru

Best Theory Test Result:

BDoY Trophy and £300 cheque

Peter Mascall

First Cymru

Highest-placed competitor from an independent company:

BDoY Trophy and £1,000 cheque

Andrew Cawley

Peoplesbus

Highest-placed Arriva competitor:

The Arriva Trophy and £1,000 cheque

Noel Law

Arriva London

Second-highest-placed Arriva competitor:

The Arriva Shield and £500 cheque

Darren Kelly

Arriva London

Second-highest-placed Go-Ahead Group competitor:

The Go-Ahead Shield and £500 cheque

Stephen Appiah

Go-Ahead London

Second-highest-placed London Buses competitor:

The London Buses Shield and £500 cheque

Stephen Appiah

Go-Ahead London

Highest-placed National Express competitor:

The National Express Trophy and £1,000 cheque

Stephen Bate

National Express Bus

Second-highest-placed National Express competitor:

The National Express Shield and £500 cheque

Lee Williams

National Express Bus

Highest-placed RATP Dev competitor:

The RATP Dev Trophy and £1,000 cheque

Jason Wright

RATP Dev London

Second-highest-placed RATP Dev competitor:

The RATP Dev Shield and £500 cheque

Martin O'Connor

Bournemouth Transport

Second-highest-placed Stagecoach competitor:

The Stagecoach Shield and £500 cheque

Graeme Gilfillan

Stagecoach East Scotland

The Vice-President's Award:

Best-presented buses in use at the National Final

(a) Newly-delivered or up to one-year old:

SN17 MHO - Blackpool Transport

(b) One to five years old: **LJ16 MUV - RATP Dev London**

(c) Over five years old: **FJ08 BYU - Rossendale Transport**



● Michael Myatt



● Peter Mascall



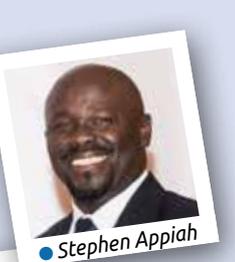
● Andrew Cawley



● Darren Kelly



● Noel Law



● Stephen Appiah



● Lee Williams



● Stephen Bate



● Martin O'Connor



● Jason Wright



● Graeme Gilfillan

Wet weekend in Blackpool



● And they're off...



● Smile at the wet passengers...



● Wet, wet, wet...



● Craig's a comedian...



● Anyone for sightseeing?



● I'm singing in the rain...



● Concentration...



● The excitement builds...