

# Middle Walk Times



A memento of UK Bus Driver of the Year 2016



● 2016 UK Bus Driver of the Year, Craig Lockyer, receives his winner's trophies.

## What a way to celebrate – Craig wins at third attempt!

**Craig Lockyer was crowned UK Bus Driver of the Year in September 2016. He sent us his story of that momentous day...**

"This is my third year in the competition, having won highest place NX (National Express) and coming 6th overall 2 years running. The pressure was on to maintain or improve on that. I only just made it to the final coming 4th in company finals, so I had a point to prove..."

"The day before the competition I was feeling anxious but after the meeting of drivers I felt more relaxed and enjoyed the gala meal with my dad and work colleagues, then had an early night.

"In the morning I took a stroll down the promenade collecting my thoughts, did a final study, then it was time for the highway paper, book on and alcohol test.

"For the driving part I drove the Blackpool Palladium bus, having a few words with my late nan Pat for guidance to take away

some of my nerves. It was a smooth drive and I felt there were no big mistakes. Once I had finished I met up with my dad, there was nothing more I could do now..."

"At the awards ceremony I knew if both the NX awards come together none of us would be in top 5 but when they didn't there was a sense of excitement (and nerves) within the NX team. Once 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd place had been announced I knew NX had won and as highest Scottish had been announced it was between me and 2 of my fellow colleagues..."

"At this point the adrenaline had kicked in and the announcement of the winner felt like it took a life time..."

"When I heard my name I jumped out my seat shouting **"YES, COME ON!"** and thumping my fist in the air. It was a surreal moment and I was in shock. To win it on the 50th anniversary was incredible. The NX team were all buzzing with me because it was a team effort - we all supported each other, which

**bus driver  
of the year**



50 years of excellence 1967-2016

**50 YEARS OF  
COMPETITION**



**2nd placed Jonathan Welch was delighted with his winnings...**

"...It's the second time I've finished in the top three from four times entered. From local and national heats I've taken away £6000 in winnings. Annoyed with myself for not coming first, but there's always this year..."

goes a long way. It felt more special because Stuart Bradley, who trained me as a bus driver, was there to witness the achievement and we had an emotional encounter. Also with my dad, who has been there for me throughout the competition, and at home my wife Donna, 4 children and family had also been a great support.

"The prize money I won this year did help to make Christmas a great one and buy a few bits for the house!"

"Back home I was in the local paper and coach magazines as well as on the NX website and in their news letters, which was great.

"The gifts this year - the commemorative glass, model bus and tie were fab. I can honestly say being a part of 'UK Bus Driver of the Year' for 3 years has been a pleasure and I've loved every part. I look forward to many more years of competing as well as defending my title this year!"

**Craig Lockyer, National Express Bus**

# You've got to be in it to win it!

**The 2016 national final of the UK Bus Driver of the Year Competition was special in many ways. It was the 50th competition (with a new commemorative logo) and the 35th to be held in Blackpool; it was a celebratory weekend with balloons, cup cakes, a unique model bus gift for the competitors; there was a considerable increase in the prize money (£20,000 in total) and table gifts for everyone - it was a family weekend!**



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

Of the 116 competitors, 10 were female, 106 male and 60 were new competitors in the national final for the first time. This was a fantastic response and there are slots for more competitors in future years. Some were well travelled to get to Blackpool, from the north as far as Macduff and Aberdeen, from the west of Scotland, Greenock. From the rest of the UK competitors came from Ipswich in the east, Dover, Brighton, Bournemouth and Dawlish in the south and Cardiff and Swansea in the west.

As 2016 was an exceptional year it is hoped that this one off newsletter will capture in words and pictures the feel of the weekend and what it meant to be a winner.

The success of the competition is down to many things and many people, including our sponsors, competitors, volunteer marshals and Council members; the national stewards, the hotel staff, Blackpool Borough Council, our scoring team,

our commentator on the start line, the companies who give the use of buses for the competition, the bus operating companies who encourage and support their drivers to enter and the industry recognised figure who kindly presents the trophies and prize money.

I know there are many competitors returning to the 2017 competition and 53 will take part for the first time, I wish you all every success. There is a new trophy and prize money to compete for in 2017 - the Highest Placed Competitor from a ROSCO Member Company.

Enjoy the competition, renew friendships, make new friends and enjoy the facilities at the hotel and in Blackpool. Good luck and good driving!

*Joe Mackie*

## 3rd placed Colin Henderson wrote from First Scotland East...

"...I received a letter from Joan Aitken (Traffic Commissioner for Scotland) with her congratulations on my success at The BDoY competition. I think this is a fantastic competition, which is extremely well organised and it was great to see the new trophies presented in this your special year..."



## First Aberdeen's 4th placed Adam Ksiazek's family had a great time...



"...It was a great experience to participate BDoY competition 2016. It was my first time in Blackpool and I really enjoyed it. I found it to be a family friendly weekend, however the competition itself was challenging! It was a great pleasure to join great gala dinner, enjoy it with my family and have opportunity to meet plenty of drivers from different depots around UK ..... I was impressed to see how many different prizes were awarded and that top five places received such great trophies and huge money prizes..."

## 5th placed Go-Ahead driver Darren Marshall was delighted to be a winner

"...The moment that the Chairman of BDoY, Joe Mackie, called my name I was absolutely amazed! I honestly couldn't believe that I had done so well in the competition. I had won the Go Ahead Trophy and had been placed fifth overall, a truly wonderful achievement. The prize money of £1,500 was absolutely fantastic..."



## Your UKBDoY Council



● **Back row l-r:** Paul Mackay, Director; Douglas Bailey, Director; Chris Heaps, Director; Keith Fieldhouse, Operations Director; Andrew Braddock, Vice Chairman; David Williams, Director; Bill Holmes, Competition Secretary; Frank Llewellyn, Director; Paul Martin, Director

● **Front row l-r:** John Winstanley, Finance Director; Bryan Constable, Vice President; Joe Mackie, Chairman; John Boxall, President; Tina Haynes, Company Secretary





# ...and the 2016 winners were...

## Overall Winner Bus Driver of the Year 2016 - Craig Lockyer (National Express Bus)

winning:  
BDoY Trophy for 1st place  
The Coventry Trophy, donated by Coventry Road Accident Prevention Council  
The Road Operators' Safety Council award and £1500 cheque  
The Unite Trophy and £1000 cheque  
The John Boxall Medallion - donated by BDoY Council  
Craig also won:  
Highest placed National Express Competitor - the National Express Trophy and £1000 cheque  
Best competitor from a depot in England - The Giles Fearnley Shield and £100 cheque  
Two night holiday break in London - sponsored by Transport for London

## Runner up - Jonathan Welch (First Aberdeen)

winning:  
BDoY Trophy for 2nd place and £1500 cheque  
Jonathan also won:  
Highest placed FirstGroup competitor - FirstGroup Trophy and £1000 cheque  
Best competitor from a depot in Scotland - Joe Mackie Shield and £100 cheque

## Third place - Colin Henderson (First Scotland East)

winning:  
BDoY Trophy for 3rd place and £1000 cheque  
Colin also won:  
Second highest FirstGroup competitor - FirstGroup Shield and £500 cheque

## Fourth place - Adam Ksiazek (First Aberdeen)

winning:  
BDoY trophy for 4th place and £750 cheque

## Fifth place - Darren Marshall (Morebus)

winning:  
BDoY Trophy for 5th place and £500 cheque  
Darren also won:  
Highest placed Go-Ahead Group competitor - The Go-Ahead Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Highest placed Stagecoach competitor - Brian Mackie (Stagecoach East Scotland)

The Stagecoach Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Highest placed RATP-Dev competitor - Neil Cousins (Bournemouth Transport)

The RATP-Dev Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Highest placed London Buses competitor - William Bradford (Stagecoach London)

The London Buses Cup and £1000 cheque

William also won:

## Second highest placed Stagecoach competitor - The Stagecoach Shield and £500 cheque

## Highest placed Arriva competitor - Mark Woodgate (Arriva Southern Counties)

The Arriva Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Highest placed competitor from an independent company - Andrew Cawley (Peoplesbus)

BDoY Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Highest placed competitor from an ALBUM member - Shaun Clark (Ipswich Buses)

The ALBUM Trophy and £1000 cheque

## Second highest placed Arriva Competitor - Martyn Smith (Arriva Southern Counties)

The Arriva Shield and £500 cheque

## Second highest placed Go-Ahead Group competitor - Steven Williams (Oxford Bus Company)

Go-Ahead Shield and £500 cheque

## Second highest placed London Buses Competitor - Stephen Appiah (Go-Ahead London)

London Buses Shield and £500 cheque

## Second highest placed National Express competitor - Stephen Bate (National Express Bus)

National Express Shield and £500 cheque

## Second highest placed RATP-Dev competitor - Georgina Fish (Bournemouth Transport)

RATP-Dev Shield and £500 cheque

## Best Theory Test result - Toby Kay (Stagecoach South West)

BDoY Trophy and £300 cheque

## Best competitor from a depot in Wales - Peter Mascall (First Cymru)

The Donald Macdonald Memorial Shield and £100 cheque



● Runner up - Jonathan Welch.

● Third place - Colin Henderson.

● Fourth place - Adam Ksiazek.

● Fifth place - Darren Marshall.



# 50 years of bus driving excellence *Celebrated*



● Precision driving...



● Joe welcomes the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool...



● Good company...



● In theory we've finished...



● The gifts this year were fab...



● Special presentation to President John Boxall...



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