



bus driver
of the year 

championing excellence since 1967

Michael stars at first attempt



Bus Driver of the Year - Overall Winner 2022 Michael Clive Evans celebrates with his wife Michelle.

Following a wet and windy weekend to that point it was a great relief to the BDoY team when Sunday dawned clear and dry, good conditions for both marshals and competitors. One in particular was waking up to his first day of competition in the finals, full of anticipation and excitement, wondering what the outcome would be.

Michael Evans, from Stagecoach South Wales, was keen to get going, as he told Middle Walk Times...

"As a first-time competitor at BDoY, I didn't really know what to expect, but what an experience it has been. The atmosphere around the hotel was electric all weekend with a buzz of excitement from the gathering of like-minded people, sharing tales from behind the wheel and life in the bus lane.

"On Sunday morning I had one of the later starting times so took the opportunity to ride the route on one of the buses, just to see what was involved. It looked straightforward but the big question was how was I going to tackle it? When my start time arrived, I just used my best judgment and hoped for the best, assuming that everyone else would have done the same and that a veteran of the competition would walk

"I often joke with my grandchildren that I am the best bus driver..."

away with the top prize. I enjoyed the experience, which seemed to go quite well.

"At the end of an exciting day, when I entered the presentation room mine was the last name I expected to be announced but as the awards were counted down, I noticed that the prizes for the top finisher from a depot in Wales and the top finisher from a Stagecoach depot had yet to be given and it occurred to me that I was the only driver who fell into both categories. At this point I began to shake with excitement but refused to believe it until my name was called. That was an amazing moment!

"I was delighted to receive the trophies and prize money, but the highlight of the day was being congratulated by my fellow bus drivers from bus companies from all over the country, drivers who were strangers to me but they

congratulated me none the less. Thank you to them all.

"I often joke with my grandchildren that I am the best bus driver, so it was great to see their faces when they saw my trophies!

"When I got back to work at Stagecoach South Wales, I expected to receive a friendly ribbing but the positive comments from both colleagues and passengers has been overwhelming and I am very grateful.

"Thank you BDoY, especially the organisers and marshals, it was a great event and I hope to be able to defend my title in 2023!"

Congratulations to Michael and all the award winners in the 2022 Bus Driver of the Year competition!

Welcome back!

Runner up - 2nd overall: Anthony Quinn, Stagecoach West

"BDoY is my highlight of the year – not only the competition but a chance to catch up with old and new friends from all over the UK. In 2018 I came 2nd overall and Best Competitor from a depot in England and in 2022 achieved both again! I am as proud as punch and can't wait for the 2023 competition! Thank you to everyone involved."



3rd overall: Ian Field, Stagecoach East Scotland

"It was great to be at the finals in Blackpool again, ready to test our skills. Amongst some tough competition, and with only single figure points between the top winners, to hear your name called out for a prize is just the best. Very happy and proud to take 3rd place overall and best competitor from a depot in Scotland. The BDoY team once again provided a great event, thank you!"



4th overall: Michael Leech, First West Yorkshire

"There was no better way to be welcomed back to BDoY after a covid hiatus than a nice 4th place overall / Best in FirstBus victory! The prize money has gone towards some planned home improvements, and I will definitely be trying for more in 2023!"



Who would have thought when we left Blackpool in September 2019 that it would be three years before we staged the next BDoY Competition thanks to the then unheard of Coronavirus COVID-19.

The ensuing global pandemic had, and continues to have, a massive effect on the bus industry. However, the industry and its employees rose to the challenges by continuing to provide bus services in extremely difficult times. It is the same drivers, colleagues, families and industry sponsors who support the BDoY National Final and as organisers we are all proud of your actions then and grateful for your continued support of this event.

A guest this year was Jonathan Welch, winner of BDoY in 2014. Jonathan is now Deputy Editor of Coach and Bus Week which is one of the competition's sponsors and provided complimentary copies of their magazine. It just shows where your career can go after winning BDoY! The 15th February 2022 issue of CBW carried an excellent 5-page feature about the competition, its history and its values, supporting the launch of the call for entries. This resulted in our having 89 of the best bus drivers from around the UK competing for the ultimate driver's accolade - an increase from 2019 and providing an excellent event with very close fought battles for all the titles.

The driving standards displayed again this year clearly demonstrate both the professionalism of our industry overall and the value of having a competition which focuses on the expertise required to safely convey our customers to their destinations in the busy environment of today's road traffic. Every competitor and each of their companies are to be congratulated for these standards.

The change of hotel for 2022 also proved a great success and on behalf of everybody who attended I extend our very grateful thanks to Manager Alison Gilmore and the staff of The Imperial Hotel, we will be back next year!



● Guest of Honour was the Worshipful the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Kathryn Benson, pictured at the gala dinner between BDoY Chairman Joe Mackie OBE, her sister the Mayoress Mrs Theresa Clark and in the foreground BDoY Director Chris Heaps, former Traffic Commissioner.



● BDoY National Stewards (l) James Powell (rear) Mike Grant and (r) Alan Fisher.

I must give a huge "thank you" to my fellow directors and Amanda Thompson for the outstanding work they have all done pulling the competition together and for the wonderful team of marshals who made it all happen on the day. Without you all there wouldn't be an event and the last two years have proven how much we would all miss it!

Plans are already well underway for the 55th BDoY final and we look forward to your company once again over the weekend of 2nd / 3rd September 2023 in The Imperial Hotel, Blackpool.

Until then, Safe Driving!

Joe Mackie OBE, Chairman, UK Bus Driver of the Year Association

...and a fond farewell!

2022 was another final too, as we bade a fond farewell to BDoY stalwart Bryan Constable. A devout supporter of BDoY for over 35 years, and its Vice President for a decade, Bryan announced his retirement from the Association after the 2022 National Final competition.

Bryan has driven buses and coaches since the late 1960s and, for a time, was one of London

Transport's in-house 'train truckers', moving preserved underground carriages by road when necessary. Sadly, he lost his professional driving entitlement a few years ago due to deteriorating eyesight.

Over the years Bryan has been accompanied at the

competitions by his wife Margaret who also played an active part in delivering the competition. Joe Mackie, who succeeded Bryan as Chairman, said: "We are very grateful for all the input to BDoY by Bryan and Margaret over many years and wish them both all the best for the future."



● Bryan Constable.

And the 2022 winners were...



● Michael Evans receives his awards from Tom Cunnington, Head of Buses Business Development for Transport for London.

Bus Driver of the Year 2022: Michael Evans Stagecoach South Wales

- **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 a Stagecoach company:**
The Stagecoach Trophy and £1,000 cheque
- **Best competitor from a depot in Wales:** The Donald McDonald Shield and £100 cheque
- **Highest-placed competitor from a company in membership of the Road Operators' Safety Council:**
The ROSCO Trophy and £500 cheque
- *The winner also receives a mini-holiday in London, donated by TfL, which will include visits to the capital's Surface Transport Control Centre and other places of interest.*

Winning a total of £4,600

Runner-up: Anthony Quinn - Stagecoach West

- **BDoY Trophy** and cheque for £1,500
- **Second-highest-placed competitor from a Stagecoach company:**
The Stagecoach Shield and £500 cheque.
- **Best competitor from a depot in England:** The Giles Fearnley Shield and £100 cheque.
- **Winning a total of £2,100**

Third Place: Ian Field - Stagecoach East Scotland

- **BDoY Trophy** and £1,000 cheque
- **Best Competitor from a depot in Scotland:** Joe Mackie Shield and £100
- **Winning a total of £1,100**

Fourth Place: Michael Leech - First West Yorkshire

- **BDoY Trophy** and £750 cheque
- **Highest-placed competitor from a FirstBus company:** The FirstGroup Trophy and £1,000 cheque
- **Winning a total of £1,750**

Fifth Place: Brian Mackie - Stagecoach East Scotland

- **BDoY Trophy** and £500 cheque
- **Best Theory test result**
BDOY glass trophy and £300
- **Winning a total of £800**

Highest-placed RATP Dev competitor: Kastriot Lika - RATP Dev transit London

- **The RATP Dev Trophy** and £1,000 cheque

Highest-placed National Express competitor: Chris Neal - West Midlands Travel

- **The National Express Trophy** and £1,000 cheque

Highest-placed competitor from a Go-Ahead company: Kyly Summerfield - Plymouth City Bus

- **Go-Ahead Trophy** and £1,000 cheque

Highest-placed competitor from an independent company: Andrew Cawley - Peoples Bus

- **BDoY Trophy** and £1,000 cheque

Highest-placed competitor from an ALBUM company: Kevin Chalmers - Lothian Buses

- **BDoY Trophy** and £1,000 cheque

Second-highest-placed RATP Dev competitor: Nimish Jamnadas - RATP Dev transit London

- **The RATP Dev Shield** and £500 cheque

Second-highest-placed National Express competitor: Lee Grantham - West Midlands Travel

- **The National Express Trophy** and £500 cheque

Second-highest-placed Go-Ahead Group competitor: Stephen Appiah - Go-Ahead London

- **The Go-Ahead Shield** and £500 cheque

Second-highest-placed competitor from a First Bus company: Paul Leppington - First West Yorkshire

- **The FirstGroup Shield** and £500 cheque

The Vice-President's Award:

Best-presented buses in use at the National Final

(a) Newly-delivered or up to one-year old:
SK72 CVL Arriva Northumbria
ML22 XLA First West Yorkshire

(b) One to five years old:
YT21 DNC Stagecoach Cheltenham and Gloucester
SJ21 MYB Lothian Buses

(c) Over five years old:
SN65 CGX First Potteries
BV17 CTO Stagecoach Cumberland

- All will receive commemorative plaques



Blackpool 2022



• ...The Imperial was First class!



• ...It could only be Blackpool...



• ...Everyone's a winner!



• ...Concentration - hanging on every word...



• ...Millimetre perfect is needed to win!



• ...Stunning from Stenning once again! The Poppy bus was a star.



• ...Sunshine brings out the observers.



• ...Competition amongst peers!



• ...Yesterday and today. Tomorrow??