



IRTE Bus & Coach Skills Challenge 2024

11 July 2024

British Motor Museum



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Thank you to the following companies for taking part in this year's IRTE Skills Challenge



First Bus



Lothian Buses



Trentbarton



Transdev Blazefield



National Express



Arriva



Go-Ahead



Greys of Ely



**RATP Dev
(London United)**



Metroline



Stagecoach West



Welcome to the IRTE Skills Challenge 2024



The IRTE Bus & Coach Skills Challenge is an important event in IRTE's calendar and is an initiative we continue to invest in since its inception over 13 years ago.

As well as bringing together the best talent in bus and coach, it's also where new ideas are made, and IRTE is extremely proud to be the facilitator of such industry-defining conversations.

Every year, we see a boost in the level of enthusiasm and drive as more managers put forward their rising stars to participate and showcase what they've learnt in their native workshops. It gives me tremendous pride to hear that many of our competitors see the IRTE Skills Challenge as a crucial element of their personal development where they can explore new challenges, put their skills to test and benchmark themselves against others.

The ongoing success of the Skills Challenge is made possible by the unwavering support of our sponsors, Alexander Dennis, VARTA by Clarios, Freeway Fleet Systems, Imperial Engineering and BYD who led the way in developing new challenges and providing apprentices and technicians with opportunities to acquire new skills for the future.

So, a huge congratulations to all the winners and runners up of the 2024 IRTE Skills Challenge. We look forward to your continued support in 2025 as we bring new and exciting challenges to push our competitors' boundaries.

Emma Thompson

Designate Executive Director, Society of Operations Engineers

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Bodywork Apprentice

Winner



Thomas Moore
National Express

Thomas is an Accident Repair Apprentice for National Express and was looking for a challenge where he could gain more skills as well as take part in a competition, something he hasn't done before.

Runner up



Ismaeel Jaffar
Metroline

Sponsor:



DVSA Inspection Apprentice

Winner



Laura Darbon
Metroline

Laura entered the Skills Challenge to test her knowledge and skills, and believes the challenge is very relevant to her personal development. She also owns a huge Star Wars Lego Collection.

Runner up



Wojciech Hernik
Lothian Buses

Supporter:



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

Electrical Apprentice

Winner



Diego Duran Cuadros
Go-Ahead

A returning competitor, Diego won the Electric Driveline Apprentice and Outstanding Apprentice Team awards in 2023. His methodical approach once again won him another award to add to his accolades.

Runner up



Neave Sproson
National Express

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 CLARIOS

Electric Driveline Apprentice

Winner



Neave Sproson
National Express

Neave is an Apprentice Engineer for National Express who entered the competition to prove herself. Neave takes home the 2024 title of Electric Driveline Apprentice proving her excellence in this discipline.

Runner up



Benjamin Bark
Metroline

Supporter:

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Mechanical Apprentice

Winner



Wojciech Hernik
Lothian Buses

Wojciech entered the competition after seeing an advertisement at his workplace. He entered as he wanted to overcome challenges and believes learning makes people more innovative and valuable in the workplace.

Runner up



Daniel McBride-Harrow
Arriva

Sponsor:



Mechelec

Winner



Dylan Mullan-Barber Trentbarton

Dylan is an Apprentice Mechelec, and a Level 3 car mechanic who's in his second year bus technician apprenticeship. Dylan entered the Skills Challenge as he wanted to try something different.

Runner up



Finlay Reed First Bus

Sponsor:



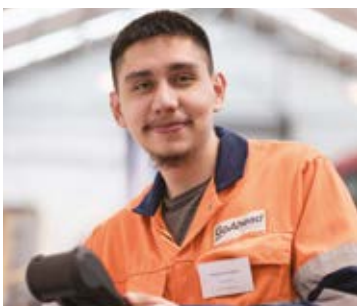
Outstanding **Apprentice Team**

Winners



Tiago Da Silva Go-Ahead

Making his return to Skills Challenge this year, Tiago once again takes home the 'Outstanding Apprentice Team' award alongside his fellow team members.



Diego Duran Cuadros Go-Ahead

Diego was the winner of two titles in 2023. He returns this year to bag two more further proving his commitment to continuous development and excellence.



Myles Harding Go-Ahead

An Engineering Apprentice, Myles has demonstrated excellent performance alongside his team members driving Go-Ahead team to victory by winning the Outstanding Apprentice Team award.

Supporter:





Proud hosts of the
IRTE Skills Challenge



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DVSA Inspection Technician

Winner



**Charles John
Burrows**
Metroline

In 2023, Charles took home the DVSA Inspection Apprentice award. This year he steps up into the 'Technician' category taking home the title. Charles applauds Skills Challenge as an opportunity to raise his profile.

Runner up



Dan Price
Stagecoach West

Supporter:



Driver & Vehicle
Standards
Agency

Bodywork Technician

Winner



Hasan Girach
First Bus

In 2023, Hasan was crowned the winner of the Bodywork Apprentice award. He has returned this year to elevate his game and take home the Bodywork Technician title.

Runner up



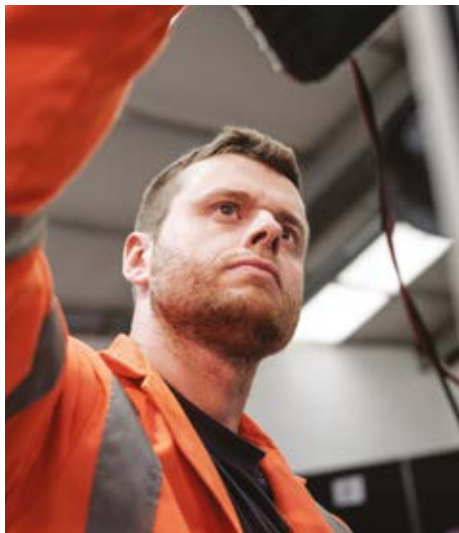
Andrew Cairns
Lothian Buses

Sponsor:



Electrical Technician

Winner



Craig Carter
Stagecoach West

An Automotive Electrician, Craig entered the Skills Challenge to showcase his skillset and for an opportunity for team building.

Runner up



Peter Blake
RATP Dev
(London United)

Sponsor:





IMPERIAL IS A PROUD SPONSOR FOR 2024

As we celebrate our 60th anniversary, Imperial Engineering is proud to continue its support of the IRTE Skills Challenge, which is an excellent platform to showcase the importance of developing skilled engineers for the future of our industry.

JOHN DWIGHT SALES DIRECTOR



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Electric Driveline Technician

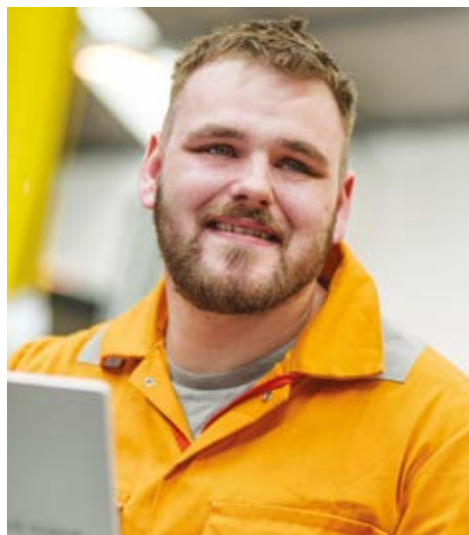
Winner



Peter Blake
RATP Dev
(London United)

Previous competitor Peter is an engineer for RATP Dev London who returned this year to retest his skills, and work in a new environment. Peter also presents a hospital radio request show.

Runner up



Liam Blyth
First Bus

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Mechanical Technician

Winner



Morgan Bond
First Bus

Runner up of the 2023 DVSA Inspection Technician category, Morgan has made a winning return in 2024 demonstrating his prowess.

Runner up



Tim Bowman
Transdev Blazefield

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Philip Margrave Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement

The Philip Margrave Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement is given to the individual who has greatly contributed to the promotion and development of apprenticeships, standards and training within the bus and coach industry. Philip Margrave MSOE MIRTE was a Group Engineering Director at Go-Ahead London and spent more than four decades in the bus industry. He was instrumental to the IRTE Skills Challenge in its early years with his knowledge and generosity.

Winner



Gerry Fleming Go-Ahead

Gerry has been a passionate supporter of the IRTE Skills Challenge for many years. As Go-Ahead's Engineering Training Manager, he has been instrumental in showcasing both new and seasoned talents, emphasising the importance of refining existing skills and continuously pursuing new knowledge. Gerry's dedication and enthusiasm serve as a true inspiration not just to the technicians and countless apprentices he has successfully led through their training, but to us all.

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IRTE

Master Technician

Winner



Andy Knowles
First Bus

Last year's runner-up and this year's winner of the Master Technician award, Andy is most proud of his consistent and professional delivery of vehicles for the public to use.

Runner up



Stephen Price
First Bus

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Judges' Choice Award

Winner



Hasan Girach First Bus

Hasan's return to Skills Challenge 2024 is a testament that learning never stops. Hasan takes home two titles this year including the coveted Judges' Choice this year for his demonstration of brilliance.

Winner



Neave Sproson National Express

Neave's performance this year has scored her a well-deserved two winner titles and a runner-up title. Neave has demonstrated exceptional talent and passion for the work she does which resonated throughout the challenge.

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Outstanding Qualified Team

Winners



Dan Price

Stagecoach West

A Shift Master Technician, Dan entered the Skills Challenge for the first time as part of a team, and takes home the Outstanding Qualified Team award along with his fellow team mates.



Craig Carter

Stagecoach West

Craig is an Automotive Electrician who entered the Skills Challenge to showcase his skillset. As a first-time attendee, he has clearly demonstrated excellence bagging the 'Electrician Technician' award too.



Adam Wiggett

Stagecoach West

Adam is a Master Coachbuilder who has entered the competition for the first time along with his team mates. Together, they demonstrated excellent team-working skills and takes home this prestigious award.

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IRTE Workshop accreditation

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- Commercial advantage
- Independent assurance
- Raising standards

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Congratulations to all our winners and runners up

For more information on the **IRTE Skills Challenge**, and to take part in or sponsor the 2025 edition, please call us on **+44 (0)20 7630 2174** or email us on **IRTESkills@SOE.org.uk**

See you next year!

irteskills.org.uk