

SVQ

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the March 2006 edition of the SVQ Update. The Update is divided into two distinct sections. Firstly, we have the SVQ News Update, which contains articles providing insight into the latest news and developments pertaining to vocational qualifications and training, including Modern Apprenticeships. Secondly, we have the SVQ Info Update, which details coding and information directly relating to currently available SVQs and Core Skills. This section also includes contact information for awarding bodies, standards-setting bodies and sector skills Councils, and also contains general SVQ system and stakeholder information.

If you have any questions or comments you would like to make about the style or content of the new edition of the Update, please e-mail them to: paul.griffiths@sqa.org.uk

NEWS UPDATE

MARCH 2006

In this bulletin:

- Female farrier nails top spot at Lantra land-based awards ceremony
- Council for Administration appoint new chair
- Free GOA Health and Safety e-test
- Modern Apprenticeship updates
- MA Bulletin
- MASCOT database



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Female farrier nails top spot at Lantra land-based awards ceremony



The achievements of Scotland's land-based learners were recognised at the third annual Lantra Land-based Learner of the Year Awards.

Apprentice farrier, Sarah Mary Brown from Giffnock, was the overall winner. The Peter Alexander Perpetual Trophy and £800 in prize money were presented to her by last year's winner, Colin Inglis. She was also awarded the prize for the Scottish Enterprise Area.

The awards dinner organised by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector, was held at the Huntingtower Hotel in Perthshire. It was well supported by sponsorship from local businesses, government bodies and training and education providers.

Lantra Chairman, Gordon McGlone, said: 'The number of nominations has increased three-fold on last year's competition. This increase is a testament to the growing numbers of successful land-based learners. This is wonderful news for us all.'

Sarah Mary, who is in her penultimate year of a four-year Advanced Modern Apprenticeship at Oatridge College, is looking forward to becoming fully qualified and using her talent and expertise. She hopes it will be her passport to working abroad in North America where she will further develop her skills. Eventually she plans to return to Scotland to start her own business.

David James, Principal of Oatridge College who nominated Sarah Mary for the award, said: 'Sarah Mary is demonstrating that skill is far more important than brute strength in this ancient craft. Her example will help the Farriery Training Service to address the chronic gender imbalance in the industry.'

Full list of winners:

Overall Winner Land-based Learner of the Year	Sarah Mary Brown, MA in Training (Farriery), Oatridge College
Overall runner-up Land-based Learner of the Year	John Geddes, MA in Training Service Engineering (Forestry), Barony College
Highlands and Islands Area Regional Winner	Emma Douglas, MA in Equine, Rural Training
Scottish Enterprise Area Regional Winner	Sarah Mary Brown, MA in Training (Farriery), Oatridge College
Modern Apprentice of the Year	Andy O'Hara, MA in Greenkeeping, Elmwood

This was not the first time Sarah Mary's talents have been recognised; last year she enjoyed great success in the prestigious Horseshoeing Competition at the Royal Highland Show. She has also achieved an unprecedented 100% for her third year exam results.

Sarah Mary is an example of the high calibre of this year's entrants which included students from agriculture, landscaping, equine, aquaculture, greenkeeping, land-based engineering and other industries. The awards included five categories and each of the 12 finalists received a medal, certificate and prize of £100 for outstanding achievement.

Award sponsor Peter Alexander of Algo said: 'In my opinion, young people who enter the land-based industries are worthy of all of the praise and encouragement they can get. They are the people we give responsibility to in our businesses'.

Chairman of the judges panel, Jim Webster, who worked in the agriculture industry for over 50 years, is a strong believer in vocational learning: 'You cannot beat this method of vocational learning backed up by formal college training. Not only do candidates learn, but their employers benefit from well trained members of staff'.

Speaking on behalf of the judges panel, he added: 'The standard overall was extremely high and choosing the overall winners from our 12 finalists was very hard work indeed. Every candidate displayed great enthusiasm and a positive, hard-working attitude. We are all looking forward to continuing the success of this very worthwhile event'.



For further information and photographs of the event, please see: www.lantra.co.uk/scotland or contact Lantra's Scotland office on 01738 553311.

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Other finalists:

- Andrew Bell, SVQ Level 2 Gamekeeping, North Highland College
 - David Boland, Horticulture, SVQ Level 2, Oatridge College
 - Scott Corrigan, Greenkeeping, MA in Training (Greenkeeping) South Ayrshire Council
 - Barry Dolan, MA in Horticulture, Dundee City Council
 - Steven Hawkins, MA in Training (Amenity Horticulture) Train Shetland
 - Hamish Howie, SVQ Level 2 in Mixed Farming, Borders College,
 - Kevin McIntosh, SVQ Level 2 in Aquaculture, Barony College
 - Stuart Whyte, MA in Service Engineering (Agriculture), Elmwood
- Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector, is an employer-led organisation, representing the interests of over 360,000 businesses and 1.5 million workers in the environmental and land-based industries in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Council for Administration Appoint New Chair

Jenny Hewell, Chief Executive of the Council for Administration (CfA) today announced the appointment of Trevor Hodson. Trevor takes over from Alasdair MacLaughlin as the new Chair.



Trevor Hodson

Welcoming the appointment, Jenny Hewell said:

'The CfA is delighted to be working with Trevor as its new Chair. Trevor has made a solid contribution to the charity. His vision for the future supports the strategic development of Business & Administration skills at work and in all education and training sectors.'

Trevor has long been associated with the CfA board, originally joining as a director in 1999. His extensive experience has successfully helped the CfA to develop its strategy as the national standard setting body for Business & Administration skills.

On his appointment, Trevor commented:

'Administration is a fundamental work skill. It is essential that its value and contribution to the world of work, is recognised. Without administration, very little would be achieved in business. I look forward to continuing the successful momentum that has been achieved at the CfA over the last few years and to making us an even stronger and effective voice within the Business & Administration sector'.

With over 30 years experience in retail banking, Trevor currently holds an executive role within the Lloyds TSB Group. His extensive knowledge of corporate governance and financial acumen has been a key factor in the CfA's expansion and success.

Note:

1. CfA is the UK body for Vocational Education in Business & Administration; designing standards, endorsing qualifications, designing apprenticeship frameworks, developing skills and conducting research and consultancy. For further information regarding the CfA or the Business & Administration sector please contact Tracie Tod on: tracie.tod@cfa.uk.com or 020 7091 9625 or visit: www.cfa.uk.com.

Free GQA Health and Safety e-test

As part of the Glass Qualification Authorities continuous improvement and development activities, they have developed a Health and Safety e-test that can be accessed free of charge via their Approved Centres. The e-test is offered as either direct testing from the website, or can be available as a CD-ROM version which enables the learner to carry out the test directly from a computer not connected to the internet. However, to maintain standards required for fairness and accountability, there are some conditions applied to this format.

GQA have long recognised the need to make their qualifications available to their Centres in a wide variety of formats to meet all the educational and vocational requirements the Centres are likely to encounter. A combination of e-learning and online testing has been developed that will enhance the learning experience and enable candidates to interact with the process.

Modern Apprenticeship updates

Keeping up-to-date with developments in Modern Apprenticeships can be difficult. Framework documents — which explain how each apprenticeship works and the mandatory and optional outcomes that apply — are constantly being revised to meet employer demands, and new policy initiatives from the Scottish Executive and the enterprise networks also contribute to an ever-changing landscape. However, two sources of information are available: the MA Bulletin and MASCOT database.

MASCOT database

The MASCOT database gives details of the content of all Modern Apprenticeship Frameworks available in Scotland. The database is updated weekly, and is very easy to access, with several different search options. MASCOT is at: www.mascot.uk.com

MA Bulletin

MA Bulletin is a 12-page glossy magazine with all the latest news and information about Scottish Modern Apprenticeships. It also gives a complete listing of all the different types of apprenticeship available as well as highlighting examples of good practice. It is published by Sector Skills Alliance Scotland and sponsored by Highlands & Islands Enterprise. The magazine is available — free of charge — to any organisation or individual with an interest in Scottish Modern Apprenticeships. If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive future issues, please contact Stuart McKenna at SSAScot by e-mail at: stuart.mckenna@ssascot.org.uk



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