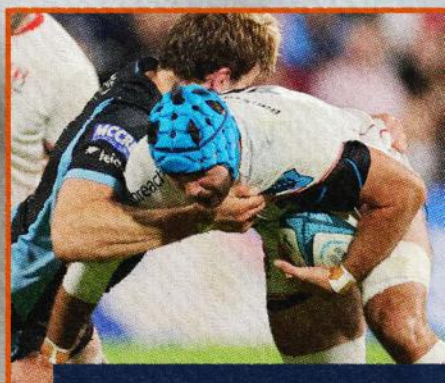


Celebrating 30 YEARS of the Guardian Warm Roof

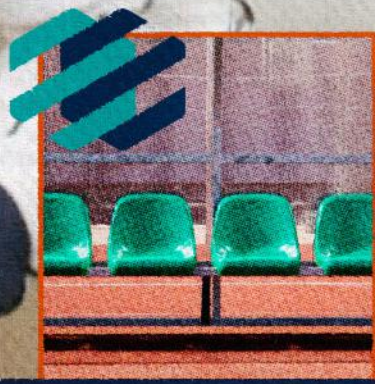
# GUARDIAN NEWSLETTER

## Defender to Director Darcy's journey to Guardian success



### TACKLING THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Mick Kearney's Rugby career



### A VIEW FROM THE SIDELINES

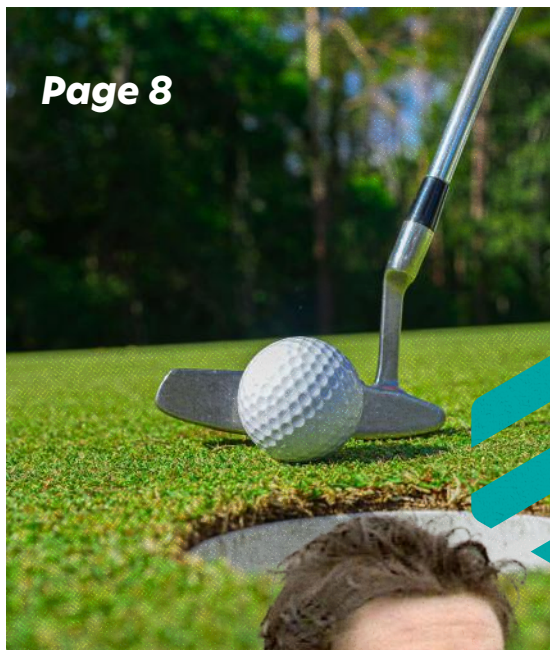
The future of the home improvement game



INTERVIEWS, INSIGHTS AND MORE INSIDE!



# Summer 2025



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**2025 marks 30 years of the Guardian Warm Roof.**

To honour this special occasion, we're taking you back to the '90s with this special edition newsletter - packed with exclusive interviews, behind-the-scenes stories, and a closer look at the sporting spirit that shapes Guardian's culture.

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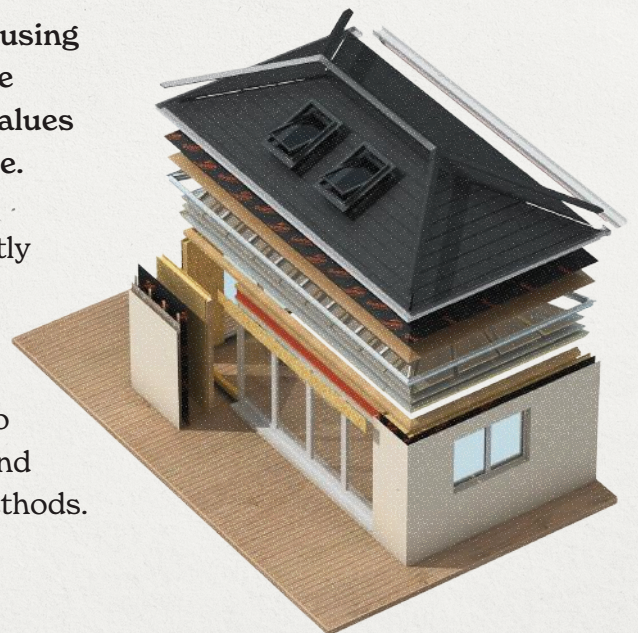
# The Revolutionary Home Extension System



Guardian provides a spacious, open-plan home extension using cutting-edge construction techniques. The Guardian Home Extension is comfortable and warm, achieving superb U-values making it the most energy-saving home extension available.

The Guardian Home Extension is factory-built for consistently high quality and offers huge time-saving and performance advantages over conventional construction.

All components are pre-assembled, factory-engineered with high performance insulation. This approach offers up to 60% faster on-site construction and reduces overall waste and disruption normally experienced with conventional build methods.



To find out more about becoming a certified installer visit our website or scan the QR code.



# From Hotspurs



*When Guardian was first starting out, there was a young Irish footballer gaining recognition - Ross Darcy.*

*From Balbriggan, the tough-tackling Irish defender joined Spurs in '94 after turning heads at the Milk Cup. A strong player in the 1996 FA Youth Cup final, Darcy also starred for Ireland U21s. After brief stints at Barnet, Dover Athletic, Darcy swapped boots for boardrooms, joining Celuplast in 2003 and later becoming Director at Guardian Building Systems. We caught up with Ross to hear his journey.*

## **WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO START PLAYING FOOTBALL?**

My father got me into it, actually. He played football at a decent level himself. He loved football and it was constantly on the TV growing up, so I was around it from a really young age. It was just always part of life.

## **AND WHEN WAS IT YOU DECIDED TO START PLAYING PROFESSIONALLY?**

I didn't actually realise I was going to play professionally until I went to a tournament in Northern Ireland called the Milk Cup. I was playing for a team in Dublin called Stella Maris, but there were teams there

like Manchester United and Celtic. We ended up winning the tournament - we beat Manchester United in the semi-final. About two weeks later, I got a phone call to the house asking if I'd go on trial at Manchester United. I was 13 at the time.

A couple of weeks after that, I went on trial at Tottenham. I had a few other teams lined up, but when I got back, both Manchester United and Tottenham made an approach to sign me, and I had to make a decision. I chose Tottenham. To be fair to my parents, they left it all to me. They wanted me to do what made me happy - even though my dad was a big United fan.

## **WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE SPURS OVER UNITED?**

Tottenham originally put me up with a lovely



**An interview with  
Ross Darcy,  
Director of Guardian  
Building Systems.**

# to Warm Roofs

landlady, and I said I'd sign if I could stay with her. I ended up living with her for seven years. I was still in touch with her up until last year when she sadly passed away. Even my kids call her 'Nanna'.

**WHAT WAS THAT EXPERIENCE LIKE AS A TEENAGER?**

The first time I was ever even on a plane was going over for those trials. I was terrified! I didn't officially move over until I was 15, but that's when I signed a four-year contract.

I started in the Under-18s Youth Team. In my first year, we made it to the FA Youth Cup Final. We lost to Manchester United on

weeks later, I was about to sign a five-year contract when I injured my knee. That was the end, really.

I was out for twelve months. When I came back, I tried training again, but it just wasn't the same. The knee kept breaking down. The surgeon had said from the first operation that it didn't look good, and I had done a fair bit of damage. That injury finished my career.

**WAS IT HARD STEPPING AWAY FROM FOOTBALL?**

Yeah, when I came home to Dublin after nine years in London, it was really tough. I didn't know what to do. I hadn't been to school and

a young age meant I had to grow up fast. Football gave me structure and discipline, and it really shaped the way I approach things. It taught me how to work within a team, how to push myself, and how to stay focused. That stuck with me long after I stopped playing.

I've always had a strong work ethic, and I still do – I put that down to what was instilled in me through football from the very beginning. That drive to succeed, to win, has always been there. Maybe a bit too much sometimes – I really hate losing! I was captain for most of the teams I played for, from youth squads to the reserves, and the Irish underage sides. I like to think that's where I developed my leadership skills. It's something I've carried with me ever since.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG PEOPLE TRYING TO MAKE IT IN FOOTBALL?**

Keep up your education. That's something I didn't have, and it's something I think is really important. Academies now usually run education schemes alongside football, which is great. Only one out of every forty kids who starts the journey will actually make it, so you need something to fall back on.

But don't forget to have fun. Enjoy the camaraderie, the dressing room banter – all the good stuff that comes with the game.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO PLAYERS FACING EARLY RETIREMENT OR INJURY, LIKE YOU DID?**

After-care is absolutely vital. In football, there still isn't enough support in place for players when their careers suddenly end. It's a massive shift – like leaving the army. You go from having structure, routine, being told what to eat, when to train, how to live, and then suddenly it's all gone.

Coming back to normal life was tough. I struggled with it myself. You need the right people around you, and it would have made a huge difference to have someone to talk to at that time. You get so close to your dream, and when it's taken away, it hits hard. I've seen lads go down the wrong path because they didn't know how to handle it.

I'd like to think clubs are better prepared for that now, that there's someone in place to guide players through that transition. Even something simple – counselling, or a structured course to help you find your feet again – would go a long way.

*From signing with Tottenham Hotspurs at just 13, to rebuilding his career after injury, Ross Darcy has had one hell of a journey. No frills or shortcuts, just hard graft and passion.*

## “I had to make a decision”

penalties – that was their revenge! The game was live on Sky Sports, so at 16, it was an amazing experience. The year after, I won Young Player of the Year at Spurs, which was another proud moment.

**WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE GAME?**

Probably just before I did my knee in. I was brought on a pre-season tournament and got to play with some big names like John Scales, Sol Campbell, and David Ginola. I played two or three games with them. Two

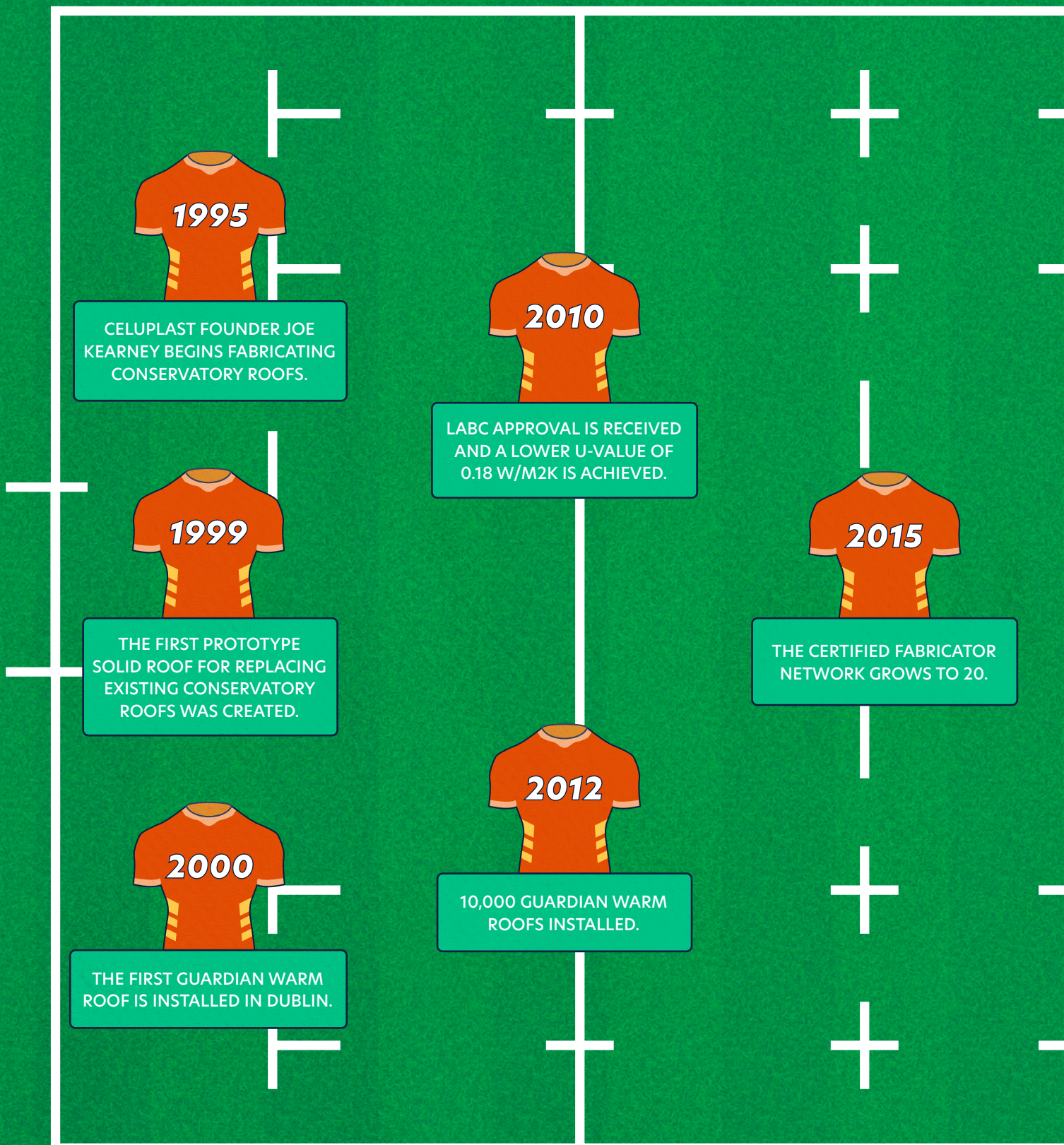
had no qualifications behind me. I hung around for about six months not knowing what to do with myself. Then my dad said I needed to get work.

He knew a guy who worked at Celuplast and asked if there was a job going. I started off loading trucks, then moved to the trade counter, then into sales. And now, 22 years later, here I am as a Director.

**WHAT LESSONS FROM FOOTBALL HAVE STUCK WITH YOU IN YOUR WORK NOW?**

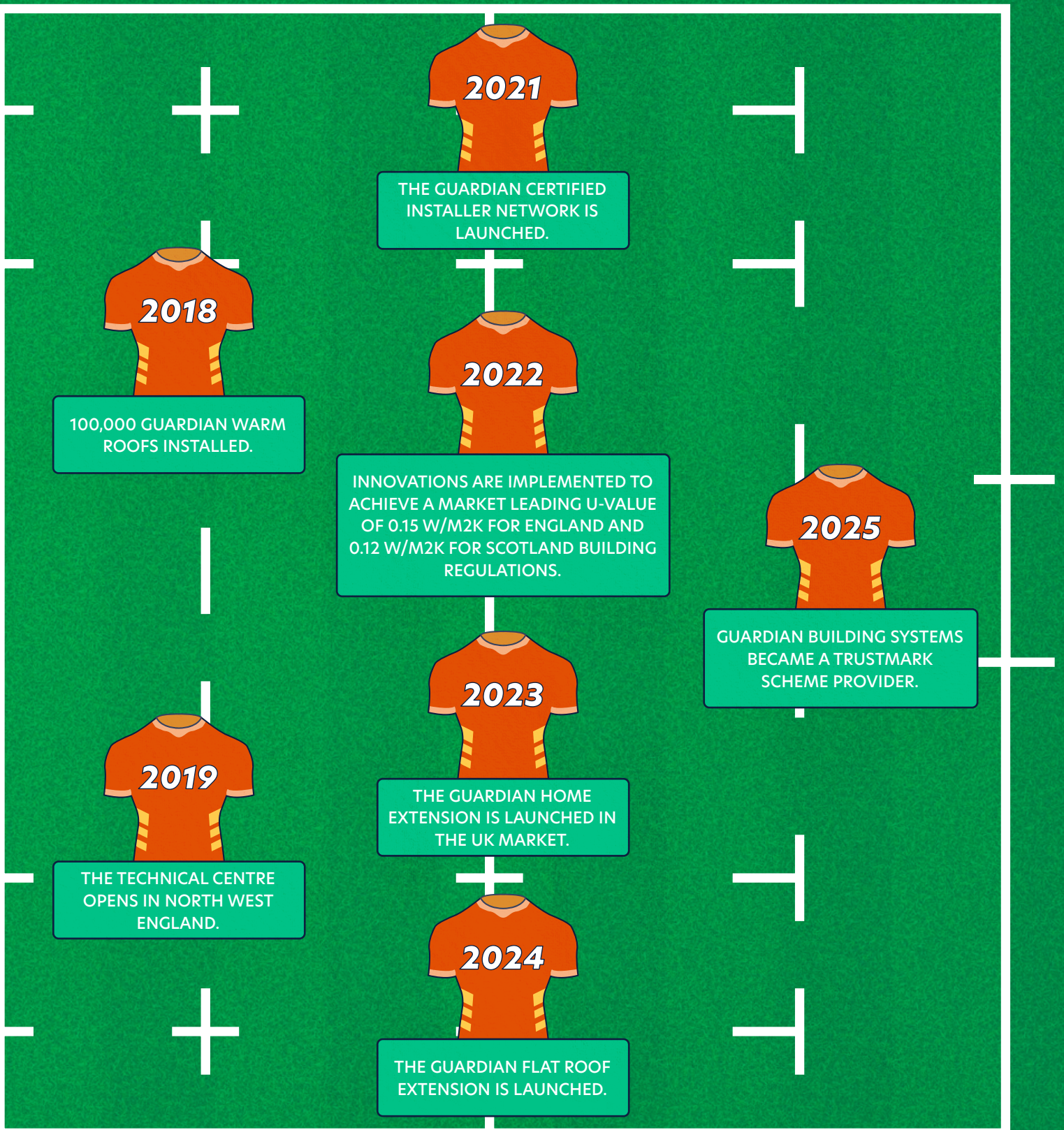
Living on my own from such

# Built to Last: 30 years of Guardian

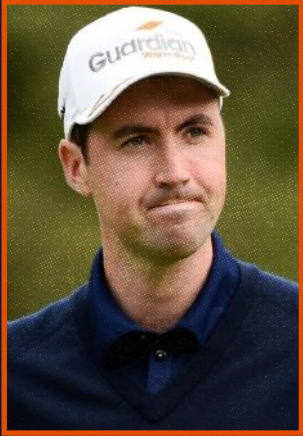


*In '95, Guardian hit the ground running with one mission: to help people get the absolute most from their homes. Three decades on, they've become a key player in energy efficiency, performance, and rock-solid reliability.*

*With a great team of pros and a growing network of installers, Guardian's rise has been packed with milestones that go beyond product innovation, this is about loyalty, trust, and serious graft!*



# Backed by Guardian



**Son of Guardian Building Products and Celuplast MD Joe Kearney, Niall Kearney has become one of Ireland's most consistent and respected professional golfers.**

*A standout in the 2009 Walker Cup, Kearney's transition to pro ranks has been marked by three Irish PGA Championship titles and a defining moment in the 2015 PGA Cup, where he holed an eight-footer in the final singles match to win the first victory on American soil for GB and Ireland. Now sponsored by Guardian, Kearney is in his second year on the Tournament Assistant path to PGA Membership, while still smashing it from tee to green.*

## **WHAT FIRST SPARKED YOUR LOVE OF GOLF, AND WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU WANTED TO MAKE IT YOUR CAREER?**

I was bitten by the golf bug from an early age. I started caddying for my dad and uncle - both keen golfers - when I was about eight. I absolutely loved it and got the thrill of hitting a few balls while I was out with them. By age 12, I'd joined a golf club here in Dublin and got my first handicap of 24. I was hooked from that point on, spending all my spare time practicing and playing.

I managed to get down to a scratch handicap by 15 and started completing in national tournaments around Ireland. At that stage, I knew I wanted nothing more than to play for Ireland and eventually turn professional. My international career began at 15 and peaked when I was selected for the GB&I Walker Cup Team in 2009, at age 21 - a huge honour and

never won the PGA Cup on American soil. I was sent out in one of the last singles matches on the final day, and as the round progressed, it became clear my match was going to be the decider. I managed a miracle up-and-down on the 18th hole to clinch the victory and seal the team win. It was an unbelievable buzz to make history with such a great group of lads - and let's just say the celebrations lasted long after we left the 18th green!

## **WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED IN YOUR CAREER SO FAR?**

The early part of my professional career was tough because I was essentially flying solo. At the international amateur level, you travel as part of a team, with everything laid on for you. Suddenly though, you're on your own - booking travel, organising everything, all while trying

**“my match was going to be the decider”**

really the pinnacle of amateur golf. After that, it felt like the right time to turn professional and enter the paid ranks.

## **IN 2015, YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE FIRST GB AND IRELAND WIN IN THE PGA CUP IN AMERICA. HOW DID THAT FEEL?**

Being selected for the PGA Cup Team was a huge honour. Golf is such an individual sport, so anytime you get the chance to compete as part of a team with your peers is really special.

The motivation was sky-high because GB and Ireland had

to perform against stronger competition. It took a while to adjust.

These days, the biggest challenge is balancing life on tour with spending time with my fiancée and our two daughters. It's been a lot of fun, though, and has definitely given me a new perspective on things.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE JUST GETTING STARTED IN GOLF?**

Enjoy the game as much as you can, and don't be too hard on yourself. Golf is one of the

# Niall Kearney's Rise in Irish Golf



toughest sports to learn, and it takes years to reach a good level. I'd definitely recommend taking lessons from your local pro to get the fundamentals right - gripping the club and setting up properly are absolutely key.

I play quite a few pro-arms, and I always stress how much of a difference proper setup makes to your swing and your shots. Also, don't overlook

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU TO BE SPONSORED BY GUARDIAN?

I've been extremely fortunate to have Guardian as a sponsor and supporter. Playing professional golf is incredibly expensive, and without sponsors, it's simply not sustainable. The team at Guardian have been with me every step of the way, living every shot and helping me

**“They're not just a sponsor - they're genuinely part of the journey”**

the short game. That's where most amateur players lose the majority of their shots, and it's the easiest area to improve since the swing is generally shorter. Around 75% of your practice time should be spent on your short game.

## LOOKING BACK, WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE ROUND OF GOLF?

One of my best days on the course came at the 2021 Tenerife Open on the DP World Tour. My dad was on the bag, and I shot a 61 on the final day to finish 4th overall. That result earned me a spot in the following week's British Masters at The Belfry, so it was a very special moment for both of us.

pursue my goals.

They're not just a sponsor - they're genuinely part of the journey, and I feel very lucky to have such a strong, supportive brand behind me.

*From early days caddying in Dublin to making history on American soil, it's clear Kearney is a player with a true passion for the game. With strong support behind him and plenty still to aim for, the next chapter promises even more memorable moments, trophy wins, and well-earned celebrations.*

# Collect them all with Guardian Rewards

Register **10** roof installations, receive a **£1,000 Love2Shop voucher.**

Register another **5**, unlock an additional **£500 Love2Shop voucher.**

Register a further **5**, earn another **£500 Love2Shop voucher!**

*At Guardian, we believe our installers deserve to be rewarded for their outstanding performance!*

That's why we created Guardian Rewards – a loyalty scheme that gives your team the chance to earn fantastic prizes – just by registering your Guardian Warm Roof purchases!

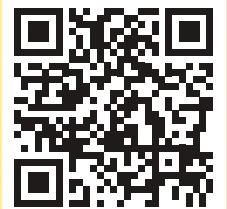
Guardian Rewards is already giving back to the dedicated installers who make our systems a success, but if you haven't joined yet, now's the perfect time to get off the bench and into the action! Simply sign up on the Guardian Rewards Portal, log each Guardian Warm Roof you purchase and install, and start unlocking rewards.

**Collect up to £2,000 in gift cards, just for doing what you do best – no swaps needed.**

Whether you've already started or are just hearing about it now, there's still plenty of time to earn big. Love2Shop vouchers can be spent at thousands of stores, restaurants, and attractions across the UK – so don't miss out!

**Sign up, log your first roof, and start playing for rewards today!**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**



## The more roofs you register, *the bigger the win!*

Full terms and conditions are available on the Guardian Rewards Portal. Roofs must be purchased from a Guardian Certified Fabricator, and invoices must be uploaded as proof of purchase.



**Wear your  
(tool)kit  
with pride**

# Guardian Brand Guidelines



## WHEN IT COMES TO BRANDING, CONSISTENCY IS KEY.

Certified Installers are a key player in the Guardian story. You bring the skills, the homeowner relationships, and the on-the-ground expertise that drive our success. With your hands full expertly installing the Guardian systems, we've stepped in to make branding the easy part.

Consistent branding builds trust. It helps us all appear confident, trustworthy, and

professional. This not only strengthens our reputation as a team but also boosts visibility and builds stronger customer loyalty. To support this, we've developed Brand Guidelines specifically for our Certified Installer Network.

These guidelines are designed to help you present a strong, clear, and consistent identity as a Guardian Certified Installer.

**Don't forget,** we can provide you with a variety of marketing assets and support. If you have any questions on these guidelines or marketing your business more generally, you can contact Danny Hill at [dannyh@guardianbuildingsystems.co.uk](mailto:dannyh@guardianbuildingsystems.co.uk).

# Are you ready to expand your business?

## Become a Guardian Certified Installer.

**CERTIFIED**

**Guardian  
Warm Roof**

**INSTALLER**

✓ Offer top quality home improvement systems - such as the Guardian Home Extension, Guardian Warm Roof and Guardian Roof Lantern.

✓ Participate in training on each system to ensure competent installations.

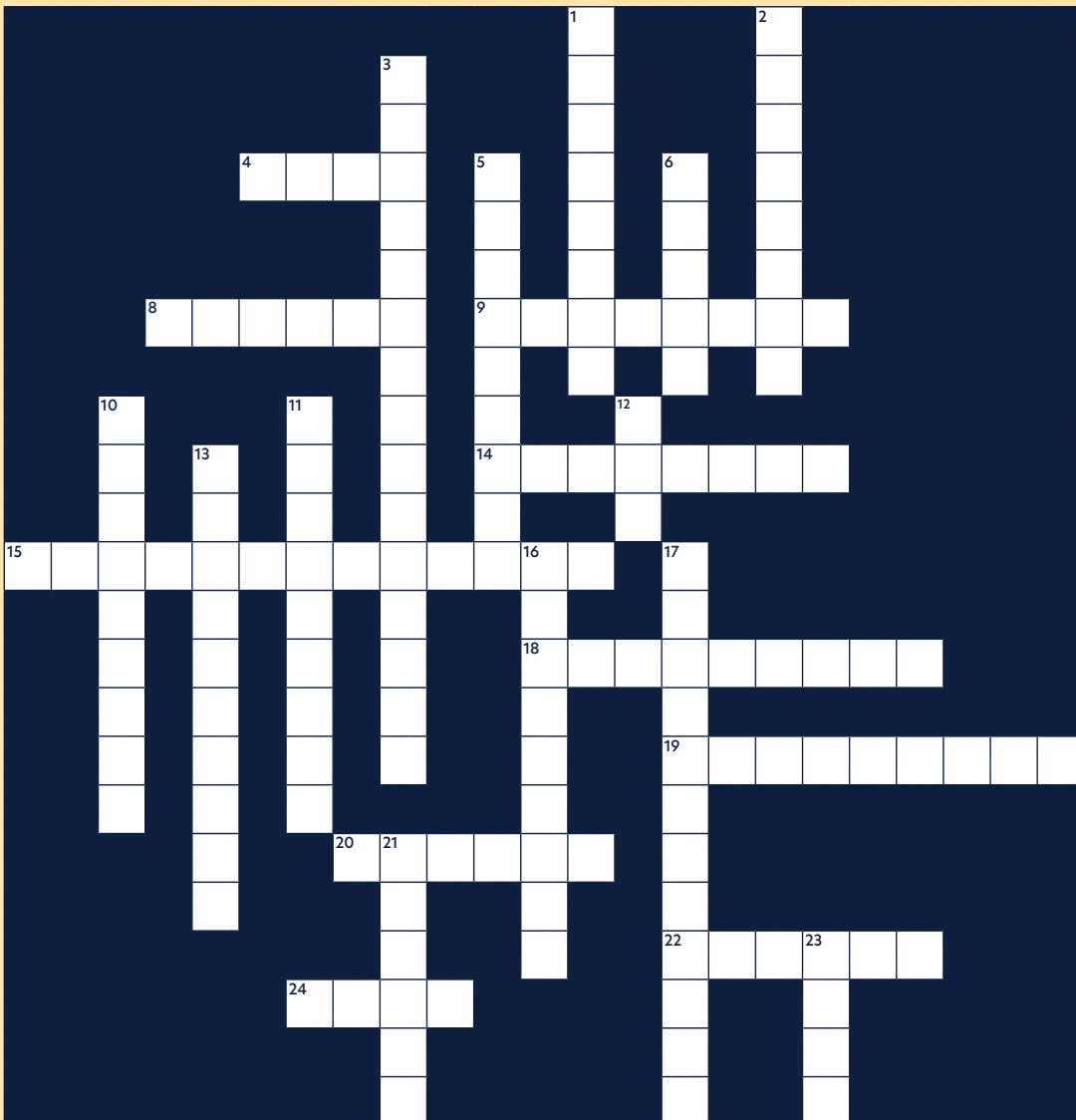
✓ Ensure quality with factory built, and third-party tested solutions delivered to your schedule.

✓ Gain access to quality homeowner leads in your area.

  
**Guardian**  
Building Systems

# The Guardian

# P U Z Z L E R



- DOWN**
- 1. Level building top with no pitch (4,4)
  - 2. Its walls built the Guardian Home Extension (4,4)
  - 3. Uses minimal power or heat (6,9)
  - 5. Exclusive partnership with VELUX (9)
  - 6. Tough team sport with tries and scrums (5)
  - 10. High-performance motorcycle built for competition (9)
  - 11. Innovative and secure technology (9)
  - 12. Organisation that independently tests Guardian systems (3)
  - 13. Guarding the net (10)
  - 16. Added part of a building or deadline (9)
  - 17. Act of setting something up or fitting it in place (12)
  - 21. Measure of heat transfer in building (6)
  - 23. You may replace this on a conservatory (4)

- ACROSS**
- 4. Running to win (4)
  - 8. Shiny, held with pride (6)
  - 9. Popular game with goals and kicks (8)
  - 14. Protector (8)
  - 15. Built in sections before assembly (3,10)
  - 18. UK quality scheme for tradespeople (9)
  - 19. Material of the Guardian Warm Roof's frame (9)
  - 20. Home to the first ever Guardian Warm Roof (6)
  - 22. Guardian is how old?! (6)
  - 24. From tee to green (4)

See back page for answers!

# Tackling the next challenge

An interview with  
**Mick Kearney,**  
Area Sales Manager for  
Guardian Distribution

*The second son of Guardian Building Products and Celuplast MD Joe Kearney, Mick Kearney built a rugby career defined by hard graft and consistency.*

*A dependable Lock, he emerged from Clontarf RFC and the Leinster youth setup before making his senior debut in 2011 during a home tie against Welsh side the Ospreys. He spent the majority of his professional years with Leinster, before a brief stint with Italian side Zebre from 2019 to 2021, eventually hanging up his boots in May 2022. Now the Area Sales Manager for Guardian Distribution, we sat down with Mick to look back on his time in the game and how this has shaped his approach to business.*

## **SO, MICK, HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO RUGBY?**

I remember going to a Six Nations game at Lansdowne Road - Ireland vs Scotland. I couldn't have been more than four or five. My dad brought me, and it was the first live rugby match I'd ever been to. I don't remember the score or much of the game; to be honest, I was completely mesmerised by the crowd and the stadium, and that experience stuck with me. After this, I started playing mini rugby. My Dad would take me to my local club, Clontarf, to play in them under 6s team.

## **AND WHEN DID YOU REALISE YOU WANTED TO PLAY PROFESSIONALLY?**

I never set out with the goal of becoming a professional - I wasn't particularly outstanding at that age. But as I got into school, I began enjoying it more and started getting

picked for underage representative sides. By the time I was 17 or 18, I started thinking seriously about giving it a proper go, like a lot of lads in that position. That's when the idea of a career in rugby became real for me.

## **WHO WERE THE BIGGEST INFLUENCES OR IDOLS FOR YOU GROWING UP?**

Definitely my parents. I think in many cases, whether in sport or business, you're a product of your environment. My mum and dad created a space where myself, my brother Niall, and my sister Jennifer could go after whatever we wanted. That kind of support made a big difference.

## **WHAT LESSONS FROM YOUR RUGBY CAREER HAVE SHAPED YOUR ROLE AT GUARDIAN?**

There are two big things that have carried over: teamwork and integrity. At Guardian, we have a





**“Don’t be afraid to imitate excellence”**



brilliant team, and that sense of camaraderie - competing with each other but towards a common goal - feels familiar to a rugby environment. In sport, you get used to being held accountable, whether by your teammates, coaches, or the fans. You say you'll do something and then go out and prove it every week. That same accountability applies in business. If I tell a customer I'll do something and don't follow through, I've let them down. I think that mindset, being honest, reliable, and driven, is something that rugby drilled into me.

**HOW DOES WORKING IN SALES RELATE TO LIFE ON THE PITCH?**

I enjoy the competitive side of things. In sales, you're constantly chasing targets - it's you versus the number.

friendly competition that motivates everyone.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING RUGBY PLAYERS?**

Be as curious as possible. Watch as much rugby as you can. There's so much more access now than when I was coming through - coaching videos, sports streaming, behind-the-scenes content, and plenty of autobiographies. Use all of it. Find a player you admire and learn how they operate, both on and off the pitch. Don't be afraid to imitate excellence, after all it's the greatest form of flattery. Yes, some people might judge you for it, but you've got to stay focused on your own journey.

**YOU RETIRED IN 2022. WAS IT THE RIGHT TIME?**

It was definitely the right time. I'd had my share of injuries over the years and was still feeling okay physically, but there were other factors. I'd spent the last few years moving around a lot, and my fiancé and I had just had a baby. There were opportunities to keep playing, but I reached a point where I felt mentally done with the professional side of the game. I was playing in Italy at the time, and when you're 32 or 33, your body takes longer to recover. What used to be a two-day recovery might stretch to a week, and before you know it you're back on the pitch for another game. I remember thinking, "I don't want to bend over to pick up the baby and end up having to sleep on the floor!" It felt like the right time to step away, and I've been at peace with that decision ever since.

*Whether on the pitch or in the office, Mick Kearney brings the same drive and integrity to everything he does. His story is a reminder that success isn't just about where you start, but how you keep showing up and achieving results day after day.*

When I say I compete with my teammates, it's not about undercutting each other; it's about collectively raising the bar. We all went to hit our goals, and there's plenty of back-and-forth banter in the office that keeps it fun. That kind of



# A view from the sidelines

## TrustMark Skills Audit and the future of the home improvement game

**The UK is facing a significant shortage of skilled tradespeople - a challenge that is impacting both the present and future of the construction industry.**

*This issue is especially pressing in the Repair, Maintenance and Improvement (RMI) sector, which is central to delivering the government's ambitions on Net Zero and energy efficiency. With around 280,000 RMI businesses employing 1.2 million people and contributing £96 billion annually in gross value added (GVA), the sustainability of this sector is essential.*

TrustMark has taken a decisive step in addressing this growing crisis by commissioning a comprehensive skills audit. Partnering with Oxford Economics and drawing input from over 1,200 micro and small businesses - who make up 90% of the RMI

core bottlenecks stalling recruitment and training: excessive bureaucracy and lack of transparency in recruitment; a shortage of high-quality training provision; and limited visibility and access to financial incentives.

As a TrustMark Scheme Provider, Guardian Building Systems supports this mission. We understand first-hand the growing difficulty of finding skilled workers, particularly as demand increases for sustainable housing upgrades and new-build projects.

It is clear the sector cannot wait - especially with the goal of retrofitting existing housing stock and building 1.5 million new homes by 2030 on the horizon. Encouragingly, the government has recognised the urgency, announcing a £600 million investment to train up to 60,000 more construction workers over the next four years.

**“Nearly half (45%) of surveyed RMI businesses reported having at least one vacancy...”**

sector - this research set out to identify the root causes of the skills gap and offer practical recommendations to close it.

To address these challenges, TrustMark laid out four pragmatic recommendations:

### **THE FINDINGS ARE STAGGERING**

Nearly half (45%) of surveyed RMI businesses reported having at least one vacancy, and without intervention, an estimated 39,000 businesses could disappear over the next decade due to retiring professionals having no succession plans.

The study identified three

1. **Develop and deliver fit-for-purpose training and curricula;**
2. **Strengthen navigation systems for businesses to find recruits;**
3. **Unlock and promote access to financial incentives; and,**
4. **Encourage and train businesses in renewable energy and clean heat technologies.**





However, as TrustMark rightly highlights, developing skilled talent takes time. Without sustained focus and collaboration across industry and government, we risk losing even more vital expertise before new talent is ready to step in.

**“the government has recognised the urgency, announcing a £600 million investment to train up to 60,000 more construction workers over the next four years.”**

TrustMark's research is a clear call to action, built on evidence and a genuine representation of the voices on the ground. For businesses, policymakers, and training providers, the message is clear: we must act now to protect the future of our sector.



**[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL REPORT](#)**



# On your Marks

## Gain TrustMark for your Guardian Warm Roof Installs

This year, Guardian became TrustMark Scheme Providers. Established in 2005, TrustMark, is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving industry standards and enhancing consumer protection.

As a TrustMark Scheme Provider for our Guardian Warm Roof, we are not only demonstrating our commitment to the scheme's standards but can now support you to become a TrustMark Approved Certified Installer.

### Here's what you get with TrustMark:

**VISIBILITY:** Get listed on the TrustMark website, making it easier for customers to find and choose your services.

**EXCLUSIVE FINANCE OPTIONS:** Your customers will have access to special finance and cash-back options.

**CUSTOMER CONFIDENCE:** TrustMark members must adhere to a strict code of practice, so customers can trust you'll be dedicated to completing jobs with quality and professionalism.

**OFFERS:** Enjoy exclusive discounts on equipment hire, materials, and insurance.

**SUPPORT:** Gain access to personalised business tools, training, and marketing support to help you expand.

**ENDORSEMENT:** As the only government-endorsed quality scheme, TrustMark's profile and relationship with the UK Government can boost your reputation and credibility.

### And we are not stopping here!

We are currently in the process of securing TrustMark approval for one of our other innovative home improvement systems – the Guardian Home Extension.

# Built for



**Meet Dave Grace, a Guardian Certified Fabricator at NewPlas Roofing Systems, and a full-throttle racer tearing it up in British Superbikes (BSB).**

*Racing in the fiercely competitive Supersport class and recently changing championship to the F900's with his team, Peter Pan Racing, Dave's known as the boy who never grows up (and occasionally flies). We caught up with Dave to see how he balances business with adrenaline, trophies, and the unbeatable buzz of race day.*



## **FOR PEOPLE WHO'VE NEVER HEARD OF BSB, HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN IT?**

British Superbikes is the main professional championship for motorbike racing in the UK - it's huge. In BSB, you've got different classes. The top one is British Superbike itself, the 1000cc bikes, like the F1 of bikes. That's what most people think of, but there's also SuperSport, Stock 1000, Stock 600, F900s, Sportsbike, and many more.

I raced in SuperSport, but I finished that last summer after a big crash. I'm still in BSB now, racing in the BMW F900 class. It's a bit more affordable and easier to manage, but still really competitive.

## **HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO RACING?**

A mate of mine was raised on bikes. Every year when the sun came out, he'd pick me up, I'd hop on the back, and I absolutely loved it. So,

after a while, I bought a bike, booked

my test, and did some track days. A few of my mates were already racing and they said I was pretty good - they thought I had a natural ability.

By the end of that year, I'd got my race license and did a wild card race in GP1 in a Thundersport round. My bike broke down, but I was doing alright until an electrical fault stopped me. After that, one of the lads who owned Racing Lines in Derby loaned me a cheaper bike

so I could try out a support class and stay interested in the sport.

I raced it and absolutely loved it. I sold my 1000cc bike and bought myself one in this class - a CB500. Even now I don't think I'd have carried on racing if I hadn't discovered how beneficial these bikes were.

## **WHAT'S BEEN YOUR PROUDEST RACING MOMENT TO DATE?**

Definitely Brands Hatch in 2023. That year I came first in the SuperSport Cup and 11th overall. That's a big deal - getting 11th in a British SuperSport race is massive!

# speed

An interview with  
**Dave Grace,**  
Certified Fabricator at  
NewPlas Roofing Systems



## HOW DOES YOUR TIME ON THE TRACK RELATE TO YOUR BUSINESS?

I always use my time as a racer to support Guardian and push them to others wherever I can. A lot of the lads in the paddock are builders - bricklayers, joiners, and other general tradies. So, I'm always pushing Guardian and their offerings to them, to try and get them to see how it could benefit their business.

## HOW DO YOU PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY PREP FOR A RACE?

For BSB, you've got to be incredibly fit. I train at 5am every morning. No drinking, and your diet has got to be

good - you've got to stay lean for the bike weight. In terms of mental preparation, I can admit I get incredibly nervous every time. Everyone does - even the champions. But once the lights go out and you're off the line, it all goes away. The adrenaline takes over.

You also need to have serious concentration. If

You can be the fittest person out there and still lose. You need to think ahead - plan your moves a lap in advance, every second counts.

## ANY MOMENTS ON THE TRACK YOU'LL NEVER FORGET?

Yeah, one time at Brands Hatch - it was dry all day and five minutes before our race had started it began

wet tyres on and went for it.

It was chaos. Every corner you thought you were going to crash. Suspension wasn't right, tyres sliding, bikes going sideways. But we were buzzing. I was fully sideways at one point and managed to stay on it and get the throttle down. It was mental!

*From flying down wet straights at Brands Hatch to fabricating roof components with precision, Dave Grace is a man who lives life to the full. Dave's story is a testament to drive, resilience, and doing what you love.*

## **"The adrenaline takes over"**

you're tense at the start, you'll lose seconds, and that can ruin your whole race. You've got to be clever too.

chucking it down. We had no time to change to full wet settings for the wet conditions - we just got the

**CROSSWORD ANSWERS:**

**ACROSS**

- 4. Race
- 8. Trophy
- 9. Football
- 14. Guardian
- 15. Pre-fabricated
- 18. TrustMark
- 19. Aluminium
- 20. Dublin
- 22. Thirty
- 24. Golf

**DOWN**

- 1. Flat roof
- 2. Warm wall
- 3. Energy Efficient
- 5. Roof light
- 6. Rugby
- 10. Superbike
- 11. Guardlock
- 12. BRE
- 13. Goalkeeper
- 16. Extension
- 17. Installation
- 21. U-value
- 23. Roof