



Special supplement recording the celebration of quality and distinction achieved by those in the hire industry.





We love having this opportunity to celebrate the people and achievements in the hire industry each year. It is inspiring to see the passion and dedication this industry has. We're proud of the part we play in it. We'd love to partner with you to achieve your goals.

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WELCOME

Paul Gaze, HAE EHA Chief Executive Officer

The Hire Awards provide a great opportunity to recognise new product innovation from suppliers, excellence in health and safety, high-quality services from hirers and, most importantly, to celebrate the people who make it happen.

Our awards event would not be possible without the excellent staff within your organisations who unite and spend valuable time putting together the entries.

We had some amazing organisations, products, and individual finalists, as well as a talented team of judges who worked through the applications before making the painstaking decisions on the winning individuals and organisations.

Without the support of the sponsors and those who attended the presentation event, the awards could not take place, so I'm grateful to all those companies and individuals for coming together to make the 2025 Awards happen.

We had some really inspiring finalists for the individual 2025 awards who are a credit to themselves, their families and their employers.

As a sector, we are part of something larger here in the UK and Ireland and across both Europe and the wider world. We continue to work with a range of trade bodies and are members of the European Rental Association and the Global Rental Alliance.

As an association, we've spent the past year working hard to make a difference for our members.

Public Affairs Director Mark Bradshaw has continued to lobby and work with governments, agencies and law enforcement bodies,

“As an association, we've spent the past year working hard to make a difference for our members.”

Director of Certification Services Carl Bartlett and his team continue to deliver a range of accreditations such as SafeHire, SSIP and HITS, and former Chairman Neil Bravery, who has now joined the association as Commercial Director, has made sure the offer to all of our members is both relevant and valued. Earlier this year Neil and Carl also introduced our new podcast channel.

We continue to deliver a range of training programmes and qualifications with trusted partners and to actively engage with the Department of Work and Pensions to promote the sector as a career choice. We've also enhanced our relationship with CITB

Through DBS Utilities we have helped a number of members gain

more efficient energy contracts, we've appointed Approved Finance as our new commercial finance partner, and the work we have undertaken through HAE EHA Insurance Services, part of Towergate Insurance Brokers, has been transformational.

The association has worked with our member-led board to continue delivering a high-quality service.

Despite the challenges faced over the past year, a number of new businesses have sought out membership of the association. Going forward, it is essential that we all work together to continue to raise standards and deliver a high-quality service to our customers.

Remember - we really are stronger together. <<



“The Hire Awards of Excellence is a celebration of our industry at its best, and all the finalists and winners are playing their unique part in helping to move the economy forward.”

Phil Leahy, Chairman, HAE EHA



HIRE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2025

Two new award categories introduced as the industry comes together to celebrate achievements.

The Grosvenor House Hotel at Park Lane in London once again served as the venue for all those in the hire industry, along with their suppliers, partners and colleagues, to come together for a key industry event – the 2025 Hire Awards of Excellence.

The annual event hosted by Hire Association Europe and Event Hire Association (HAE EHA), celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals and hire companies whom judges felt had gone ‘above and beyond’ in their offering to clients, staff and the industry as a whole over the past year.

The awards gave a much-deserved opportunity to acknowledge those whom the judges felt had consistently stood out from the crowd since the last event in April

2024, by achieving some of the highest standards in the hire sector.

HAE EHA Chair, Phil Leahy, who has spent more than 40 years working in the hire industry, said: “The Hire Awards of Excellence is a celebration of our industry at its best, and all the finalists and winners are playing their unique part in helping to move the economy forward, supporting the building of homes, roads, cities - the very foundations of modern life. Well done to all.”

HAE EHA CEO Paul Gaze went on to add: “This was a fantastic celebration of the excellence within the hire and rental sector. We had some inspiring finalists across the business and various product and service categories. However, the individual award finalists were truly a credit to themselves, their families, and their employers.”

New categories

This year marked the first occasion that two awards were handed out for outstanding achievement. After introducing himself as the new HAE EHA Chair, Phil Leahy, who has spent more than 40 years working in the hire industry, said: it gives me great pleasure to recognise individuals who have made a lasting contribution to the hire and rental sector and this year is something quite extraordinary. For the first time, we are recognising not one, but two, individuals who have each made a significant impact in their respective fields.”

He then presented Phil Hemsworth from HSS with the Outstanding Contribution to Hire and Lord Bamford of JCB with the newly-launched Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence.

Paying tribute to the attributes of both winners, he described Phil as “a tremendous contributor to the wider hire industry” and said Lord Bamford’s leadership had led to JCB becoming “a global manufacturing powerhouse whose machines are used by nearly every hire company across the UK and Ireland”.

As Lord Bamford was in the Caribbean on the night of the awards presentation, Paul Mabey of JCB accepted his award in his place.

Another new award category was introduced for 2025 recognising Health and Safety Champions.

Chairman Paul Gaze said: “These HSEQ individuals and teams make a significant difference to your organisations but at times their contribution may be overlooked.”

Achievements and work acknowledged

Hosted by actor Alex MacQueen, the 2025 event was attended by people from the UK’s plant, tool, equipment and event hire sectors, who came together to support the finalists and learn who the ultimate winners

were, while the evening’s finalists were made up of outstanding individuals, companies and products, across 18 award categories.

Chairman Paul Gaze spoke about the Hire Association’s achievements over the past year when he took to the stage to address all those present.

He noted that 2024 had marked the 50th anniversary of the organisation, with two of the founding six committee members, Mike Dingley-Jones and Andy Griggs joining a celebratory event, of which he played a video.

Speaking about the past year’s activities, he outlined the lobbying work carried out with governments, agencies and law enforcement bodies by Director of Public Affairs Mark Bradshaw and spoke about the recently-launched Crime Portal on the HAE EHA website, which allows information to be shared and viewed in a secure area.

He went on to talk about the work carried out by Director of Certification Services Carl Bartlett and his team, who are delivering a range of accreditations such as SafeHire,SSIP and HITS.

“Carl is working with members to look at additional developments and enhancements to SafeHire. This will include reviewing opportunities to recognise additional accreditations and is in addition to the enhancements already completed to the Certification Services Integrated Management System, streamlining the desktop audit and improving the overall audit experience,” said Paul.

At last year’s awards former Chairman Neil Bravery had reflected on his three years in the role, but this year he attended in a different capacity, having become the association’s new Commercial Director in September.

“Neil has transformed the business and brought in more than 30 years’ previous experience in the hire sector leading both independent hirers and working for the nationals,” said Paul. “Neal has created a real buzz and made sure the offer to all of our members is both relevant and valued.”

Paul went on to speak about ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and the support HAE EHA members have provided to assist the people of Ukraine in their time of need.

“Hopefully, a meaningful resolution can be found to end the suffering and bring lasting peace,” he said.

A solid history

Having first been staged in London since 2008, the awards ceremony had to be held virtually in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid-19 outbreak but returned to a successful in-person format in 2022 and has continued to grow in popularity since then.

The Hire Awards of Excellence event is an award-winner itself, having previously been awarded ‘Best Longstanding Event By An Association’ gong at the Association Excellence Awards.

The HAE EHA event has grown and evolved since its inception and is now regarded as an outstanding example that is professionally produced and sustainably funded. <<



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Chair of HAE EHA, Phil Leahy, presented the awards to Phil Hemsworth from HSS, recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Hire Award, and Paul Mabey of JCB, who accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence on behalf of Lord Bamford.

DOUBLE-DOSE OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Chair pays tribute to the health and safety legend and “industry visionary” who were the recipients of this year’s Outstanding Contribution to Hire award and Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence.

This year’s award ceremony was a first when it came to recognising outstanding achievement.

Chair of HAE EHA, Phil Leahy, took to the stage to announce that 2025 would see two, instead of one, awards being handed out to those who had made a lasting contribution to the hire and rental sector.

“This year is something quite extraordinary because, for the first time, we are recognising not one, but two, individuals who have each made a significant impact in their respective fields,” he said.

First, he invited Phil Hemsworth from HSS to join him on the stage. Having joined the hire sector in 1979, Phil’s 46-year career began as a fitter. He progressed through the roles of

branch manager, area manager and logistics leadership positions before joining the HSEQ team.

“For the last 12 years, he’s led the way in health, safety, environmental and quality,” said Phil Leahy. “He’s ensured safety is more than just a policy. It’s part of the business culture.”

Phil Hemsworth has been a key player within the Hire Association, serving on the Technical Health & Safety Committee, including time as Chairperson, and has mentored many HSEQ professionals across the sector.

Phil Leahy said he had helped to raise the bar for safety across the industry.

A Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence was then awarded to Lord Bamford, Chairman of JCB. As he was unable to attend in

person, the award was accepted by Paul Mabey of JCB.

Phil described Lord Bamford as “a visionary who has quite literally changed the face of our industry”.

“His organisation has been a long-standing, active member of the HAE and, under his leadership, has become a global manufacturing powerhouse. His machines are used by nearly every hire company across the UK and Ireland,” said Phil.

Paying tribute to the JCB magnate’s passion for progress, Phil said he had driven the development of battery-powered equipment and led the way in hydrogen-powered machines.

“He is an industry icon. It is a privilege to present the very first Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence to Lord Bamford,” he said. <<



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WINNERS

WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Fantastic Media

The finalists were:

Empire Hire
Garic
Multi-hire Power Tools
POP UP Products
Trent Hire & Sales
WB Power Services
WHC Hire Services

Winner:

WB Power Services

Highly Commended:

Garic
Multi-hire Power Tools

Judges said:

The winning site is very user-friendly and has instant access to products so customers can have a quick and easy journey. This website stands out for its strategic, data-driven approach, offering a personalised user experience with AI-powered search and extensive product categorisation.



BEST USE OF NEW MEDIA

Sponsored by Hire Certification Services

The finalists were:

AER Rents
Garic
Greenplant
Travis Perkins Hire

Winner:

Garic

Highly Commended:

Travis Perkins Hire

Judges said:

This social media campaign to launch their brand refresh was highly effective. The use of high-energy animated videos and real-life setting videos to capture attention and boost visibility is a great example of leveraging new media for brand awareness. The impressive engagement rates and impressions on LinkedIn demonstrate the success of their video strategy.



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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVE

Sponsored by Makita UK

The finalists were:

Chippindale Plant Hire and Sales
Hudson Lifting
Klipboard
MCS Rental Software

Winner:

Chippindale Hire & Sales

Highly Commended:

Hudson Lifting

Judges said:

The strategy focuses on breaking down barriers for women in traditionally male-dominated roles. This includes decoding job descriptions, renaming job titles, and highlighting opportunities for women within the company with case studies showcasing a more inclusive and diverse workforce.



SUSTAINABILITY & CSR INITIATIVE

Sponsored by Seddon Plant & Engineers and DEWALT

The finalists were:

Greenplant
Ideal Heat Solutions
JCB
MCS Rental Software
Prolectric
Sunbelt Rentals

Winner:

Sunbelt Rentals

Highly Commended:

Ideal Heat Solutions

Judges said:

The carbon reduction plan, investment in low-carbon equipment, and renewable energy sources demonstrate a strong environmental commitment. Community engagement, support for veterans, and partnership with organisations like Forests with Impact highlight dedication to social responsibility.



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HIRE INDUSTRY PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Executive Hire Show

The finalists were:

Cleveland Modular Fleet - Cleveland Group
Fuel-IT - Ardent Hire
HeightRider 22 Stick All-Electric - Niftylift
Instagrid Go - Instagrid UK
NetZPack - WB Power Services
Site Pod Range - Site Pod
Solar Powered Battery Charging Station -
Vp Brandon Hire Station
X-ECO Hybrid Lithium Lighting Tower - Trime UK
XDefence - Makita UK

Winner:

Instagrid UK, Instagrid Go

Highly Commended:

Makita, XDefence

Judges said:

This product is a pioneering, portable, battery-centric power pack that heralds a sustainable substitute to conventional fuel-driven generators. Its diminished running costs, zero emissions, and intelligent tracking technology position it as a trailblazer in the portable power domain.



HIRE INDUSTRY SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by PSM Plant & Tool Hire Centres

The finalists were:

Klipboard
MCS Rental Software
Niftylift
Point of Rental Software
POP UP Products
Trime UK

Winner:

Niftylift

Highly Commended:

MCS Rental Software

Judges said:

A holistic approach with a really thought-out submission, focusing on innovation and customer support coupled with dedication to environmental protection and a business that creates a great place to work.



SAFEHIRE PLANT, TOOL & EQUIPMENT HIRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR TURNOVER UNDER £10M

Sponsored by Snorkel

The finalists were:

4 Cladding Services
GR8 Tool Hire
Greenplant
Ideal Heat Solutions
Lakeside Hire
PSM Plant and Tool Hire Centres

Winner:

GR8 Tool Hire

Highly Commended:

Ideal Heat Solutions

Judges said:

The attention to detail in the organisation and layout of its premises in relation to industry best practice guidance, the SafeHire Private Standard, and current Health and Safety legislative was notably impressive. The Audit report reflects the efforts this company has made in embracing SafeHire Certification, demonstrating commitment to achieving the highest of industry standards



SAFEHIRE PLANT, TOOL & EQUIPMENT HIRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR TURNOVER OVER £10M

Sponsored by HAE Insurance Services

The finalists were:

Cleveland Group
Hirebase
Sunbelt Rentals
Travis Perkins Hire
Vp Brandon Hire Station
WB Power Services

Winner:

Sunbelt Rentals

Highly Commended:

Travis Perkins Hire
Vp Brandon Hire Station

Judges said:

This organisation has continued to raise the bar, maintaining its commitment to the highest of standards demonstrated during SafeHire Certification Audits at all locations visited during the course of the year by the Hire Certification Services Audit team.



SAFEHIRE EVENT HIRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR TURNOVER UNDER £3M

Sponsored by Infor (United Kingdom)

The finalists were:

Plato Catering Hire
Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire
Paragon Projection Co.

Winner:

Plato Catering Hire

Highly Commended:

Paragon Projection Company

Judges said:

This event hire business has truly embraced the spirit of the SafeHire Private Industry Standard, driving forward continual improvement which is reflected in the highest safety standards observed during the annual Audit.



SAFEHIRE EVENT HIRE COMPANY OF THE YEAR TURNOVER OVER £3M

Sponsored by Infor (United Kingdom)

The finalists were:

Plato Catering Hire
Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire
Paragon Projection Co.

Winner:

Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire

Judges said:

This event equipment rental company has continued to demonstrate its dedication and commitment to SafeHire Certification. During a recent period of expansion through acquisition its offering of unparalleled access to high-quality catering equipment and furniture for events has continued its legacy of excellence and commitment to superior customer service.



HEALTH & SAFETY CHAMPIONS OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Prefabricated Access Suppliers & Manufacturers Association (PASMA)

The finalists were:

Andy Lawrence - Travis Perkins Hire

Ben Gyford - Hirebase

HSEQ Department - Vp Brandon Hire Station

Jamie Pearce - HSS: The Hire Service Company

SHEQ Team - Sunbelt Rentals

Sophie Healey - Sunbelt Rentals

Tom McColgan - HSS: The Hire Service Company

Winners:

Andy Lawrence,
Travis Perkins Hire
Sophie Healey,
Sunbelt Rentals

Highly Commended:

HSEQ Department, Vp
Brandon Hire Station

Judges said:

This was such a difficult category to review as each and every one of the finalists demonstrated genuine commitment to driving forward safety within their respective organisations. It was a difficult to distinguish between the finalists and as such joint winners were announced.



YOUNG APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by {SEQUEL}

The finalists were:

Jake Greenfield - Vp Brandon Hire Station

Luke Tilbrook - HSS: The Hire Service Company

Finlay Allen - Sunbelt Rentals

Winner:

Finlay Allan, Sunbelt
Rentals

Highly Commended:

Jake Greenfield, Vp
Brandon Hire Station
Luke Tilbrook, HSS: The
Hire Service Company

Judges said:

Finlay joined Sunbelt Rentals over two years ago and has stood out for his mix of technical skills, commitment to learning and his passion for delivering excellence for customers. He has gone above and beyond time and again, earning himself a reputation as one of the rising stars of the business.



APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by CITB

The finalists were:

Adam Khalid - Vp Brandon Hire Station
Ben Williams - Vp Brandon Hire Station
Charlotte Price - HSS: The Hire Service Company
Chris Moffat - HSS: The Hire Service Company
Christian Duplak - WHC Hire Services
Danny Rawling - WHC Hire Services
Eve Tyson - HSS: The Hire Service Company
George Garside - HSS: The Hire Service Company

Winner:

Ben Williams, Vp
Brandon Hire Station

Highly Commended:

Charlotte Price, HSS:
The Hire Service
Company
Eve Tyson, HSS: The
Hire Service Company

Judges said:

He is a final year apprentice and has excelled in his time at Livingston. He has recently had his final exam results which were 92%. He is a valued member of the team and is always willing to help others. He has a good understanding of systems and is capable of using them to his benefit. He is also conscious of health and safety in the depot.



WORKSHOP MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by HireTrain

The finalists were:

Ben Southgate - GR8 Tool Hire
Christopher Loizou - Ideal Heat Solutions
Danny Nunes - HSS: The Hire Service Company
David Drummond - VP Brandon Hire Station
Jason Hiley - HSS: The Hire Service Company
Matt Austin - Hirebase

Winner:

Danny Nunes, HSS: The Hire
Service Company

Highly Commended:

Jason Hiley, HSS: The Hire
Service Company

Judges said:

He is a fabulous person who runs a fabulous workshop. He has worked at the business for over 28 years, starting off as a Depot Assistant in the Kings Cross branch. He'd never expect to even be nominated for an award, but we think he's a 'Workshop Wonder' and are happy to see him recognised by the industry.



HIRE MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by JCB Sales

The finalists were:

Dan Whitcher - Hudson Lifting

David Jeffrey - Vp Brandon Hire Station

Kelly McNulty - Ideal Heat Solutions

Martin Elmes - HSS: The Hire Service Company

Nigel Strickland - VP Brandon Hire Station

Osh Allen - Mr Plant Hire

Samantha Thompson - HSS: The Hire Service Company

Simon Lilliman - Hirebase

Winner:

Osh Allen, Mr Plant Hire

Highly Commended:

Martin Elmes, HSS: The Hire Service Company

Samantha Thompson, HSS: The Hire Service Company



Judges said:

Having joined the organisation nearly 20 years ago, he started as a Hire Controller, quickly demonstrating his potential and ability to adapt, taking on the responsibility

of running a depot within a year. Under the mentorship of past leaders, he honed his skills, eventually stepping into management and playing a critical role in shaping the company's construction division.

HIRE ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Point of Rental Software

The finalists were:

Ben Williamson - Vp Brandon Hire Station - Apprentice of the Year

Danny Nunes - HSS: The Hire Service Company - Workshop Manager of the Year

Osh Allen - Mr Plant Hire - Hire Manager of the Year

Winner:

Danny Nunes, HSS: The Hire Service Company



ACTOR PRESENTS AWARDS TO THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

ACTOR Alex Macqueen, the host for the 2025 Hire Awards of Excellence, is best known for his roles as Julius Nicholson in 'The Thick of It' and Neil's Dad in 'The Inbetweeners'.

In 2016 he starred opposite Paddy Considine in the third series of 'Peaky Blinders'. In the same year, he starred opposite Sir Michael Caine in Paolo Sorrentino's 'Youth' and also starred opposite Sir Kenneth Branagh in 'The Painkiller' as part of the

Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company season at The Garrick Theatre, London.

He has worked alongside the likes of directors Woody Allen, Kenneth Branagh, Bryan Singer, Armando Iannucci and Richard Curtis.

He starred in Shane Meadows' 'This Is England 88', took the lead in Sky Atlantic's 'Hunderby' opposite Julia Davis, and in 2013 was cast as the new 'Master' in the Dr Who Audio series produced by Big Finish.

Alex also starred in the film The Hide, directed by Marek Losey and written by Tim Whitnall and has made guest appearances in British comedies including Peep Show, Pulling, Lead Balloon and The IT Crowd.

He had a long-running part as anaesthetist Dr Keith Greene in Holby City. <<



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Second trophy for event hire company

For the second year in a row, Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire was crowned SafeHire Event Hire Company of the Year.

Managing Director Kevin McGuiness said his company's win at the 2025 Hire Awards of Excellence was a reflection of the passion and dedication his team brings to every event it is involved with and said the team were 'thrilled' to win the title again.

The award recognises companies that go above and beyond in safety standards, customer service, and overall quality in event hire and has been hailed by the company as "a big deal".

Kevin said: "Winning this award means so much to us. It's a reflection of the care, commitment, and high standards our team brings to everything we do. We're proud to support events across the UK, and even prouder to be recognised for doing it safely and exceptionally well."

Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire provides everything from glassware to furniture for events.

The company has paid tribute to the hard-working team and loyal clients that helped it secure the award in 2025.

Family firm praises marketing team

WB Power Services, which won Website of the Year, at the Hire Awards of Excellence 2025 has said it is "incredibly proud" to be recognised as a top achiever in the industry.

The power generation company paid tribute to the efforts of its marketing team headed up by Robb Shingles, and comprising Oratile Don-Okhuofu, Sophie Fitchett, Danielle Tumilty, Lucy Timmins and Sarah H.

The family-owned business, whose name changed from Wilmott Brothers to WB Power Services in 2003, was formed in 1983 and employs more than 100 people at its head office in Derbyshire and around the country.



Brand refresh helps on-site solutions provider win and secure a highly commended

A rebrand launch campaign clinched the Best Use of New Media award for Garic this year, and the company was also highly commended for Website of the Year at the Hire Awards of Excellence 2025.

Garic is an established provider of on-site solutions for the construction industry, from welfare and accommodation units to dust control and wheel cleaning.

The company has undergone a major transformation, expanding

into new sectors and launching new products.

Judges felt the social media campaign it fronted to launch its brand refresh was highly effective.

"The use of high-energy animated videos and real-life setting videos to capture attention and boost visibility is a great example of leveraging new media for brand awareness," they said.

"The impressive engagement rates and impressions on LinkedIn

demonstrate the success of their video strategy."

At the same time, its entry for Website of the Year was felt to be standout, and narrowly missed out to an entry by WB Power Services.

Judges said: "The Garic site is very responsive, visually appealing and has a solution-focused approach which makes it very easy to users to find what they are looking for."

‘Award highlights dedication and customer service’

Niftylift was shortlisted for two categories at the Hire Awards of Excellence 2025, and walked away with the Hire Industry Supplier of the Year title.

Its winning entry was described by judges as having a “holistic approach” while its submission was said to be well thought-out, focusing on innovation and customer support coupled with dedication to environmental protection and a business that creates a great place to work

The company’s HeightRider 22 Stick All-Electric was also shortlisted for the Hire Industry Product of the Year Award, sponsored by the Executive Hire Show.

A statement by the company said: “Being shortlisted for these awards highlights our commitment to developing cutting-edge, low-weight, and sustainable access solutions. The HR22SE is an industry-leading all-electric boom lift, offering zero emissions, exceptional reach, and a compact transport-friendly design, delivering

outstanding efficiency for hire companies and operators alike.

“Our nomination for Hire Industry Supplier of the Year reflects our dedication to providing high-performance, innovative access solutions while supporting our customers with expert service, sustainability-driven technology, and long-term value.”



Auditor praised company’s attention to detail

GR8 Tool Hire was shortlisted for SafeHire Plant, Tool and Equipment Hire Company of the Year turnover under £10million while employee Ben Southgate was also shortlisted for the Workshop Manager of the Year title.

After being announced as the winner of the first award, the company announced that it was ‘exceptionally happy’ to be named Hire company of the year.

It went on to add: “Unfortunately Ben didn’t win but we’re so incredibly proud of him for being shortlisted in an exceptionally competitive category. Thank you to everyone that has used our services or referred us. Your support means everything!”

All the finalists in the SafeHire Plant, Tool and Equipment Hire Company of the Year turnover under £10million category demonstrated how they achieve commercial success through the adoption of company values and procedures by all employees, and with this in mind there was much discussion amongst the judges.

GR8 Tool Hire, an independent hire company, opened a purpose-built location in January 2024 on the edge of Saffron Walden. The SafeHire Auditor reported that the attention to details in the organisation and layout of the premises in relation to industry best practice guidance,

the SafeHire Private Standard, and current Health and Safety legislative was notably impressive.

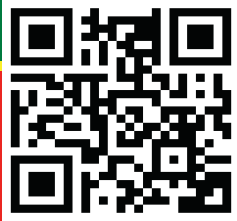
In announcing GR8 as the award winner, judges said: “The Audit report reflects the efforts this company has made in embracing SafeHire Certification demonstrating their commitment to achieving the highest of industry standards.”



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'Proud to be playing our part'

Staff from Chippindale Plant attended the Hire Awards of Excellence with the AER Rents Ltd team and were extremely proud when they secured the Diversity & Inclusion Initiative Award title.

"This recognition is a testament to the powerful work our team has been doing to break down barriers and create a more inclusive, welcoming environment across our business," a company website statement announced.

"We've implemented key strategies such as gender decoding in job adverts, renaming traditional job titles, and highlighting opportunities for women – all to challenge outdated norms and encourage a more diverse and dynamic workforce.

By focusing on these areas, we are helping to shift perceptions, making roles more accessible and ensuring that skills and passion — not gender — define success. We're proud to be playing our part in creating a more innovative, inclusive future for the industry."



Multiple recognitions celebrated

Travis Perkins Hire staff have been celebrating multi achievements at the 2025 Hire Awards of Excellence, which was held recently at Grosvenor House, London.

Andy Lawrence, Performance Standards Manager at Travis Perkins Hire, was jointly named Health & Safety Champion of the Year, in recognition of his commitment to maintaining high safety standards and promoting a strong culture of care across the business for both colleagues and customers.

Travis Perkins Hire was also Highly Commended in two further categories: SafeHire Plant, Tool and Equipment Hire Company of the Year turnover over £10million and Best Use of New Media, for its social media recruitment campaign.

Managing Director of Travis Perkins Hire, Adam Caulfield, said after the event: "We're incredibly proud of Andy and the wider Hire team for being recognised at one of the industry's most prestigious events. These awards highlight the dedication and hard work happening across our business every day. It's fantastic to see our commitment to high standards and continued innovation being acknowledged by the industry."

Open-door leadership style and dedication praised

The team at Mr Plant Hire (MPH) is celebrating following success at the prestigious Hire Awards of Excellence 2025 after Osh Allen was honoured with the Hire Manager of the Year award, something his colleagues say was a truly well-deserved achievement.

Osh has been a cornerstone of MPH for nearly 20 years, rising from Hire Controller to Construction Division Manager through hard work, leadership and what has been described as an unwavering commitment to innovation and customer excellence.

"His open-door leadership style, passion for empowering his team and dedication to continuous improvement have made a lasting impact not only on our business but across the wider hire community," a company website announcement stated.

"From pioneering employee-led innovation initiatives to enhancing customer retention and leading community fundraising efforts, Osh embodies everything that makes MPH special. His win reflects his outstanding contribution to our company and the industry."

Osh also narrowly missed out on receiving the ultimate accolade of Hire Achiever of the Year, which was won by Danny Nunes of HSS.



Judges praised Osh's commitment and ability to adapt, saying: "Under the mentorship of past leaders, he honed his skills, eventually stepping into management and playing a critical role in shaping the company's construction division."

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A GOLDEN ERA

In his address to those who attended the Grosvenor House Hotel to hear the names of the award winners and celebrate the past year of achievements, CEO Paul Gaze spoke about a key milestone celebrated by the Hire Association in 2024 – its 50th anniversary.

He showed a four-minute video of the milestone celebrations, which were attended by some of those who were with the Hire Association in its early days, you can watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-kvzxDqgPE&feature=youtu.be>

“That’s 50 years, half a century of growth, resilience and support for and through our members”

“2024 represented a significant milestone for the Association as the organisation was formed in 1974. That’s 50 years, half a century of growth, resilience and support for

and through our members,” said Paul, adding: “Two of the founding six committee members, Mike Dingley-Jones and Andy Griggs, were able to join us to celebrate the occasion.” <<



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HIRE AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE 2025 JUDGES

HAE EHA has extended its thanks to the judges for taking the time to evaluate the awards this year.

Without each judge volunteering their time, the awards wouldn't be possible.



*Anders McLocklan, Account Director,
Advisory Insurance Brokers*



*Andrew Rodney, Senior Customer
Engagement Manager, CITB*



*Carl Bartlett, Director of
Certification Services, HAE EHA*



*Carl Currie, Director, Stallard
Kane Associates*



*Darragh Gamble, Managing Director,
OCM Communications*



*Harry Tomlinson, Commercial
Manager, GAP Group NE*



*Neil Bravery, Commercial
Director, HAE EHA*



*Reece Newsome, Account Director,
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*Tom Newton, CEO, Nucleus
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*Victoria Brassington, Sales Director,
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Members and partners of HAE EHA have taken to social media and websites to praise and acknowledge the Hire Awards of Excellence 2025. Here's what some of them had to say ...

“These awards highlight the dedication and hard work happening across our business every day. It’s fantastic to see our commitment to high standards and continued innovation being acknowledged by the industry.”

Adam Caulfield, Managing Director, Travis Perkins Hire (WINNER - Health & Safety Champion of the Year joint winner)

“Huge thanks to the Hire Association Europe (HAE) and Event Hire Association (EHA) for a fantastic event, bringing together the best of our fabulous hire industry.”

HSS: The Hire Service Company (WINNER - Workshop Manager of the Year and Hire Achiever of the Year)

“The Hire Association Awards of Excellence continues to amaze and inspire. It was, once again, an honour to join those celebrating such excellent achievements and join the celebrations with some amazing people.”

Stephanie Cornwall, Warners Group Publications

“This is more than just an award. It’s a reflection of our people, our clients, and our passion.”

Plato Catering Hire (SafeHire Event Hire Company of the Year Turnover under £3m)

“Winning this award means so much to us. It’s a reflection of the care, commitment, and high standards our team brings to everything we do.”

Kevin McGuinness, Managing Director, Allens Catering Equipment and Furniture Hire (WINNER - SafeHire Event Hire Company of the Year Turnover over £3m)

“What a fantastic night at the HAE Awards ...The entire evening was a resounding success, bringing together industry leaders and showcasing incredible achievements.”

Seddon Plant & Engineers Ltd

“Our award recognises our commitment to safety, service, and top-quality event hire, and we couldn’t be prouder of our amazing team who made it happen. Here’s to continuing to deliver unforgettable events across the UK, and raising the bar even higher.”

Allens Catering Equipment & Furniture Hire (Event Hire Company of the Year winner)

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SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

Join us to celebrate another year of
achievement in April 2026



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