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**PLUMBER FROM NEWTOWNABBEY SINKS THE COMPETITION TO BE NAMED  
BRITAIN'S TOP TRADESMAN 2014**

A plumber from Newtownabbey, Raymond McKnight, has beaten off tough competition to be awarded the coveted title of Britain's Top Tradesman 2014, in a UK-wide contest run by trade supplier Screwfix.

The 57-year-old was shortlisted from almost 6,000 entries and after winning his regional final he went head-to-head with 10 other national finalists at Wembley Stadium last week (21.10.14). Although Raymond faced a gruelling interview from a judging panel made up of industry experts including the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) and the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE) – the judge's decision to crown him champion was unanimous!

As the winner, he not only takes home the title of 'Britain's Top Tradesman' he will also receive a brand new Toyota truck worth £28,000, and over a £1,000 of Screwfix products, all of which will provide a real boost for his well-established Newtownabbey based plumbing business, Hillview Heating.

Upon hearing the news, Raymond comments: "I can't believe the judges chose me as the winner of Screwfix's Britain's Top Tradesman 2014, I am absolutely flabbergasted! It has been a truly amazing journey to get to this point, one which I have thoroughly enjoyed, especially meeting all the other finalists. I take real pride in my work, and I have worked hard to make sure I have a great rapport with my customers, treating every home I visit as if it were my own, I'm thrilled to receive this title and the fantastic prize.

Britain's Top Tradesman, organised by trade retailer Screwfix, is a UK wide competition which seeks to find and recognise the best in the trade, from bricklayers to carpenters,

helpful handymen, exceptional electricians and perfect plumbers that help keep homes and businesses running across Britain.

This year, the judges looked for the tradesman who impressed them most in areas such as devotion to their work, professionalism, qualifications and outstanding skills. They felt that the reason Raymond stood out from rest was his wealth of experience, knowledge, skill set and personality.

Screwfix Marketing Director John Mewett comments: "Every year we are overwhelmed by the high standard of work and willingness to go the extra mile demonstrated by tradesmen throughout the UK. We feel it is important that this hard work is recognised, and feel that this award helps us to show our appreciation.

"Raymond is a genuinely great guy who does a fantastic job day in, day out for his customers. He passes his knowledge down to younger apprentices, helping to bring them into the industry, keeps up to date with the latest technologies so he can run his business effectively, and has outstanding customer references. He is also committed to charity work and travels abroad every year to places like Kosovo and Romania to install heating in hospitals and children centres. He truly is Britain's Top Tradesman and is a brilliant ambassador for the trade."

**ENDS**

**To arrange an interview or photography please contact McCann PR – 0121 713 3823**

### ***Further Information***

#### **Note to editors**

#### **About Screwfix:**

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, Europe's leading home improvement retail group and the third largest in the world [www.kingfisher.com](http://www.kingfisher.com). Screwfix is recognised as being "where the trade buys" offering a straightforward and transparently-priced retail experience that enables busy tradesmen to shop 23,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or from their local store.

- From power tools and workwear to cables and pipe fittings, more than 11,000 products are available to pick up from the national network of over 350 stores. A further range of over 10,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store for next day delivery, with orders taken up until 7pm to home or site.
- [Screwfix.com](http://Screwfix.com) attracts 1.5 million visitors per week and the Screwfix Click & Collect service means customers can conveniently purchase supplies online (or over the phone) and then collect from store just five minutes later.
- Customers can call the UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre 7 days a week, 24 hours a day (including bank holidays) on 0500 41 41 41, or on the mobile-friendly 03330 112 112.
- All of our 350+ stores are open 7 days a week and from 7am Monday to Friday, making sure we are ready when our customers are.
- 9 out of 10 customers would recommend Screwfix to a friend.

#### **About Toyota:**

- Toyota is one of the world's best-known and most successful businesses, building cars and trucks in 26 countries for sale in more than 160 markets. Worldwide production was 10.12 million in 2013, making Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC) the world's largest vehicle manufacturer.
- Toyota is a major UK manufacturer and exporter. Burnaston in Derbyshire is the home to Avensis and Auris, Europe's first Hybrid production vehicle whilst the Deeside plant in North Wales produces over 200,000 engines annually.
- Toyota GB has around 200 dealerships and 70 specialist business centres serving the specific needs of business customers.
- Toyota commercial vehicles are globally renowned for reliability and durability demonstrated by the Hilux pick up, the only production vehicle to have been driven to either the North or South poles, the Hilux has been driven to both.

More information is available at <http://media.toyota.co.uk/> or [Toyota.co.uk](http://Toyota.co.uk)