



June 2010

## **CHELMSFORD'S ANDY CROWNED BRITAIN'S TOP TRADESMAN**

More than 1000 tradesmen entered for the chance to take the title and 16 men from across the country made it to the final – and now one handyman from Chelmsford has been announced as the winner of Britain's Top Tradesman 2010 by trade retailer Screwfix.

Andy Hunneybel, of Tythe Barn Way in South Woodham, will now be driving away with a £27,000 Ford Transit van, having proved his professionalism, high standards and enthusiasm for his job to a panel of industry experts.

Plucky Andy has endured a hellish last few years, which have seen him nearly lose his life and his livelihood. First a heart attack on a customer's driveway in 2003 saw him out of action for two years, then he lost twenty years worth of tools when his van caught fire at the side of the road.

But Andy didn't scoop the award for his disasters. The judging panel - made up of representatives from Ford, Screwfix, supporter the Daily Star, industry bodies the CIPHE and Federation of Master Builders - were impressed by his strong stance on customer quality.

Andy, 38, explained: "I run my business in a totally transparent way. I try and be as fair as possible on costs, and when I'm done I give them a folder with all the warranties, certificates, guarantees and instruction booklets for any appliances."

After his heart attack Andy was told he would never be able to do manual work again, but he got back on his feet to resurrect his business. Now, five years on, Andy is delighted he can lead the charge of tradesmen everywhere by winning Britain's Top Tradesman 2010 - and he can't wait to get behind the wheel of his new van.

Andy said: "I was tempted by the sporty number but I've chosen a medium wheel base van. It's a massive boost for me as this year has been a struggle for me financially. It's tough

enough in a recession anyway, but every job I've done I've had to put money back into replacing all my old tools. I was massively behind this year and to suddenly find myself back level is just absolutely wonderful. I'm incredibly proud to have won this title.”

John Mewett, marketing director of Screwfix said picking the first ever Britain's Top Tradesman was extremely tough.

He said: “We meet and talk to thousands of tradesmen every day and understand how hard they work to get the job done, day in, day out. Our finalists all demonstrated commitment, professionalism and a willingness to go the extra mile for their customers. We were particularly impressed with Andy's total dedication and the personal lengths he regularly goes to, that really set him apart as a true 'Top Tradesman'.”

Andy added: "It's great that Screwfix has given the small men like me an opportunity to shine. There's loads of business awards out there but not really many aimed at tradesmen. I think it's a great thing to highlight the work that me and the other finalists do."

The judges were Steve Clary (Ford), John Mewett (Screwfix), Neil Etchells and Alan Murrell, (Federation of Master Builders), Blane Judd, (Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers), John Sanders (McCann Erickson), Kieron Saunders (Daily Star)

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### ***Further Information***

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### **Note to editors**

Screwfix is the UK's leading supplier of tools, accessories and hardware products to the trade, delivering millions of products to building professionals and serious DIY enthusiasts every year.