



June 2011

LOCAL MAN WINS NATIONAL TRADESMAN AWARD

From over 3,000 entries, local Essex plumber Paul Martin has been named as the winner of a national competition to find Britain's Top Tradesman. Organised by trade retailer Screwfix, Paul fought off competition from nine other finalists from across the country to take home the national title and a brand new van manufactured by Ford.

Paul, 35 from Billericay, has run his own business, Precision Gas and Plumbing Limited, for the past seven years and in that time has become well known amongst his customers for delivering superior service, giving each and every one a designated arrival time so that they don't have to stay in waiting for him. What's more Paul also ensures that customers get a fair price for the job by offering a 'no-fix, no fee' policy.

Paul comments: "We only charge customers for the boilers we can repair. If the boiler can't be fixed then I will give them a free, no obligation quote on what a new boiler might cost, plus come back and repair any boiler we fit if it breaks down."

Paul proved that he was prepared to go the extra mile for his customers when he rushed an elderly customer to hospital. Despite Paul's quick thinking saving the lady's life, he was given a parking fine as an added bonus.

Paul says on being chosen as the winner of the competition: "I didn't want to get too excited as I was up against nine other amazing finalists. You feel a real sense of achievement to make it to the last ten, but to win it is just unbelievable."

As the winner of Britain's Top Tradesman 2011 Paul will drive away a van manufactured by Ford, worth up to the value of £27,000 on the road. Paul added: "My current van is on its way out and I was already saving up to buy a new one. I have had a good look at all the extras I can have and my daughter wants me to get it in pink, but I don't think she'll get her wish!"

A deserving winner, Paul is also dedicated to helping the next generation of tradesmen, taking on apprentice Ben Howe, 20, a year ago. "I was lucky enough to have had an apprenticeship myself and so was really keen to pass on my skills. Jobs are so hard to come by these days, so investing in someone else's future is really important to me."

John Mewett, Marketing Director at Screwfix, said: "At Screwfix we meet hundreds of tradesmen every day in our trade counters and we understand how hard they work and the efforts they go to in order to get the job done to the highest standard. It's therefore been great to be able to highlight the good work that is being done up and down the country with Britain's Top Tradesman.

"We were overwhelmed by the high standard of work and willingness to go the extra mile demonstrated by all our finalists, but in Paul we have a hugely deserving winner. He is investing in the trade's future by training an apprentice and consistently goes above and beyond for customers, all with a smile on his face – well done Paul!"

The judging panel, included representatives from Screwfix, the Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the Chartered Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineering (CIPHE) and the electrical trade body NICEIC.

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Further Information

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Note to editors

About Screwfix:

Recognised as being "where the trade buys" and promising a fast, reliable service, Screwfix is the UK's leading multi-channel supplier of thousands of high quality screws, fixings, hand tools, power tools, plumbing and electrical supplies. Combining trade prices and a massive range of leading brand name items, Screwfix offers over 18,000 products and is fully committed to customer care and support.

