

# A Down to Earth man, who's on Top of the World

Even as Brian Harrison of BH Building heard his name called out, he couldn't fully believe his ears. He'd been invited to Bagden Hall Hotel, Huddersfield to attend the Marshall's National Awards ceremony for his work on driveways in 2012. He'd already scooped three awards in the Regional Finals, but even though it was this that had given him the chance to aim for the National Awards, he didn't for one minute allow himself to assume that his work would be chosen as the best of the best. He only had to see the work of other companies who'd also reached this pinnacle to dampen his expectations. A good judge of craftsmanship left him in no doubt which one he'd have chosen as the best.



*The rewards for hard work and dedication. Brian Harrison's National Award and certificate.*

Brian had been shortlisted out of a potential 178 national contenders in the category of 'Best Driveway Transformation under 70m2'. That's about the average sized driveway you'd usually find in a typical Grantham property for example. His own particular job that had been selected for scrutiny by the judges was one he'd been especially proud of. But as photos of other installers' work began to appear on the big screen above the presentation stage; jobs that as a professional he could do nothing but admire, he began to get the feeling that he'd been pipped to the



*It must be great for the owners of this house to know that they have the best driveway under 70m2 in the country*

post.

"And the winner for Best Driveway Transformation under 70m2 is..." Brian took another gulp of beer as he sat with some of the other finalists, ready to hear the name of another installer called out, "...BH Building of Grantham". Suddenly there was a blaze of flashing lights on the stage, accompanied by a crescendo of applause from everyone in the room.

Almost in a dazed state of shock, Brian got up and made his way to the front. The euphoria hadn't quite hit him; this seemed too unreal for words. It was in this dreamlike state that he posed for photographs, clinging on to his heavy stone award. None of it sank in. Dave Jessop, Operations Manager read out a citation stating that Brian's win was partly due to the perfect block choice he'd selected to match the house. It was only as Brian heard this over the loudspeakers that the realisation gradually began to take hold. And that was it; a fact of life, Brian Harrison was declared the 'Best in the land', a winner, a true champion.

When you look in detail at the work Brian does, it's not hard to see why the judges chose him as a winner. Taking into account that some of the other companies who were also vying for the top spot were installers who employ

several gangs of workers, it just puts Brian's achievement into perspective and makes it all the more remarkable. He's a One-Man-Band, on site at least, though

he's ably assisted by his wife Laura who sees that all of the admin is kept up to speed. The judges were looking at all the varying aspects that had been instrumental in transforming a client's old driveway into its new appearance and construction. In the driveway that clinched it for Brian you can see what had impressed the judges so much; expert and accurate cutting of the blocks to give a precise finish, attention to detail throughout. It was things like this that, along with the consideration of the driveway as a whole, that had convinced the panel that Brian's work was worthy of the highest merit.

Brian has worked for a long time to reach the highest echelon of his trade, having won the Regional Finals in several categories during the past five years.

Today, he's the undisputed champion of block paved driveway installation throughout England, Scotland and Wales. And, as a Grantham company, it only serves to help put the town on the map. Not that any of this has gone to his head. Even as you read this, the chances are that he's down on his knees making sure another driveway meets his exacting standards. Having a national award is all well and good, but to him, the real award is the customer's satisfaction that he achieves at the end of each assignment. When you're having such an important job carried out on your home, this is the attitude that you're looking for. Many of the world's winners are people like Brian; people who just get on with the job and leave their mark wherever they go.

Well done Brian. Grantham's proud of you.

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Paving



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