

UK•SKILLS

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PRESS RELEASE

GOLD MEDALS 'HAT TRICK' FOR SKILL OLYMPICS TEAM

Three of the UK's youngsters competing in the International Youth Skill Olympics before more than 200,000 visitors at Eurexpo, Lyon, France this week, returned home with gold medals.

The triumph for these young Britons made them among the world's best, in a competition in which more than 500 took part in 40 trades from 28 countries.

Additionally, the 25-member British team, all national champions in their own skills, gained one silver medal, two bronze and seven diplomas of excellence.

Chef Simon Hulstone obtained the highest score in the entire Lyon competition - 567 out of 600.

Gold medallists were:

SIMON HULSTONE, 20, Bristol - cookery

NATHAN WENT, 19, of Basildon - information technology

ALAN GRAYSTOCK, 20, of Wakefield - plastering

Silver medallist:

PAUL DAVEY, 22, of Cheltenham - cabinet making

Bronze medallists:

DOMENIC TOMEO, 19, of Peterborough - plumbing

IAN KNAPPER, 22, of Stoke-on-Trent - stonemasonry

Diploma winners were:

CRAIG STANTIAL, 21, of Fareham - bricklaying

MATTHEW SWIFT, 21, of Wigan - industrial electronics

KARL GARDNER, 20, of Chorley - fitting

NORMAN BOYD, 22, of Carrickfergus - painting and decorating

CLAIRE PAWSEY, 20, of Bristol - ladies' hairdressing

ROBERT TAYLOR, 21, of Bristol - men's hairdressing

STUART WINTER, 21, of Tamworth - heavy vehicle maintenance.

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Chairman: Sir John Cassels CB
Chief Executive: Patricia Snell

The last time that Britain won a gold medal in the International Youth Skill Olympics was at Birmingham in 1989. In 1993 the UK gained nine medals overall but no golds.

For the first time the British average score, at 501, topped the 500 mark at which contestants qualify for the international Diploma of Excellence.

Sir John Cassels, Chairman of UK SKILLS, the independent charity which organises the British entry, said, 'I am delighted that the UK team has won these medals and that in over half of the competitions our entrants achieved the international standard of excellence. All round the results are most encouraging.'

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Notes for editors

1. UK SKILLS is recognised by the Government as the standard-setting body for skills competitions in the United Kingdom. It is also the official United Kingdom body affiliated to the International Organisation for the promotion of Vocational Training (IVTO), and organises the British entry to the Skill Olympics.
2. The International Youth Skill Olympics are held every two years in one of the IVTO member countries. Contestants - aged under 23 - compete in some 40 occupational skills over four days. The 1993 competition took place in Taipei and the 1995 event was held in Lyon, France, 12-15 October. Future events will be in St Gallen, Switzerland, in 1997 and Montreal, Canada, in 1999.
3. **Simon Hulstone (Cookery)** Swallow Royal Hotel, Bristol (Tel: 0117 9255100)
Nathan Went (Information Technology) Thameside Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Grays (Tel: 01375 390044)
Alan Graystock (Plastering) Ossett Mouldings, Dewsbury (Tel 01924 463488)
Paul Davey (Cabinet Making) Cheltenham is self-employed (Tel 01386 870171)
Domenic Tomeo (Plumbing) Bardenscale Ltd, Peterborough PE1 4BR (Tel: 01733 344711)
Ian Knapper (Stonemasonry) Stoke on Trent, Staffs is self-employed (Tel 01889 26466)
Norman Boyd (Painting and Decorating) Charles Boyd & Sons, Carrickfergus (Tel 01960 368990)
Karl Gardner (Fitting) British Aerospace Defence Ltd, Preston (Tel: 01772 250035)
Claire Pawsey (Ladies' Hairdressing) Robert John Hairdressing Portishead (Tel: 01275 842177)
Craig Stantiall (Bricklaying) Fareham, is self-employed (01329 237758)
Matthew Swift (Industrial Electronics) BAe Defence Ltd, Bolton (Tel: 01204 473436)
Robert Taylor (Mens' Hairdressing) Robert John Hairdressing, Portishead (Tel: 01275 842177)
Stuart Winter (Heavy Vehicle Maintenance) - Parclforce, Birmingham (Tel: 0121 359 1734)
4. For further information please contact Norman Brand on 0171-294 2420 or 0181-349 1127 (home) or Jonathan Freeman on 0171-294 2422

The BBC series 'The 11th Hour' will be featuring competitors from the UK team and the Skill Olympics in Lyon in the programme to be broadcast on Sunday 29 October at 11.00am on BBC1.