

VAN DRIVER OF THE YEAR

2021

A LOGISTICS MAGAZINE SUPPLEMENT



2021



Van Driver of the Year

LOGISTICS UK

SUPPORTED BY VAN EXCELLENCE

LOGISTICS UK

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Van Gold Partners



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VAN DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2021



David Wells
Chief Executive, Logistics UK

Welcome

The UK's light commercial vehicle sector has never been more important to the nation's economy. According to the latest figures from SMMT, there are now more than 4.6 million vans on Britain's roads – their 11th year of consecutive growth.

It's not difficult to understand the rise of the van. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about profound changes to the way we live and work in the UK, including the switch to working from home, the decline of high street retail and the rise of online shopping. It is my view that these trends will not be reversed.

That there has been a mass migration to cashless digital services is clear for all to see; but the part that is often forgotten is the huge growth in last-mile logistics needed to service this digital revolution. Since the first national lockdown, more and more of us have grown used to the convenience of having goods and services delivered direct to our front door, and the nation's army of van drivers and parcel couriers have proved themselves more than equal to the task of providing a fast, efficient and reliable service.

To be a truly competent van driver, you need to possess a broad portfolio of skills – spatial awareness, physical dexterity, safety awareness and a knowledge of the fundamentals of transport legislation. Few would disagree that those who are the best in the business in this important vehicle sector deserve to be both recognised and rewarded.

That is why it gives me great pleasure to be able to celebrate the achievements of the participants and winners of the Van Driver of the Year 2021 competition in this supplement. The finalists named in this brochure all excelled on a broad range of tasks – from executing tight manoeuvres to detecting vehicle defects – and they are to be congratulated on their professionalism.

It only remains for me to thank our Van Gold Partners – the AA, Bott, Brigade, Hertz, Lex Autolease, Quartix and TVL Security. This competition would not have been possible without their generous support, committed engagement and commercial insight.

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VAN GOLD PARTNERS



AA

The AA is the UK's most reliable breakdown cover provider, attending more than 3.2 million breakdowns per year – equivalent to one every nine seconds. Our cutting-edge technology and expert mechanics mean we can fix eight out of 10 vehicles at the roadside and get drivers back on the road within 30 minutes. Our commitment to innovation does not start and end at the roadside. We are continuously striving to satisfy and anticipate customer requirements. Combined with investment in customer support services for electric vehicle charge post providers, this means that the AA has a unique platform from which to explore and spearhead future mobility solutions.

www.theaa.com/business



bott

Over 40 years of industry experience, we fully understand the needs of all our stakeholders. We deliver a comprehensive and reliable van conversion solution. Our expert team provide a full range of tailored services, including van racking, lighting, electrics and vehicle graphics. We are proud to support and drive towards improved operational standards as a Logistics UK Van Gold Partner. We pride ourselves on our focus to understand merging electric and alternatively fuelled vehicles and their suitability for various operational roles. Ongoing staff training ensures outstanding customer service throughout your journey with bott. Discover how we can help support you and your business.

v-sales@bottltd.co.uk



BRIGADE

Brigade Electronics is a market leader of safety devices, with solutions to suit all commercial vehicles and mobile plant. Its complimentary range of passive and active systems are designed to reduce the risk of collisions, protect workers, pedestrians and cyclists and assist the driver by minimising vehicle blind-spots. Brigade's product range includes 360° camera systems, cameras, monitors, white sound® reversing alarms, obstacle detection sensors, obstacle detection radar and digital recorders. In addition, Brigade offers an outstanding installation service through its nationwide network of Brigade approved, professional and trained fitters who ensure all products are fitted to the highest standards.

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Lex Autolease is the UK's largest vehicle leasing provider* and has over 85k light commercial vehicles in the fleet. Our Commercial Vehicle (CV) Specialist Engineers can work closely with you to understand your specific business and operational challenges. This includes managing complex builds, designs and specifications tailored to your business needs. Our range of leasing, funding and service options come together to form a fully bespoke and insight driven solution. We remain at the forefront of fleet trends and developments by sharing findings and strategies with trade organisations, vehicle manufacturers and industry specialists.

*FN50 Data (fleetnews.co.uk) 2020

www.lexautolease.co.uk/vans



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www.quartix.com/en-gb



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TVL Security

TVL is the UK's premier supplier of vehicle security products, with the largest portfolio globally of products available both in the aftermarket and as factory fit options from vehicle manufacturers. Vehicle crime is a costly inconvenience for fleets and the TVL Innovation Team is dedicated to designing and developing the latest concepts in vehicle security. With over 80 years of expertise and the latest 3D scanning and 3D printing technology combined with our in-house manufacturing and testing facilities our products are manufactured to provide optimum performance and ensure we keep our edge over the criminals.

www.tvl-ltd.co.uk

THE TASKS



Each of the 12 finalists in the Van Driver of the Year 2021 competition were asked to complete a series of challenging tasks.



'SAFE DRIVING' STYLE

Drivers were assessed and scored on their 'safe driving' style.

★ Task sponsor: *Quartix*



ECONOMICAL DRIVING

A further road test awarded extra points to drivers who could show their driving led to economical fuel consumption.

★ Task sponsor: *Hertz*



LEGISLATIVE KNOWLEDGE

A paper prepared by Logistics UK's Member Advice Centre tested competitors on key legislation which affects commercial drivers.

★ Task sponsor: *Lex Autolease*



MANOEUVRING

Manoeuvring along a set course, drivers were tested on parking distance, reversing and parallel parking. If participants knocked into any cones or had to shunt forward, points were deducted.

★ Task sponsor: *Brigade Electronics*



PRE-USE DEFECT CHECKING

Within a workshop environment, finalists were asked to identify a range of vehicle defects.

★ Task sponsor: *The AA*



RISK ASSESSMENT

Prior to attending the competition, drivers were invited to complete an online risk assessment provided by Licence Bureau.

★ Task sponsor: *TVL*



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THE FINALISTS



Following a rigorous online risk assessment, 12 finalists were selected for the Van Driver of the Year 2021 competition, based on their risk assessment score.

BLUE TEAM

Andrew Cowley
VOW Europe

Barry Giudici
SMS PLC

Alastair Mackenzie
Truline

Tomasz Niemiec
Greencore

ORANGE TEAM

Sam Burton
Wayfair

Glyn Morton
SMS PLC

Andrew Padmore
G4S Manchester

Sukjhoinder Singh
VOW Europe

RED TEAM

Dennis Rawes
SMS PLC

Stewart Reeves
Alliance Healthcare

Doug Smith
Alloga UK

Jim Valentine
The British Shop



bott

A solution tailored to your fleet



- From single vehicles to large fleets
- Specification planning, delivering tailored solutions & custom designs
- Full conversion service, from van racking and vehicle graphics to electrics, lighting, power and communications
- UK manufacturer for over 40 years
- In-service aftersales support
- Logistics UK Van Excellence Gold Partners, with compliance advice as standard
- EV ready workshop, for hybrid, electric and future vehicle solutions



■ **work** ■ **smart** ■ **bott**

THE TASK WINNERS



 From left: Andy Edwards, Quartix, and Tomasz Niemiec, Greencore.



 From left: Chris Mangan, Hertz, and Douglas Smith, Alloga UK.



 From left: Kevin Green, Logistics UK, and Jim Valentine, The British Shop.



 From left: Robert Reed, Logistics UK, and Tomasz Niemiec, Greencore.



 From left: Ben Sheridan, AA, and Douglas Smith, Alloga UK.



 From left: Adam Peberdy, TVL Security, and Jim Valentine, The British Shop.



'SAFE DRIVING' STYLE

Supported by



Tomasz Niemiec Greencore



ECONOMICAL DRIVING

Supported by



Douglas Smith Alloga UK



LEGISLATIVE KNOWLEDGE

Supported by



Jim Valentine The British Shop



MANOEUVRING

Supported by



Tomasz Niemiec Greencore



PRE-USE DEFECT CHECKING

Supported by



Douglas Smith Alloga UK



RISK ASSESSMENT

Supported by



Jim Valentine The British Shop



LEX AUTOLEASE

TEAM



With Lex Autolease supporting your fleet, you'll be backed by a team of specialist light commercial vehicle engineers.

Through our in-depth expertise and cross-sector experience we're able to manage the most complex builds, delivering specifications and designs tailored to your needs. We can also explore your sustainability options, make sure you're consistently compliant and futureproof your fleet.



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LOGISTICS UK
GOLD VAN PARTNER

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VAN EXCELLENCE DRIVER OF THE YEAR

“Wayfair’s participation in the Van Excellence scheme has allowed me to understand the good practices required of a van driver. It is such a well-respected scheme across industry and I am thrilled to be awarded Logistics UK’s Van Excellence Driver title. I would like to thank my manager Rajka Vukovic-Hewitt and Wayfair for their constant encouragement and guidance, as well as Logistics UK for providing me with this platform to showcase my abilities.”

Sam Burton, Wayfair



From left: Kevin Woodward, Bott, and Sam Burton, Wayfair.



VAN EXCELLENCE DRIVER

Supported by



Sam Burton

Wayfair

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[Hertz.co.uk/business](https://www.hertz.co.uk/business)

THE WINNERS



FIRST PLACE

From left: Rajka Vukovic-Hewitt, and Sam Burton, Wayfair.



SECOND PLACE

From left: Kevin Green, Logistics UK, and Jim Valentine, The British Shop.



THIRD PLACE

From left: Kevin Green, Logistics UK, and Tomasz Niemiec, Greencore.



VAN EXCELLENCE DRIVER

Sam Burton, Wayfair.

Three proud drivers have been celebrating recently, having taken first, second and third place in the Van Driver of the Year 2021 competition, as well as the Van Excellence Driver award.

FIRST PLACE

Winner of a £1,000 holiday voucher

Sam Burton
Wayfair

SECOND PLACE

Winner of a GoPro

Jim Valentine
The British Shop

THIRD PLACE

Winner of a Red Letter Day voucher

Tomasz Niemiec
Greencore

VAN EXCELLENCE DRIVER

Winner of an Amazon voucher

Sam Burton
Wayfair



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VAN DRIVER OF THE YEAR 2021

“ I am delighted to be named as Logistics UK’s Van Driver of the Year. There have been so many talented and dedicated drivers here today and it is amazing to have beaten off such skilled competition. I love my role as a van driver and have worked tirelessly over the past year to learn and continuously improve, to ensure I uphold the high standards of the van sector. This has been a difficult period both within the industry, and across the nation and it feels wonderful to be recognised for the work that we do.

Sam Burton, Wayfair

”



2021



**Van
Driver of
the Year**

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