

25th October 2021



CECA Wales Monday Briefing

The CECA Wales Annual Awards 2021

The CECA Wales Annual Awards 2021 took place on Friday night at the Cardiff Hilton. And what a great evening. Our 2020 Awards took place last year via social media as a result of the pandemic. But this year we were able to meet in person at our Annual Dinner and celebrate last year's winners as well as announcing the 2021 winners. I'll be writing a blog shortly on the evening events including photographs from the event so look out for the link which I will be issuing later this week.

But back to the Awards. For us the Awards are about our people rather than our projects. Our people are the lifeblood of the industry, they're the ones who make things happen. But, of course, it's our projects which are visible for all to see so we shared a short film of a few of the projects which CECA Wales members have been involved in over the last few years. You can see the film here <https://youtu.be/kQSfNy0vpcM>

We recognised last year's award winners and, for the record, here they are again :

- **Most Promising Trade Apprentice 2020** - a high commendation went to Kate Bowen of Encon Civil Engineering but the winner was Joel Gilliett of Kaymac Civil Engineering.
- **Most Promising Trainee Graduate Civil Engineer 2020** - Elliott Bidmead of Jones Bros.
- **Most Promising Trainee Technician Civil Engineer 2020** - Rhys Williams of Alun Griffiths
- **Most Promising Trainee Quantity Surveyor 2020** - Rebecca Manley of Alun Griffiths
- **Special Recognition Award** - Joseph Tucker of Knights Brown for showing compassion in the workplace by safely supporting two distressed members of public and helping to develop Knights Brown's mental health programme.

And then we moved on to the **2021 Awards**. We recognised the fact that this has been a difficult period for many but especially for young people seeking to develop themselves and their careers during the disruption of Covid lockdowns and changes to the usual modes of training and education. But that certainly hasn't impacted the quality of people coming forward for our Awards. And here they are :

- **Most Promising Trade Apprentice 2021** : Thomas Taylor of Knights Brown with a high commendation for Caspar Farquahar of Kaymac Civil Engineering.
- **Most Promising Trainee Graduate Civil Engineer Award 2021** : whilst we had a very strong lineup including James Williams of Balfour Beatty, Gethin Owen of Jones Bros, David Shilabeer of Knights Brown and Charley Hawkins of Kaymac, the clear winner was **Gethin Owen of Jones Bros Ruthun**.
- **Most Promising Trainee Technician Civil Engineer Award 2021** : again a very strong lineup including Harri Morgan of Walters, Tom Webb of Walters and Luke Jones of Knights Brown but the winner was **Luke Jones of Knights Brown**.
- **Most Promising Trainee Quantity Surveyor 2021** : from a strong line-up including Dan Griffiths of Knights Brown, Aled Griffiths of Alun Griffiths, Gruff Roberts of Walters, Sarah May of Balfour Beatty and Jac Dew of BAM, the winner was **Sarah May of Balfour Beatty** with a high commendation for **Gruff Roberts of Walters**

Longyfarchiadau/Congratulations to all of them.

And, as is always the case, all who entered the 2020 and 2021 Awards will be invited to our Leadership Challenge on 18th and 19th November at Cwrt y Gollen Training Camp near Crickhowell in the south and next March at Kinmel Training Camp in the north. We'll be sending out invitations this week but I hope that you will be able to support your young employees to enter the Challenge and further develop their leadership and teamwork skills and move forward in their careers.

I'll be including a full rundown of the Annual Dinner with photos in my next blog and will make sure that a link is sent to all members and guests.

CECA Wales Political Update

Here's an update on some of the infrastructure related matters addressed at the Senedd last week :

- The Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, has **unveiled** new maps showing the scale of the Welsh Metro project. The Welsh Conservatives have **criticised** the discrepancies in funding between the South Wales and North Wales projects.
- Port of Holyhead: Rhun ap Iorwerth MS **expressed** concern that the impact of Brexit continues to cause major challenges in Holyhead but highlighted major opportunities around off shore wind.
- Roads Review: Responding to a **Topical Question** raised by Samuel Kurtz MS, the Deputy Minister for Climate Change reiterated that the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Redstone Cross bypass will not be reviewed by the Roads Review Panel and will proceed as programmed.
- New Railway Stations: The Deputy Minister for Climate Change has **written** to the UK Secretary of State for Transport following the rejection of the Welsh Government's bid for the 3rd round of New Station Funding for new stations at Carno and Ely Mill.
- Responding to a BBC report on Welsh industry's 23 million tonne carbon problem, the **Welsh Conservatives** have urged the Welsh Government to maximise the potential for renewable energy development by establishing a package of support for private investment in schemes.
- Low-Carbon Heating: The Welsh Government has **announced** that innovative smart energy technology provider Thermify is to move into Sony's Pencoed site this month.

The Senedd will be in recess from Saturday 23 October until Sunday 31 October.

CECA Wales Director Activities

Some of my activities from last week are summarised here :

- Hosting the CECA Wales Annual Dinner and Awards 2021
- Hosting an NEC4 workshop for members on compensation events
- Meeting ACE, ICE and CIHT to discuss a WGov consultation on "Shaping Wales"
- Attending a webinar on Bank of England digital currency
- Meeting with CEWales' Procurement Group
- Judging for the CIHT Cymru Awards
- Preparing questions for the new foundation apprenticeship for groundworkers
- Finalising the CECA Wales "Decarbonising Our Infrastructure" report and preparing for the launch on 1st November
- Meeting with members and clients to discuss current concerns

Client engagement and business opportunities

A new "12-step guidebook" to support public and private sector construction partners to prepare project bank accounts (PBAs) for public sector contracts has been launched by the Welsh Construction Forum. The PBAs will provide cash-flow assurance to contractors and SME's as part of the Welsh Government's policy of fair payment. The interactive guidebook, which has been produced by the Forum's Infrastructure Working Group and is available in Welsh and English, can be viewed here : Welsh language : <https://bit.ly/3uyQ8kO>, English Language : <https://bit.ly/3B6RJ3I>

Having confirmed that the Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters MS, will continue to chair the Welsh Construction Forum it has now been confirmed that Dr David Clubb is the new chair of the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales and will be seeking new Commissioners to join him shortly. We will be meeting with David shortly, as part of the Welsh Infrastructure Alliance (WIA), to offer our support.

Training Events

Please note that our events programme for 2021 is available via our website. Keep an eye out as the programme will be constantly refreshed throughout the year. Here's the link <https://www.ceca.co.uk/wales/events/> And we'll be launching our 2022 programme towards the end of this year.

Our series of NEC4 workshops for members are nearing completion. The next workshops will be held on 3rd, 4th and 8th November. Further details on how to register has been issued to all members plus you can view details via our website <https://www.ceca.co.uk/wales/event/nec4-communication-flow-and-the-role-of-the-project-manager/>

Presentations from the recent CECA Wales Annual Conference on "Decarbonising Our Infrastructure" are now available via our website <https://www.ceca.co.uk/decarbonising-our-infrastructure/> and the final post Conference report will be shared with members next week.