



30 October 2015

2015 West Midlands Insurance Institutes Awards - and the region's winners are...

The cream of the West Midlands Insurance and Financial Services professions gathered to celebrate their achievements on Thursday 29th October, at the 2015 West Midlands Insurance Institutes Awards.

Around 200 guests filled Marco Pierre White's restaurant in The Cube in Birmingham for the prestigious event, hosted by The Insurance Institutes of the West Midlands - Birmingham, Coventry, Shropshire & Mid Wales, Stoke on Trent and Stratford upon Avon - and the Birmingham Personal Finance Society.

Awards were presented to those companies demonstrating excellence in professionalism, reputation and ethical practice across six specific disciplines.

Guest speaker Rachel New regaled the audience with tales from her childhood and career in broadcasting ahead of presenting the awards, sponsored by Arthur J. Gallagher and Shakespeare Martineau, with ACE European Group, BHSF Group Limited, Broadspire by Crawford & Co, DWF LLP, Idex Consulting Ltd and Tilney Investment Management.

Richard Scott, President of Birmingham Insurance Institute, opened the proceedings. He commented:

"The 2015 WMII Awards was once again a wonderful advert for the strength and quality of the West Midlands' insurance and financial services professions. To see the reactions of the winners and to look at the competition vying to win, we can all be proud of the talent we have in the region. "That expertise, knowledge and experience is being passed on to local consumers and that is perhaps the most pleasing aspect."

Photos from the event can be viewed at www.birminghaminstitute@cii.co.uk



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WEST MIDLANDS INSURANCE INSTITUTES AWARDS 2015 AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Main Sponsor: Arthur J. Gallagher
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Broker of the Year in partnership with IDEX Consulting Ltd
Inspire Insurance Services

Financial Planning Company of the Year in partnership with Tilney Investment Management
McCarthy Taylor Limited

Service Provider of the Year in partnership with BHSF Group Limited
DWF LLP

Training Initiative of the Year in partnership with DWF LLP
Davies Group Limited

Claims Initiative of the Year in partnership with ACE European Group
Evoque Claims & Appraisals

Insurer/Underwriter of the Year in partnership with Broadspire, by Crawford & Co
Hiscox UK & Ireland

The Presidents' Award in partnership with The West Midlands Insurance Institutes
Jane Evans ACII, Dip PFS, The Insurance Institute of Coventry

Congratulations! Thank you, also, to all of our sponsors for their much valued support.



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Notes to the Editor:

The Chartered Insurance Institute (The CII)

With over 100,000 members, the CII is the largest professional body dedicated to the insurance, savings and financial services sectors in the world. It is dedicated to promoting higher standards of competence and integrity through the provision of relevant training and qualifications for employees at all levels and across all sectors of the industry.

<http://www.cii.co.uk>

The 2015 winners:

The Claims Initiative of the Year – Sterling Insurance Solutions

Evoque Claims & Appraisals developed an innovative tool to deliver salvage payment to insurers that previously could have left damaged items in a so-called “storage black-hole”. This initiative provides obvious benefit to all involved in the claim process.

The Service Provider of the Year – DWF LLP

DWF LLP demonstrated a particularly high level of commitment and involvement across the UK and beyond with expansion into Dubai having been particularly noted. The entry submission was backed up with strong testimonials and clear benefits to their clients. Specific comments included DWF’s innovation and very strong work in countering insurance fraud.

The Training Initiative of the Year – Davies Group Limited

Davies Group Limited showed clear commitment to staff development, promotion and harnessing talent. There was detailed evidence of talent management offering, apprenticeships and graduate programmes which are structured, formalised and backed up with successful results.



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The Insurer/Underwriter of the Year – Hiscox UK & Ireland

Hiscox UK & Ireland have worked tirelessly to improve customer service. They have also entered the data and cyber risk market. Their training provision goes hand in hand with the CII’s ethos. With regards to local focus, 23% of their growth is down to the Birmingham team. The very impressive statistic for settling 92% of their flood claims in 8 weeks stood out as market-leading.

The Financial Planning Company of the Year – McCarthy Taylor Limited

McCarthy Taylor Limited This entrant demonstrated impressive growth over the last twelve months in terms of increase in staff, offices and assets. Continued investment into developing staff was evidenced and supports their organic growth objective. The provision of additional investment choices to clients is facilitated by McCarthy Taylor’s establishment of an In-house discretionary investment management service.

The Broker of the Year – Inspire Insurance Services

Inspire Insurance Services demonstrated commitment to client protection and removing underinsurance, expansion into Financial Services, clear commitment to staff training and development, excellent growth, a Customer Charter and sound testimonials.

The West Midlands Insurance Institutes’ Presidents’ Award – Jane Evans ACII, Dip PFS

Presented to an individual who has made a 'lifetime contribution' to the Local Insurance Institute Network within the West Midlands Region. Jane Evans has served on her Local Institute’s council for twenty-five years, during which time, she has held the majority of Offices which includes President, Treasurer and Dinner Secretary and an elected CII Regional Representative for the region. She has also been involved in various CII working parties representing Local Institutes’ interests centrally. Her insurance career has been spent in and around Coventry. She has worked for Corrigans for the whole of her insurance career working her way up from an Office Junior to Director, responsible for Compliance.



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The award winners with Rachel New who presented the awards.



CII Vice President, Local Institutes Presidents and Vice Presidents, Rachel New, sponsors and award winners.



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