

Durham Business Club celebrates success in Ofsted inspection

Durham Business Club has celebrated excellent Ofsted inspection results along with apprentices, employers and businesses at a packed special event at Durham County Cricket Club.



Club chairman Bryan Hoare reported that it had achieved its best result ever that “put it up there with the best training providers around” and that inspectors had recognised its “tremendous achievement” in gaining pass rates in apprenticeships “well above the national average.”

Learners from the club’s highly ranked hairdressing, beauty therapy, business administration and accounting apprenticeship programmes also received awards at the event for achieving success in their apprenticeships and showing commitment and enthusiasm for their work.

Awards were presented to the outstanding apprentices from each programme and they, along with the overall winner of ‘Apprentice of the Year’ and ‘Apprentice Employer of the Year’ collected stylish engraved awards made by DBC members, A1 Trophies and Engraving of Peterlee.

The club’s increasingly popular business administration and accounting apprenticeships were singled out for particular praise by Ofsted inspectors.

Mitchells Grievson Chartered Accountants, which has offices in Bishop Auckland and Sunderland, had a double success at the ‘Celebrating Success’ evening as they were not only a runner up for the ‘Employer of the Year’ award but are also training the new ‘Apprentice of the Year’, Jane Lamb.

Jane, who started her training with the club at only 16 and is studying for her AAT qualification, was delighted to achieve the accolade, saying: "It's brilliant to be recognised for the work we do.

"I'm really enjoying my apprenticeship and would definitely encourage other young people to look into what's out there if they would rather gain more practical, job-related training."

Andrew Houghton, partner at Mitchell's Grievson, said: "We're over the moon with Jane's achievements! We've been impressed with her hard work and dedication, which is really starting to pay off for her. The club's award is an excellent recognition of her commitment to the role."

SAS Hair and Beauty was named as the 'Apprentice Employer of the Year' while the following students were named 'Apprentice of the Year' in their individual subject areas: Jane Lamb (accounting), Gavin Fletcher (business administration), Martina Corbett (hairdressing), Fay Pratt (beauty therapy) and Justine Curry (Young Apprentice).