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News Release

Industry competitors win WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening competition final

Ryan Neveu, a 28 year old employee of Gloucestershire based Graduate Gardeners and Darren Cumming, 19, who works for The Essential Earthmen in Devon, teamed up to win the National Final of the WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Competition at the RHS Malvern Autumn Show this weekend.

BALI, who organise the competition in association with UK Skills, organised two heats during the year, culminating in an exciting final with competitors from colleges in Scotland, Northern Ireland and West Sussex joining Ryan and Darren in a nail biting finish. These young landscapers were paired in random teams to build four identical 6 x 6m gardens, designed by BALI Award winning designer, Patricia Fox of Aralia Garden Design and Build.

BALI's project manager Angela Radley commented: "The competitors all showed their individual flair and fantastic team working abilities; this is the first time we have introduced random pairing they instantly stepped up to the challenge. Their tutors have done a great job preparing them so well and ferrying them in some cases more than six hours to the competition. Marshalls plc and Lantra Awards have been extremely supportive main sponsors and we were very lucky to welcome Wayne Grills from Lantra Awards and TV personality and garden designer Joe Swift to present the prizes."

The results of the WorldSkills National Final are as follows:

1st Place securing WorldSkills UK Silver Medal's: Ryan Neveu, Graduate Gardeners, Gloucestershire and Darren Cumming from The Essential Earthmen, Devon.

2nd Place securing WorldSkills UK Bronze Medal's: David Harvey, The Essential Earthmen and Robert Stewart, Oatridge College, Edinburgh.

3rd Place securing WorldSkills UK Bronze Medal's: Neil Bradley and Kristopher Orr, College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise, Northern Ireland.

4th Place: Ben Skinner, Chichester College, West Sussex and Ryan Love, Oatridge College.

Ryan Neveu and Darren Cumming now look forward to enjoying an additional ceremony at The BALI National Landscape Awards at Grosvenor House, London, on Friday 3rd December.

To view all photographs please see the WorldSkills UK page at www.bali.org.uk.

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INFORMATION

The landscape gardening competition is part of a set of over 70 skills competitions called WorldSkills UK which are run UK wide, in association with UK Skills. Every year the landscape gardening competition attracts, on average, 50 competitors from colleges and industry. Competing within regional heats; those scoring highest are invited to compete in a national final.

Outstanding national finalists across the UK may then be considered for inclusion in Team UK. The UK compete in the biennial International WorldSkills competition where almost 1200 competitors from around 50 countries compete to win medals. This year at WorldSkills Calgary 2009, the Landscape Gardening team won a medallion for excellence.

The next International WorldSkills competition will be held in London 2011 between 5th October and 2010 is the last year people can enter to be in with a chance of competing with Team UK in front of a home crowd.

For more information about the World Skills Landscape Gardening Competition UK please visit the BALI website at www.bali.org.uk or call 02476 690 333

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About WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills UK is the name for the UK's premier set of skills competitions. These competitions are open to all ages.

Competitions run every year in around 70 skills within these five main sectors:

- Built Environment
- Cultural and Creative Arts
- Engineering
- Information Technology and Business Administration
- Professional, Social, Public and Hospitality Services.