

SA SCHEME NOMINEE - THE SIMON KVERNDAL APPRENTICE 2020-21 ELLIS BELL, SPENCER RIGGING

Ellis Bell, age 19, is the son of Spencer Rigging's first apprentice – who started at the company some 33 years ago! As such, Ellis was already well known to everyone at the company before he started, and immediately settled in as one of the family.



He actually joined the company in June 2019 but didn't formally commence his Boat builder apprenticeship at the Isle of Wight college until Sept 2020. This was deliberate as the company wanted to give Ellis plenty of time to settle in but also, due to the specialist nature of the rigging role, the college needed time to adapt the Boat builder apprenticeship standard to suit the requirements of the company.

Ellis has good GCSE grades across the board, and he has always enjoyed practical work - especially carpentry. Since being employed at the company he has developed skills in splicing, whipping, assisting with testing/lifting and serving customers. He is making good progress with the off the job training at the college. Ellis is a very personable young man and has a bright future ahead of him at a well-respected company. His first mid-year progress report to us will be due at the end of February 2021.

<https://www.spencerrigging.co.uk/>

In response to their grant funding application the SA Scheme's ex Chairman stated:

"This application gets my vote. Spencer Rigging's balance sheet is very strong. The firm may be conservative and old-fashioned, but they have a good name and will turn out a well-trained apprentice. Britain is a strong exporter of rigging componentry. The apprenticeship may be a bit narrow and specialist, but it will be good for the apprentice, for the Firm, and for UK Plc!" (James Grazebrook OBE).

Mike Carr, MD of Pendennis Shipyard and Shipwrights Apprenticeship Scheme committee member stated:
"I agree with James. Spencer Rigging have been around a long time and are well respected in the yachting market."

Ellis Bell - Summary

I am 18 and currently studying carpentry at the Isle of Wight College. This has taught me a set of practical skills and helped in problem solving. My previous work as a Gym Assistant taught me to communicate well with colleagues and customers. I currently have a job at Spencer Rigging developing my skills in the marine trade.