



The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

The Queen's Silver Medal Competition 2021

Since 1944 The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights has delivered The Queen's Silver Medal Competition, a demanding, interesting and very rewarding programme for final year apprentices from the maritime sector, the primary focus of which is personal development. The competition takes individuals out of their comfort zone and challenges them, but is specifically designed to ensure that every participant benefits from each stage of the process and develops as a result.



"Time is a resource we can never replace and this course has taught me to appreciate every moment, no matter how tough, challenging or impossible. None of us will ever experience anything as surreal again."

Jennifer Mackay, Ferguson Marine.
Winner of the Queen's Silver Medal 2019.

Every year the Shipwrights' Company calls for well motivated apprentices from yards across the United Kingdom to apply for the programme. Eighteen applicants are selected to attend the week long Phipps Leadership and Development Programme at a purpose built camp on Kielder Water in Northumberland. The course, which is delivered by specialist tutors, is designed to be challenging but also to provide every participant with significant opportunities to learn and develop: self-assessment and peer review play a vital role in the process and participants receive individual guidance from the tutors and a personal report.

Following the course the Shipwrights short list six successful participants for interviews in London with the Education and Charities Committee. These interviews are the culmination of the QSM Competition and result in the award of The Queen's Silver Medal and £1500, the Shipwrights' Bronze Medal and £1000 and the Derek Kimber Medal and £750. The winner of the prize for Most Notable Endeavour receives £500.

The prizes are presented to the winners with due ceremony and in front of their families in London.



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London has long been an important port and the trade of shipwright was one of the oldest in the City. There are no records of the origins of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights but it is officially recognised as being prescriptive, so it originated before formal records in 1199.



Today the Company prides itself on being the principal maritime Livery Company with naval architects and marine engineers, ship-owners and shipbrokers, specialists in maritime law, banking and insurance, and officers of the Royal and Merchant Navies amongst its membership.



The course was perfect for me as it challenged me in different ways and pushed my limits and now I know I can go out of my comfort zone to learn more about myself.

Tyler French, BAE QSM Finalist 2019.

About The Queen's Silver Medal



In 1944 His Majesty King George VI, Permanent Master of the Shipwrights' Company, instituted a Silver Medal to be awarded to the Shipyard Apprentice of the Year. Kenneth Wood was the first winner of The King's Silver Medal.

The King charged the Shipwrights' Company with running the competition and it has been doing so ever since. In 1978 a Bronze Medal for the runner-up was included, followed in 1998 by a medal in memory of the late Derek Kimber OBE, Prime Warden and a noted shipbuilder with a great interest in apprentice training. A prize is also awarded to the candidate who displays the most notable endeavour at Kielder by having excelled in respect of at least one of the competition's main criteria. The 2020 Competition was not held.



The criteria against which applicants are assessed by the Shipwrights' Queen's Silver Medal Committee are:

- Willingness to Learn.
- Diligence at their trade and quality of output.
- Teamwork Skills.
- Good Citizenship and setting an example to others.
- Leadership Qualities.
- Problem Solving Skills.
- Communication Skills.



"The week allowed me to learn more about myself, which has enabled me to tailor my strengths and weaknesses to suit specific situations."

Stirling Taylor, RNLI. Second Place and the winner of the Shipwrights' Bronze Medal 2019.



"The week was memorable for many reasons, the real heart and soul of the week were the tutors and what they put into it. Thank you very much."

Hannah Orchard, Babcock International. Third Place and winner of the Derek Kimber Medal 2019.



***What's stopping you? Are you up for a challenge?
Apply now and reap the rewards!***

Who can apply? Final year apprentices from all trade backgrounds and disciplines, in small or large companies, are eligible. There is no longer an upper age limit. Are you interested? Find out more at:

www.shipwrights.co.uk/education/queens-silver-medal

The 2021 QSM Competition Dates are:

By 28 May 2021 – Applications to be submitted

By 25 June 2021 – Selections confirmed

4-10 September 2021 – Phipps Leadership and Development Programme at Kielder

2 December 2021 – QSM Interviews in London

13 January 2022 – QSM Prize Winners' Lunch

We look forward to receiving your completed application by Friday 28 May 2021.