

Winners' stories

Tower of London

All stories have been summarised
– if you would like to read your full,
original nomination, please contact
your nominator.

Be A Star helps you to recognise and thank your colleagues for all their great work and contribution to Compass UK & Ireland.

Over the following pages you can now read all our winners' stories – celebrating and shining a light on our extraordinary people!

Recognising the remarkable

B&I



Adam Greenway Eurest

Adam expertly manages a complex oil refinery site - where safety is paramount - with three catering outlets, hospitality, and 100+ vending machines. During 'turnaround,' he supports 4,000+ people, working tirelessly, including nights and weekends – making a real impact.



I agree with my client, Adam is a great asset and a pleasure to have on my team.” – Nominator Sarah Hey

Andreea Istoc 14forty

Andreea stayed calm and took control when one of the customers at the deli bar suddenly collapsed. Her proactive nature kicked in; calling 999, informing security, locking the restaurant down and asking reception to help direct the ambulance when it arrived.



Andreea remained composed and grabbed the situation with both hands. I am so proud of her!” – Nominator Mark Sykes

Giuseppe Nania Eurest

Giuseppe worked tirelessly to create a hospitality service that has far exceeded our clients' high expectations. Giuseppe collaborated with them to design a bespoke offer including arranging tasting sessions in order to gain feedback - highlighting his flexibility and commitment.



The client stopped me to say what a fabulous job Giuseppe was doing and how he always provided an excellent service.” – Nominator Emma Best

Julie Hoy Eurest

Julie and her team delivered a flawless four-day event, serving 300+ employees with 96% satisfaction. Their excellence continued at a senior leadership visit, earning praise as the 'Catering Dream Team.' Consistently recognised with awards, Julie is a truly deserving winner.



The team's incredible work ethic plus passion and perfection is admired by so many.” – Nominator Bryn Hooker

Katie Timberlake Eurest

Katie, a friendly, customer-focused barista, has dreams of becoming a chocolatier! She pursued a Commis Chef apprenticeship, showing incredible grit despite personal challenges. Her passion and determination inspire everyone and the clients love her.



I cannot explain how proud of her I am. Her tenacity and resilience continue to surprise me.” – Nominator Nicola Smith

Shaun Russell Eurest

As described by his client: “Shaun is the heart of our restaurant and a beloved figure. Down-to-earth and approachable, he makes everyone welcome. No task is too challenging, and always tackled with a smile - he consistently exceeds our expectations.”



Shaun stands out for his enormously high standards - only the best will do.” – Nominator Sarah Hey

Central Functions



Anthony Hickey

Foodbuy

Tony's amazing support in menu development is the reason behind his nomination - always listening and supporting the many changes needed in a very dynamic group of schools.

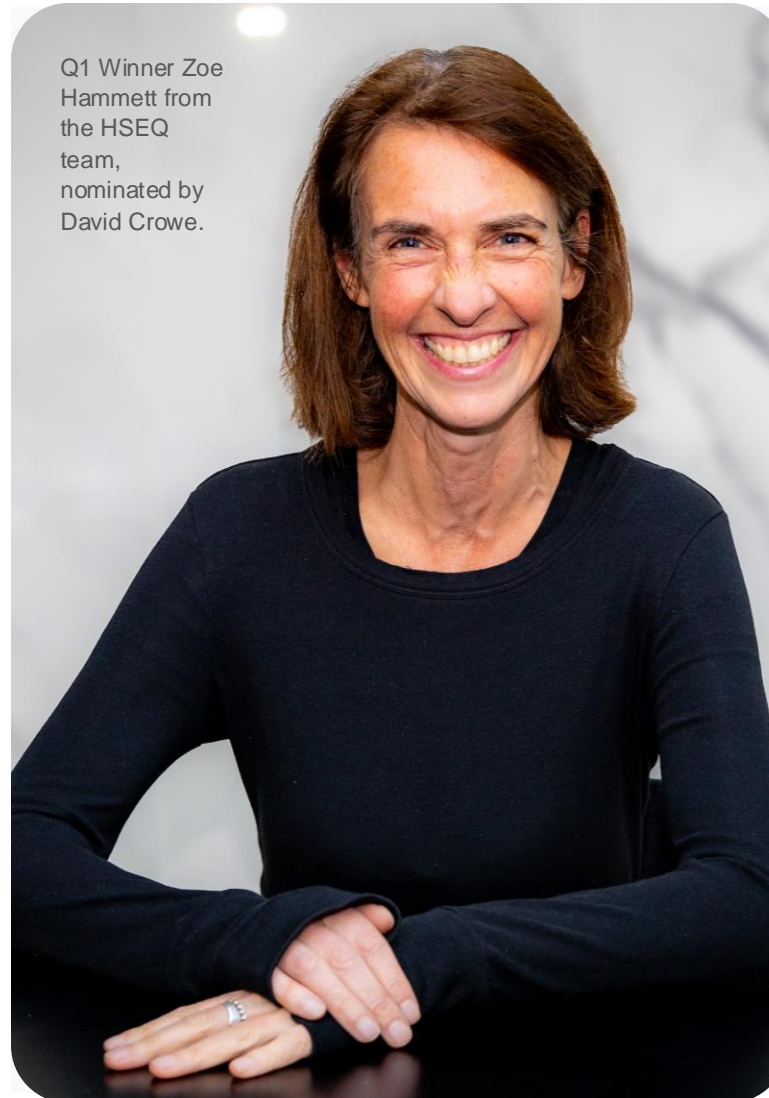
“Without Tony having my back with his incredible support, my job would be a lot harder and my schools would be very dissatisfied.” – Nominator Sarah inwood

Glenneth Johns

Foodbuy

Glenneth transformed cash management in Foodbuy; creating a key source file and refining processes, making debt tracking far more efficient. Her collaboration has driven real change, reducing debt, improving cash flow, and shaping best practices.

“Her dedication has made a huge impact - thank you, Glenneth!” – Nominator Leah Anderson



Chris Dartnall

Cuisine Centre

Chris, Sarah and Justyna all stepped in to help a colleague in a time of need, carrying out lifesaving first aid to a team member until the emergency services arrived. They all stayed calm in a very emotional and serious medical emergency.

“It was real team effort – they all pulled together in a really stressful time.” – Nominator Karl Mansoor

Ivona Neumanova

Projects

Ivona is the heart of our Social Partner Hub, which helps people overcome barriers to employment with Compass. She's streamlined processes, built key relationships, and has set up processes to manage the candidate journey.

“Her dedication, passion, and attention to detail have made a huge impact to so many.” – Nominator Sonia Murtagh

James Mondo

Foodbuy

Despite James' nominator, Niamh, having never met him, she wanted to thank him for his exceptional support and care in resolving her Foodbuy issues. He went above and beyond, personally ringing her to update her on tickets.

“He wasn't just someone on a keyboard, but someone who actually cares - he is the best!” – Nominator Niamh Gjeci

Sarah Tott

People

Sarah is a volunteer member of the Armed Forces Committee – representing Compass at military events, sharing her story and helping promote the Spouses policy. She's a role model for others going through similar experiences.

“Sarah has helped existing colleagues find out more about our policies as well as recruiting people who heard her talk.” – Nominator Camilla Howard

Shamyne Ndoro

Sales & Retention

Shamyne excels in managing retention data and supporting colleagues. Despite personal challenges, her cheerfulness and commitment never waiver – she's a mentor, team player, and star, uplifting everyone around her.

“A real shining example of dedication, friendliness and resilience – she has an incredibly positive impact.” – Nominator Daman Khangura

Sian Richards

Healthcare

Sian is a fountain of knowledge who drops everything to support others. Her exceptional dedication has seen her quickly become a trusted, knowledgeable resource, offering guidance and training to others.

“She is completely humble about her contribution and I want her to be recognised!” – Nominator Jessica West

Sonia Murtagh

Human Resources

On finding out there was no data for the Social Referral Hub, Sonia upskilled her data literacy and created a central place to record the data. Her continued work to keep this data accessible, accurate and up-to-date has given valuable insights to the team.

“Sonia clearly takes a lot of pride in her work!” – Nominator Grace Nichols-Singh

Sophie Wust

Foodbuy

Ingredient and recipe management, inflation challenges, sustainability initiatives and new menu launches — Sophie handles them all effortlessly. From CH&CO recipe onboarding to juggling team changes and inductions, Sophie handles it all with expertise and humour.

“Sophie should be recognised for her outstanding and continuing contribution.” – Nominator Robert Brown

Chartwells





Christina Aldridge Independents

Christina's commitment to Allergy Awareness is outstanding, she studies new dietary requirements each term and personally introduces herself as the Allergy Champion, ensuring pupils are always catered for.

“Her commitment never falters, she is always supportive and caring.” – Nominator Fiona Purnell

Elena Lazar Universities

Elena has progressed through Career Pathways, and is now manager of the highest footfall and turnover unit on campus. She's built a fantastic team and significantly improved service through her leadership and tenacity.

“Elena is a dedicated and ambitious manager who leads by example.” – Nominator Stephen Travis

Jack Blades Independents

Jack inspires catering teams and pupils to cut food waste by creatively turning surplus food into exciting dishes. At two pilot sites, his efforts cut food waste by 30%, sparking change and encouraging mindful choices.

“Jack engages pupils with educational initiatives highlighting plate waste, raising awareness in a visual and impactful way.” – Nominator Olivia Pratt

James Edgar Chartwells

Sous Chef James spent his own time supporting Cambridge Sustainable Food (CSF), an alliance of organisations promoting healthy and environmentally sustainable food for all. He prepared a vegetable and lentil curry for the local community at the Storeys Field Centre for the homeless, happy to use his skills to help and support those around them who are less fortunate. Nominated by Guy Kaye

Laura Hutchison-Hazelden Independents

When two front-of-house colleagues were unable to work, Laura stepped up and handled their workload with calm professionalism. She carried out her own responsibilities with grace then offered support to her colleagues, ensuring all ran smoothly.



Her dedication to teamwork and her helpful nature truly make a difference.”
– Nominator Olivier Fasolo

Lorraine Parker State Schools

I've never met Lorraine but my daughter speaks so highly of her friendly, supportive nature. Lorraine helped when tech issues arose with the payment scanner and consistently made her feel comfortable and welcomed – a huge part of getting children to eat their lunch!



Lorraine's kindness and her dedication to making kids feel at ease is truly appreciated.” – Nominator Lucy Hunt

Malcom Wood Chartwells

Malcom spent his own time supporting an alliance of organisations promoting healthy and sustainable food for all. He prepared a curry for the local community, happy to use his skills to help and support those around them who are less fortunate.



This sense of passion is shared and supported by the client”.
– Guy Kaye

Shaun Pires De Carvalho State Schools

Shaun has transformed the contract, leading unique events with exceptional planning and teamwork. He fosters a supportive environment, showing appreciation through handwritten cards, chocolates, and team social events.



Shaun's leadership has created a trusting and transparent relationship with the client, taking the contract to the next level.” – Nominator Karen Mantell

Simon Sturmey Independents

Simon has made impressive strides in reducing food waste. By analysing waste streams and adjusting kitchen production, he managed to cut food waste by 30% and is on-target to hit 50%. Always forward-thinking, He also introduced a "smart bar" to rework dishes.



Simon consistently delivers excellence, even outside his comfort zone – we're incredibly proud of his achievements.”
– Nominator Julie Bibby

Timothy Elks CH&CO

Timothy runs an 'After School Gala Dinner Club', where students learn to cook and plate a three course dinner, before serving the meal to specially invited guests including the headmaster. The event's so popular that he's been asked to run it more than once a year!



He is such an enthusiastic chef who is so well-loved by the students!” – Nominator Claire Clark

ESS



Alice Carlesso

EGI

Alice instantly brightens any room with her positivity and problem-solving skills. Highly organised and supportive, she motivates the team, instilling confidence and excitement and driving everyone to excel. "We would be lost without her!"



A true unsung hero, she deserves recognition - the company is lucky to have her." – Nominator Bobby Weaver

Fay Meen

DMA

Cleaning Supervisor, Fay, remained calm during a medical emergency, helping where possible. She played a key role in the aftermath of the event, ensuring the situation was managed effectively with meticulous attention to detail.



Fay's ability to stay focused under pressure and her selfless, humble nature make her an invaluable asset to the team!" – Nominator Emma Boon

Gillian Williams

DMA

During a challenging time, Gillian balanced her own responsibilities with ease while supporting her colleagues. Her calm focus and quick thinking helped alleviate the stress others were facing, and clients noticed the seamless delivery.



Gillian's teamwork brought everyone together, her impact was truly inspiring." Nominator Kat Sigani

Jasmine Horsley

DMA

Apprentice Jasmine showed exceptional drive and teamwork when supporting a busy shift with her impressive knowledge and maturity. She managed the kitchen with ease, ensuring the menu was executed flawlessly.



Jazz's skills have always impressed me and I feel she will go a long way within the company." Nominator Belinda Tancock

Jim Harrop-Williams

DMA

Jim is a tremendous support to all; his deep knowledge, attention to detail, and consistent performance have been crucial to the team. He played a key role in restructuring SAP, optimising processes and transitioning files to a centralised system.



Jim's innovation and foresight have significantly contributed to the team's success, including achieving record profits." – Nominator Toni Bishop

Joshua England

DMA


Due to staffing issues, Josh stepped up from his General Assistant role - taking his food hygiene training level 2 and assisting the chefs daily. When the head chef was off, Josh helped run the kitchen alongside the agency chefs - delivering fantastic food.



Josh has now asked to start an apprenticeship and is looking to get to sous chef level - a real credit to our business." Nominator Simon Carr


Leona Marylyn EGI

Our client recommended that Leona be put forward for this award saying: "She's been a true superstar this summer, stepping up in the absence of a General Manager. Leona's dedication and growing confidence have made her an absolute delight to work with."

 **She's nothing less than patient, helpful and approachable. She simply gets on with what needs to be done."** – Nominator Paul Boon


Lisa Calaby DMA

Lisa stepped in to deputise for both the GM and the OM, showing outstanding resilience and leadership and ensuring the smooth operation of four busy sites. Despite challenges, Lisa managed 50+ staff with professionalism, maintaining efficiency and moral.

 **Without Lisa rising to the occasion, there's no doubt the contract would have faced significant challenges."** – Nominator Paul Lockwood

Louise Skillen DMA

Since starting 10 years ago, Louise has developed into a confident, capable cleaning supervisor with excellent leadership skills. Her commitment to self-improvement and her pursuit of a career pathway highlight her growth and potential for success.

 **Her positivity and determination to learn and success is second to none."** – Nominator Lin Thomson

Monika Booth DMA

Receptionist Monika was nominated for her exceptional dedication and creativity, going above and beyond to create impactful Remembrance Day displays, using eco-friendly materials. Monika's work and commitment make her an invaluable asset to ESS.

 **She's committed to both client and team, making a huge difference with her great service."** – Nominator Rhi Backhouse

Tracy Tarling DMA

Supervisor Tracy is known for her unique personality and great sense of humour, which shows itself at every opportunity. When a Latvian colleague suffered the sudden and tragic loss of his wife, he struggled to cope with everyday things, as English wasn't his first language. Tracy stepped in - giving him lifts, contacting companies as his mediator and helping at home. *"She has shown incredible patience and maintained her sense of humour throughout".* **Nominated by David Lincoln**

Healthcare & Retail





Beata Wojcik **White Oaks**

Bea was nominated for his outstanding contribution to the complex mobilization of nine care homes in just four weeks. With high vacancies and first-generation outsourcing, he supported clients, residents, and teams while adapting to evolving needs.

“His efforts helped exceed expectations, fostering team spirit and potential contract growth.” – Nominator Laura Tighe

Cameron Quinlan **Medirest**

Cameron has earned well-deserved praise from the Trust for his exemplary support of patients and assistance to staff during critical moments. His remarkable awareness and decisive actions in medical emergencies truly sets him apart.

“Cameron's compassion and work ethics should be recognized!” – Nominator Rosanna Rega

Binyamin Baron **Medirest**

Ben noticed a patient in distress and, recognising it as a critical emergency, alerted the nursing team. Thanks to his swift action in escalating the situation, the patient received the necessary care just in time, preventing a serious outcome. His care and dedication is deeply appreciated!”

“Ben exemplifies our core values and provides exceptional service and care!” – Nominator Aneta Zieja

Justyna Hill **Cuisine Centre**

Justyna, Sarah and Chris all stepped in to help a colleague in a time of need, carrying out lifesaving first aid until the emergency services arrived. They all stayed calm in a very emotional and serious medical emergency.

“It was real team effort – they all pulled together in a really stressful time” – Nominator Karl Mansoor

Kalpana Whitfield

Retail


Kal is an incredibly hardworking and dedicated team member, admired by both customers and colleagues. Her efforts during lockdown earned glowing feedback, with customers even contacting head office to praise her! Her contributions have been vital to our operation.

 **I want her to know she really deserves to be recognised for her commitment.”**
– Nominator Sallyanne Curd

Lucy Andrews

Medirest


Since joining, Lucy has transformed team morale, collaboration, and cleaning standards. Her leadership, positivity, and problem-solving skills have created a culture of excellence and teamwork. Approachable and inspiring, she set higher standards, making a visible impact.

 **Lucy is truly valued, and we deeply appreciate her dedication and support.”**
– Nominator Marcus James

Samantha Tatum-Honer-Wright

Instore

Samantha made an immediate impression with her warmth, dedication and knowledge of the café. Despite staff shortages, she remains calm under pressure, supporting customers and colleagues effortlessly. Her multitasking and ability to diffuse difficult situations are invaluable.

 **No matter the challenge, she always finishes her shift with a smile.”** –
Nominator Tamara Hick

Sarah Appleyard

Cuisine Centre

Sarah, Justyna and Chris all stepped in to help a colleague in a time of need, carrying out lifesaving first aid to a team member until the emergency services arrived. They all stayed calm in a very emotional and serious medical emergency.

 **“It was real team effort – they all pulled together in a really stressful time”** –
Nominator Karl Mansoor

Tilak Chhetri

Healthcare

Security Manager Tilak knows everyone by name, smiling and lifting the spirits of everyone he comes across. When his team struggled to get to grips with TOPdesk, Tilak took the time to personally train each team member - day, night and at weekends. This has resulted in 100% compliance with all contractual KPIs. On top of this he regularly receives powerful feedback, not just from his team but from the patients as well. **Nominated by Todd Turner**

Younes Ghouloul

Healthcare

When a woman impersonated a doctor and gained access to a patient in the custody of 2 police officers, administering some substance to them, Younes spent 2 days checking CCTV for the police. When handing over his footage, outside A&E, Younes spotted the wanted woman on an Ambulance, dressed as a doctor. Younes called the police and she was arrested.
Nominated by Luke Redhead

Levy



Alex Hall Jockey Club Catering

Alex was nominated for his unwavering dedication and successful implementation of K Stock across the estate. Despite numerous setbacks and external pressures, Alex successfully rolled out the system, also creating K Stock Champions to support challenging sites.

“Alex committed a huge amount of personal time to ensure this success.” – Nominator Allan Porter

Charlie Steed Jockey Club

Charlie joined us and took charge of fundraising, organising a charity Family Fun Day. Partnering with local businesses, he secured over £1,000 in donations, providing 150 guests with free food, activities, and goodie bags for those that may otherwise not have been able to afford it.

“Families enjoyed a memorable day, with glowing feedback praising Charlie’s outstanding generosity.” – Nominator Camille Pilcher

Ellie Hall Keith Prowse

Ellie has grown immensely, transforming from a new starter to a passionate, dependable team member. She excels in supporting colleagues, stepping into various roles to ensure event success and consistently delivering outstanding service and support for the team and clients.

“She doesn’t hesitate to get stuck in to ensure we can provide the best possible service.” – Nominator Aaron Mozley

Kyle McGarey Levy

Kyle has taken Chelsea FC’s non-matchday offering to the next level - adopting a hands-on, personal approach to his department while developing a trusted relationship with the client. “A great example of a new and future leader within the culinary team”.

“A great example of a new and future leader within the culinary team”. – Nominator Andrew Thomas

Petru Cristian Cosma Levy

When one of Petru’s customers struggled to understand a document in Spanish, he kindly helped translate it. The customer’s relieved smile afterward was a testament to Petru’s helpfulness and dedication to providing excellent service.

“Petru consistently goes above and beyond for both his colleagues and customers.” – Nominator Raul-David Marinau

Richard Lappin Jockey Club Catering

Richard was nominated for his exceptional efforts over the last 12 months. He has doubled our local direct team, reducing travel and accommodation costs and helped negotiate a £10k cost reduction for 2025. Richard also supported the trial and implementation of Human Force and Ubeya, resulting in significant savings and a £30k payroll reduction in P1.
Nominated by Allan Porter

Ruth Watson Confex & Arenas

Ruth is compassionate, witty, and a true team player, inspiring and uplifting everyone around her. Despite personal challenges, she's a pillar of strength to others, offering unwavering support and kindness. Her positive impact is unmatched, creating a workplace where everyone thrives.

“ I just hope she knows how valued and loved she is!” – Nominator Victoria Higgins



Q1 Winner Alex
Hall from Jockey
Club Catering,
nominated by Allan
Porter

Scott Smith Constellation

Scott is an invaluable asset to the culinary operation at his unit, consistently demonstrating excellence in his support, consultation and advice to the logistics and culinary team. His commitment to teamwork, positive attitude and remarkable work ethic have significantly contributed to the success of our operations.

“We are so grateful for his contributions.”
– Nominator Lee Aldred

RA Group



Alex Habitemariam Restaurant Associates

Alex supported a client's presentation by providing detailed PowerPoint slides and holding one-on-one meetings to make sure they had all the information they needed. His dedication earned their gratitude and glowing feedback for his outstanding support.

“I wanted to highlight the impact Alex has, maintaining excellent relationships with clients.” – Nominator Maria Gonzalez

Ayobami Oyafunke Rocket

Ayobami somehow knows every team member (+70 FTE plus +100 casuals) and checks in regularly, always going the extra mile. Whether it's making a coffee, offering a walk and a chat, or finding professional support, his positivity is infectious, his dedication unwavering.

“Ayo makes everyone feel valued, and he deserves to know how much he is too!” – Nominator Sarah Baumgartner

Cosmin Badragan Rapport

While on reception Cosmin discovered a lost credit card and, despite initial uncertainty, diligently identified its rightful owner. His discreet approach, strict adherence to GDPR regulations, and commitment to exceptional service ensured the guest's security and she was overjoyed.

“His professionalism, attention to detail, and willingness to go above and beyond truly reflect our values.” – Catherine Sandoval

Dean Friary Hall Rapport

After violent protests left the reception area unusable, it had to be temporarily relocated to a staff-only entrance with no power, internet, or landline. Amidst the chaos, Dean coordinated an extension lead installation, ensuring we had power for devices and heating.

“His quick thinking and problem-solving kept us operational and comfortable.” – Nominator Riccardo Sessa

Fran Walsh Rapport

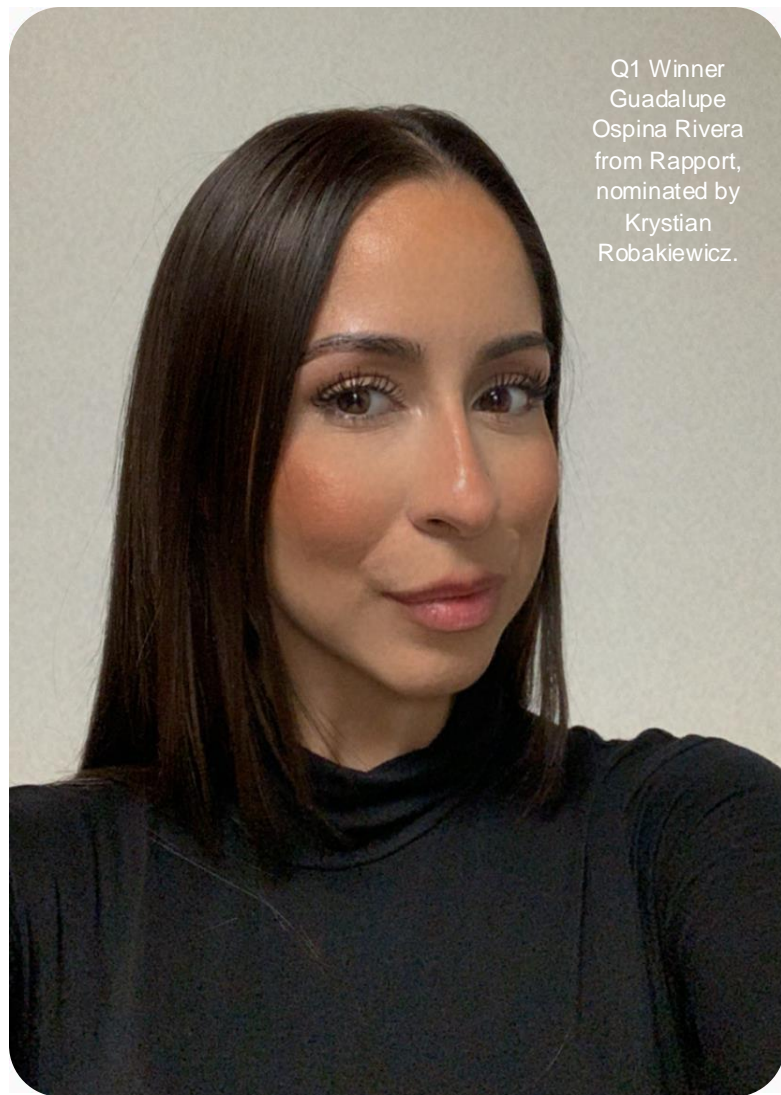
While performing her routine floor checks, Fran encountered a bank employee facing an unexpected fashion emergency — ripped tights before an evening concert. With empathy and resourcefulness, she provided a spare pair, saving the day.

“Fran's kindness, preparedness, and dedication make her a true asset — thank you, Fran!” – Nominator Viktoriya Zhekova

Kate Baptiste Rapport

Kate's kindness and quick thinking made all the difference when a client needed help. Seeing a workshop organizer struggling with heavy bags, she stepped in without hesitation, carrying supplies inside and ensuring everything reached the right place.

“Kate's willingness to go the extra mile is a true example of outstanding customer service!” – Nominator Patrycja Blaszczyk



Q1 Winner
Guadalupe
Ospina Rivera
from Rapport,
nominated by
Krystian
Robakiewicz.

Kathleen Thorpe Rapport

Kathleen is one of a kind in many ways, and is guaranteed to put a smile on your face when you enter her floor, with her natural enthusiasm and kindness. A client recently praised her outstanding service, larger than life character and caring nature.

“People want to be looked after by someone who cares and Kathleen does that in buckets.” – Nominator Nikolaos Galanis

Megan Jarman Rapport

When a site supervisor called in sick, Megan stepped up. With two major events taking place the reception was heavily congested. Managing check-ins, assisting a new supervisor, and handling a tense situation with patience, Megan kept everything running smoothly.

“She has really brought sustainability to life for the team – she’s committed, engaging and enthusiastic” - Nominator Quentin Meliz

Lora Yordanova Rapport

Lora was nominated for her outstanding contribution to her team's success, specially in her recent role in training the newest team leader.

“She's been the North Star for him, illuminating, encouraging and nurturing him along his path. Lora is not just a shining star, she's a supernova of support..” – Nominator Oihane Azcona

Phil Daintry Restaurant Associates

Sous Chef Phil was nominated for his dedication and outstanding performance. Committed to excellence, he's always the first in and last out, never cutting corners. He leads HACCP, champions allergens, and mentors commis chefs and CDPs, setting a great example.

“He really deserves this recognition. Well done, mate!” – Nominator Eleftherios Oikonomou

Robert Kelsey

RA Group

Robert won for his outstanding leadership during a contract mobilisation. Facing tight deadlines and complex service needs, he provided invaluable guidance, hands-on support, and problem-solving expertise. His dedication and teamwork ensured a successful launch, leaving a lasting positive impact on the contract and company.

“He steps up whenever required and is definitely one to watch for the future.” – Nominator Dominic Berinato

Samuelle Deleo

Restaurant Associates

Sam joined through an internship and has since earned a permanent role in the Brasserie restaurant. His dedication and hard work are truly valued, not just by his team but by clients as well - proof of just how hard Sam works every day.

“He's super polite, clearly takes his role seriously and is a great ambassador!” – Nominator Nadia Nonnis

Shradha Rai

Rapport

Despite being new to the role, Mimi did an amazing job of getting the new floor and space ready for a smooth opening, on top of learning her role, training and managing logistics. She's built a great relationship with the client and is an invaluable asset to the team.

“She always helps out where she can with enthusiasm and dedication, even things that are not her job to do!” – Nominator Madeleine Fletcher

Simona Mocanu

Rapport

Simona quickly mastered the intricacies of the two buildings and more than 50 agencies - a challenging task. Her calm leadership during a complex 200-person event showed her problem-solving skills and unwavering commitment further.

“A true partner, I am beyond grateful for her hard work.” – Nominator Lora Yordanova

Got any questions?

Check out:

compassbeastar.com

or drop us an email, we'd love to hear from you:

sarah.scott@compass-group.co.uk

A massive
thank
you