

Winners' stories

Kew Gardens

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

Winner's Stories | Be A Star 2025 | 'Lunch is on us' at Kew Gardens



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





Winner Darren Wiseman
from Eures, nominated
by Sarah Hey

Darren Wiseman **Eures**

Darren has grown from senior chef to a highly respected assistant manager, seamlessly stepping into leadership and excelling at every challenge. He played a key role in launching and managing a demanding new site, winning client praise and delivering a 100% satisfaction score.



Darren's dedication and willingness to support others make him an invaluable team member and a true role model."
– Nominator Sarah Hey

Linda Mcara **Dine**

Linda provided unwavering support to a colleague recovering from illness. With frequent check-ins, expert advice and calm guidance during challenging times, Linda's dedication went beyond the job - her mentorship helped someone thrive again.




Linda went that extra mile to get me back to a position where I could continue to work in a role I really enjoy."
– Nominator Stephen Essam

Central Functions




Cristel Worth
Central Functions - Sales

Cristel's commitment to supporting growth is evident through her outstanding achievements, including booking £47 million in appointments in FY25. She balances multiple responsibilities with a positive, persistent and innovative approach.

 **Nothing is ever too much for her and she is an integral part of the Inside Sales Team.”**
– Nominator Charlotte Parriss


Georgia Chapman
Central Functions - Retention

Bid writer Georgia has been a standout contributor to recent tenders, producing high-quality, creative work that perfectly aligns with client needs. Recent feedback highlights her work as exceptional, putting their bids ahead by a significant margin.

 **When timelines become tight, she's always a helping hand, ensuring we put our best foot forward.”** –
Nominator Katie Ingram

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


Meghan Chatwin
Central Functions - Sales

Meg makes a significant impact on marketing success through her strategic, data-driven approach and innovative campaigns. With a focus on continuous improvement, Meg's creativity and commitment have elevated performance

 **"Her growth mindset is commendable.”** –
Nominator Sarah Fleming

Zahirah Shoaib
D&T

Zahirah tackled a massive payroll challenge, creating 3 complex programs in just 5 days. I can't begin to explain how difficult it is to write programs from scratch, let alone 3! Her incredible efforts allowed Payroll to resume their processes with nominal delays to their scheduled processes.

 **Her dedication, skill, and quick thinking were invaluable.”** –
Nominator Lorraine Arscott

Chartwells



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Amanda Irlam State Schools

Amanda consistently delivers outstanding service and delights clients with events such as tea parties and Victory Day - the school is even nominating her for their own award! Her food quality and presentation set a benchmark for other units, requiring no prep to impress.

“Amanda is truly deserving of this recognition” – Nominator Samantha Fisher

Jayne Willcocks State Schools

Jayne has shown exceptional dedication throughout her leadership of the contract. Her empathetic approach and commitment to innovative initiatives - like introducing HSE best practices across 135 schools - demonstrate her passion for creating positive outcomes.

“Jayne knows her managers well and takes the time to understand their diverse personalities and the different ways they work.” – Nominator Vanessa Migliozi



Winner Mayur Patel
from Chartwells,
nominated by
Mariann Meszaros

Emma Payne State Schools

Emma's energy and compassion were especially clear during gingerbread workshops for 600 children, when she strived to ensure inclusivity. She even baked special treats for a child who wanted to take some home to her mum - leaving a lasting impact on the school and the families involved.

“Emma is a ray of sunshine across every site she supports.” – Nominator Jessica Butler

Mayur Patel PPP-IML

Mayur's expertise in diagnosing and resolving technical issues, and his collaborative spirit, have earned him consistent praise from clients. His ability to address urgent concerns with a positive attitude and dedication has greatly enhanced the customer experience.

“Mayur worked very late responding to all our urgent emails, helping us find a way to save what we thought were damaged files.” – Nominator Mariann Meszaros

Winner Sarah
Hewson, nominated
by Tomasz Masiuk



Sarah Hewson Universities & Colleges

Sarah went above and beyond in organizing the staff Christmas party, meticulously planning every detail to create an unforgettable experience. Her efforts ensured that every team member felt appreciated - strengthening colleague bonds and truly embodying the values of the organization.



**She is an amazing company ambassador who is passionate about our industry.” –
Nominator Tomasz Masiuk**

Timothy Elks CH&CO

Timothy runs an 'After School Gala Dinner Club' over five weeks, where students learn to cook and plate dinner, before serving the meal to special guests, including the headmaster. The event's so popular he's been asked to run it more regularly!



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

Suzana Alliu State Schools

Suzana's exceptional dedication and work ethic mean she is now transitioning into a chef position, showing great passion and growth. Her positive attitude, attention to detail and outstanding customer service make a difference every day, especially with the children she supports.



Suzana takes great care in her responsibilities, ensuring everything runs smoothly.” – Nominator Valentin Colibas

Yiu Leung Lau Independents

James (Yiu) used his own time create and deliver Hong Kong-specific menus for Lunar New Year. He even cooked for two days straight at home and helped organize a traditional dance, earning public recognition and thanks from the client.



The client made a point to present and thank James in front of the whole school.” – Nominator Leonardo Clementi

ESS





Olivia Hart DMA

When a function attendee fell ill, Olivia swiftly took control; coordinating staff, managing the situation with a doctor and ensuring the customer's safety. Her quick thinking and calm demeanour ensured timely medical attention, exemplifying professionalism, empathy and dedication to care.

“ Her quick judgment, clear communication and unwavering dedication were instrumental in managing this critical situation effectively.” – Nominator Abi Kinsey

Tia Mee DMA

At just 17, Tia bravely reported unacceptable behaviour, showing remarkable strength and professionalism. Her courage led her to share her story in the “No Excuse for Abuse” campaign, inspiring change and raising awareness.

“ Tia exemplifies resilience, integrity and true bravery – she’s an extraordinary young woman making a real difference.”
– Nominator Shane Cooper

Healthcare & Retail



Beverley Keeble **Medirest**

Porter Bev has profoundly impacted patients through her unwavering kindness and attentiveness. Her warm demeanour and thoughtful gestures have transformed patients' experiences, making challenging treatments more bearable.



Bev's dedication exemplifies the profound difference compassionate care can make to patients." – Nominator Egle Cironkaite

Carlos Melo **Medirest**

Carlos and Kerrie displayed extraordinary leadership during a traumatic incident involving a patient. Rather than burdening their team with a distressing task, they took responsibility for the situation, prioritizing their staff's well-being in the most challenging circumstances



Carlos and Kerri went above and beyond to protect their team's emotional well-being." – Nominator Paula Levett

Elzbieta Biel **Medirest**

Known for her meticulous attention to detail and compassionate care, Elzbieta not only improves cleanliness but also brings warmth and comfort to every patient and family she interacts with. She is a lasting inspiration to all who cross her path.



Ela truly embodies the spirit of healthcare domestics, working tirelessly to create a safe, healing environment." – Nominator Aneta Zieja

Kerrie Ann Miller **Healthcare Retail**

Carlos and Kerrie displayed extraordinary leadership during a traumatic incident involving a patient. Rather than burdening their team with a distressing task, they took responsibility for the situation, prioritizing their staff's well-being in the most challenging circumstances



Kerri and Carlos went above and beyond to protect their team's emotional well-being." – Nominator Paula Levett

Michael Fadunmoye **Medirest**

Michael demonstrated exceptional care and compassion when a member of the catering team, Steve, was severely attacked by a patient. Michael immediately rushed to Steve's aid, stopping his bleeding, ensuring he received medical attention and staying with him until his family arrived.



Michael's thoughtful actions made a difficult situation more manageable for Steve." – Nominator Chris Johnson

Shayan Shariatianpour **Medirest**

Security Supervisor Shayan won for his heroic management of a fire crisis - he coordinated a rapid response tackled flames and ensured a safe evacuation. His leadership and expertise were critical in minimizing damage, earning him widespread praise from the team and fire brigade.



Shayan was a beacon of hope amidst the chaos, calming panicked hearts with his steady presence." – Nominator Aneta Zieja

Winner Younes Ghououl,
nominated by Luke Redhead



Stephen Spencer Medirest

Stephen showed exceptional leadership when a team member was violently assaulted. Aware of the team member's vulnerabilities, he arranged for CCTV footage to be used for the police statement, providing much-needed support during a traumatic time.



Stephen's quick action and thoughtful care during a traumatic incident provided invaluable support to his vulnerable team member." – Nominator Chris Johnson

Younes Ghououl Healthcare

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



"I can not thank him enough for his initial investigation, which led to the capture and arrest of the suspect." – Nominator Luke Redhead

Levy




Amy Pender London and South

Amy takes on new challenges with efficiency and enthusiasm - successfully delivering the team training day and leading key projects. Her coaching has driven significant improvements in standards, financials and operations, making her a reliable and dedicated team member.

 **She genuinely cares about her role and the success of the team, which is evident.”**
– Nominator Niamh Geraghty


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

Chloe Lovatt Midlands, North & Wales

Chloe successfully led the transition to a new workforce management system, ensuring smooth implementation for over 2,500 staff members. Her dedication, strong communication and organizational skills have made these transitions seamless and efficient for the entire team.

 **Chloe has supported the whole matchday team and ensured the new system is put to the best use possible for all”. –**
Nominator Sally Parkinson


Rebecca Seers Constellation

By building strong relationships with staff and management, Rebecca has enhanced staff quality, ensuring the right people are in the right roles. Her efforts in localizing the workforce and training have boosted performance, reduced costs, and increased customer satisfaction.

 **She has consistently improved staffing functions across key KPIs.”**
– Nominator Kevin Berry

Surafel Surafel London and South

Surafel has been a driving force in advancing sustainability across the stadium. Through his innovative waste management system and sharp data analysis, recycling has increased by 30% and food waste has dropped dramatically.

 **He is meticulous and tenacious with his data analysis - significantly reducing our food waste day-to-day.”** – Nominator Yunus Tumi

RA Group



Audrius Gecevicius

Restaurant Associates

Audrius stepped up during extended absences of the Head Chef, even postponing his own holiday to ensure smooth kitchen operations. He consistently demonstrates resilience - managing the team, maintaining high standards and proving himself an invaluable asset to the team.



His leadership and unwavering dedication have made him a trusted figure and invaluable asset.” – Giovanni Mazzaglia

Cassie Hughes

Rapport

Cassie has transformed her team into a high-performing unit, leading with strategic thinking and collaboration. She successfully managed new software implementation across 22 locations, and, under her leadership, the events team have handled a record number of events.



I personally can’t wait to see Cassie grow and evolve with us at Rapport.” – Nominator Conor Bartley

Ella Grieves

RA Venues

Ella won for her outstanding work in creating a full brand identity in just one week for a critical tender bid. Her creativity, attention to detail and ability to work under pressure exceeded expectations - positioning the team far ahead of the competition and showcasing her exceptional talent.



Ella’s hard work elevated the bid and set the team ahead of the competition.” – Nominator David Simpson

Hayley Scott

RA Venues

Hayley has transformed her team’s productivity through engaging SHINE training sessions. She personalises each session, planning them meticulously, even in her own time. Passionate about sustainability, she collects crisp packets weekly for recycling.



Hayley is an inspirational and dedicated colleague who makes a significant impact at her site.” – Nominator Sunil Machile

Leandro Rodrigues

Rapport

When a stressed client faced an urgent wardrobe issue before a high-stakes presentation, Leandro swiftly ironed his shirt, transforming it in minutes. The client returned later, deeply grateful for Leandro’s professional, caring approach.



Leandro’s quick thinking and personal touch saved the day, leaving a lasting impression on our client.” – Nominator Viktoriya Zhekova

Osazuwa Ehigie

Restaurant Associates

Osazuwa (Rasaki) spearheaded the zero-waste initiative, managing over 10,000 reusable items daily and turning a complex project into a success. His dedication to learning and supporting others helped play a key role in winning the RA ESG Commitment Award.



Rasaki’s passion and leadership have made a huge impact, turning a challenging project into a success.” – Nominator Peter Cunningham



Winner Osazuwa Ehigie
from Restaurant
Associates, nominated
by Peter Cunningham

Preeti Khetrapal **Rapport**

Preeti is the heart of the front desk, effortlessly managing her busy role with grace. Her knack for anticipating needs, paired with a can-do attitude, ensures everything runs smoothly and her exceptional service and dedication make her an invaluable asset to the team.

“Preeti's warmth and attention to detail create a welcoming atmosphere that makes everyone feel at ease.” –
Nominator Vilma Vilkaityte

Teodora Effimova **Rapport**

Skilled Barista Teodora made it to the semi-finals of the RA Barista competition and even organized a festive advent calendar featuring stunning latte art. Teodora motivates her team and inspires creativity, setting an excellent example for all.

“Teodora's creativity, skill, and customer service make every coffee experience unforgettable, setting a high standard for the team.” - Nominator Lucia Guaicha

Got any questions?

Check out:

compassbeastar.com

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

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A massive
**thank
you**