

Winners' stories

Quarter One, 2026

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 Q1 winners' stories – celebrating and shining a light on our extraordinary people!

**Recognising
the remarkable**

Central Functions





Q1 winner
Harinder Chahal from
Foodbuy Group, nominated
by Ajith Polasani

Abby Devaney **Sales**

Abby's positivity and support has transformed her team's dynamic. She stepped in to cover key responsibilities during a colleague's difficult personal time, kept operations running smoothly, and brings enthusiasm, encouragement and optimism that lifts others, making her invaluable in a new and challenging leadership role.

“She ensured the department ran smoothly and I didn't have to worry.” – Nominator Jacques Braddick

Emma Roberts **Business Performance**

Emma transformed change delivery by putting people at the heart of every initiative - designing engaging, practical training that helped colleagues embrace change with confidence. Her innovative, empathetic approach has empowered teams across the organisation.

“Her training sessions were vibrant, interactive and packed with practical learning.” – Nominator Dans Hofrats

Charlotte Parriss **Sales**

Charlotte supported a colleague's transition into Inside Sales by offering practical guidance, strategic insight and tailored coaching. She helped shape the team's processes, built confidence, fostered collaboration and inclusion and created a culture where people able to contribute more effectively.

“She's been a constant source of encouragement, guidance and care.” – Nominator Pippa Drakeford


Gerard Mumbari **Gather & Gather**

Gerard stepped beyond his finance role to coach and support managers in understanding budgeting, forecasting and reporting. He created regular one-to-one sessions and quickly answers questions, boosting confidence, improving financial accuracy and strengthening collaboration between operations and finance teams.

“Gerard never makes you feel silly for asking a question.” – Nominator Ashley Dodd


Hari Chahal **Foodbuy Group**

Hari consistently goes above and beyond, delivering high-quality results under tight deadlines, ensuring data integrity, supporting the team - even on weekends - and inspiring others through his dedication, reliability and positive attitude.

 **Hari's dedication and hard work have made a significant difference to the team and the project." – Nominator Ajith Polasani**


Jennifer Mcgroarty **EGI Central**

Earlier this year, Jen provided exceptional support during a colleague's recovery from a serious accident, guiding him through complex emotional challenges and maintaining daily contact while managing her own responsibilities - truly beyond expectations.

 **I cannot express enough how grateful and appreciative I am to have Jen's support during what had been a difficult time." – Nominator Graham Singer**


Lauren Ashlea Beck **UK Exec - Projects**

Lauren has excelled as a technical leader, delivering complex multi-stakeholder solutions, guiding decisions with experience, aligning third-party vendors and driving successful outcomes - consistently committed, proactive, and resilient even working weekends to ensure milestones are met.

 **Lauren has shown consistent commitment to ensuring milestones are met and issues are resolved swiftly." – Nominator Graham Shaw**


Magdalena Giddings **Finance**

Magda has excelled in a demanding role, delivering accurate financial insights, taking full ownership, driving high standards and uplifting the team with positivity, energy and an inclusive, supportive approach every day.

 **Magda embodies the spirit of 'Be A Star' – hardworking, positive, conscientious, passionate and deeply caring about both the business and the people within it." – Nominator Matthew Carter**


Todd Knights **Foodbuy Group**

Todd delivered the business-critical Purchasing Model, transforming reporting for Finance and replacing the old system. Through persistence, problem-solving and dedication, he ensured accurate results, improved business visibility and earned recognition from senior leaders.

 **Through sheer persistence, analytical skill, and reverse engineering, Todd rebuilt the model from the ground up." – Nominator Rinkle Basumatary**

Zoe Hillman **Graduates Program**

In just two months, Zoe transformed a health and wellbeing roadshow, taking full ownership, coordinating stakeholders and elevating the experience for colleagues and partners. Her energy, confidence, and care left a lasting, positive impact.

 **Zoe has already left a positive, lasting footprint on the people around her. Her contribution embodied community and heart." – Nominator Daniel Lemmon**

CH&CO



Andrew Hall Gather & Gather

Andrew quickly transformed the unit through hands-on leadership and smart innovation. He enhanced the customer experience, introduced engaging daily social content to boost visibility and rebuilt team morale. His calm, passionate approach created real energy and a culture of pride and collaboration.

 **He didn't just settle for the status quo - he enhanced the customer experience." – Nominator Jessica Thompson**

David Adoh Vacherin

David stepped up to Deputy Manager during a critical absence, taking on purchasing, stock audits and staff rotas for a 15-person team. He kept operations running smoothly and motivated colleagues - demonstrating strong leadership and clear potential for future development.

 **Personally, I felt confident and reassured knowing the department was in his capable hands." – Nominator Attila Csipkes**


Isabelle Saltrese CH&CO Leisure

Issy has gone from strength to strength and rose to trusted Team Leader within just a few months. She ensured accessibility and safety briefings for disabled guests, won heartfelt thanks by post and drew glowing client reviews for calm, friendly, flawlessly timed event delivery.

 **She provided invaluable support and was warm, professional and friendly." - Nominator Courtney Roberts**


Jorge Loyo Diaz Gather & Gather Ireland

Jorge has shown outstanding leadership skills and always shows initiative. He is an excellent communicator, always clear and concise in his messages and interactions with the team and customers.

 **A dedicated and committed member of the team, always willing to put in extra effort to meet deadlines and deliver high-quality results." – Nominator Carmen Hernandez**

Katarzyna Supryn Inspire

During winter staff shortages, Katarzyna stepped up by extending her shifts and covering duties beyond her usual role. She proactively suggested alternative hours to maintain uninterrupted service, stayed positive under pressure and consistently prioritised client satisfaction.

 **She showed strong loyalty, flexibility and commitment when the team needed it most." – Nominator Artur Krakowian**


Kathlin De Souza Vacherin

Kathlin entered hospitality with no prior experience and has become a reliable, trusted team member. She confidently supports the unit in management's absence, takes initiative and consistently delivers high standards – showing a strong drive towards a future leadership role.

 **She doesn't need to be told twice; she embraces her responsibilities with passion and consistency." – Nominator Fabiana Ferreira**


Luke Silsby
Gather & Gather

Luke goes above and beyond to support his colleagues, placing wellbeing at the heart of his work. After qualifying as a mental health first aider, he created a staff support group and leads recognition initiatives. Alongside this, he shows professionalism, reliability and genuine care.

 **He always makes time to listen to colleagues' concerns with empathy and care." – Nominator Marta Freitas**


Marcin Kowalski
CH&CO Leisure

Marcin is a highly skilled chef who leads key events, mentors colleagues and drives continuous improvement. He supports and trains junior chefs with clarity and patience, introduces sustainable practices that reduce waste and maintains calm, high standards under pressure.

 **He is the heart of the team, always ready to help and always bringing out the best in us." – Nominator Michal Marek Rutkowski**


Natalie Wood
Gather & Gather

Natalie consistently delivers through calm, organised leadership and deep expertise. She handles urgent tasks without hesitation, often staying late to support others, while championing health and safety and wellbeing. As a mental health first aider she strengthens team culture through reliability and care.

 **You can always count on her and you know if you ask her for something, it will be done right." – Nominator Robyn Howarth**


Rachel Donlevy
Inspire

Rachel stepped up to run the unit during the head chef's illness, keeping standards and performance consistent while still carrying out her own role. She brought the team together, ensured shifts ran smoothly and demonstrated determination and resilience - with a clear drive to make a positive difference when it mattered most.

 **She rallied the staff together and made the shifts go well." – Nominator Joseph Thom**

Tundi Polgar
Vacherin

Tundi supported a colleague returning from maternity leave through postnatal depression - listening without judgement, scheduling regular check-ins and co-creating improvements. Her empathy rebuilt confidence and turned a challenging transition into a trusting, productive partnership.

 **We need more people that care for each other - she really made a difference to me." – Nominator Malgorzata Darmaszek**

Education



Alisha Wilkinson **CH&CO Education**

Alisha stepped up as temporary Catering Manager at while continuing her chef duties. She mastered new systems, ensured the team completed training and ran the site seamlessly seven days a week. Her dedication and adaptability have made a consistently positive impact.



Alisha took on any task asked of her no questions asked to make sure the unit ran seamlessly.” – Nominator Beverley Blakemore

Gurmit Singh Dhaliwal **PPP-IML**

Gurmit has impressed with his proactive approach, technical skill and dedication. He upskilled - ensuring safe, reliable systems that support patient care and staff efficiency. His positivity, reliability and willingness to go the extra mile have earned him respect.



His proactive approach and dedication to continuous improvement have set a new standard within the engineering team.” – Nominator Nomaan Hussain

Karolina Olejniczak **Universities & Colleges**

Karolina excels - leading her team to consistently outstanding service. She goes beyond her role, supporting high-profile events at other sites without recognition, enhancing client satisfaction. Her dedication, collaboration and selflessness make her an invaluable team member and a true star.



Karolina steps up without seeking recognition or reward, motivated by genuine team spirit.” – Nominator Scott Bunyan

Leigh Brodie **Pabulum**

Leigh has transformed the school kitchen, earning contract renewal through strong relationships and exceptional leadership. She supports her team, engages personally with every child and is pursuing a Level 4 apprenticeship - all while showing dedication, humility and passion.



She knows every single child by name and is always putting on theme days and buying decorations herself.” – Nominator Chris Gray

Paul Lyth **State Schools**

Paul has been a dedicated member of the team for over 30 years, going far beyond his handyman role. He supports staff and tackles any task with professionalism and care. His reliability, generosity and willingness to go the extra mile make him an unsung hero.



Nothing is ever an issue for Paul. He just gets on with whatever needs doing.” – Nominator Paula Blanchard

Sarah Hewson **Universities & Colleges**

Sarah organised a Christmas charity initiative supporting elderly people, coordinating collections and ensuring everyone received a present. Her compassion and hard work made a meaningful difference and brought the unit team together - showcasing her as a role model and ambassador.



Her compassion, initiative and hard work have brought people together and made a real difference.” – Nominator Tomasz Masiuk

Simon Merton Independents

Simon consistently goes above and beyond to support his team. He ensured the Headmasters' Conference ran smoothly, managed logistics and standards and supported his own site under pressure. His dedication and teamwork make him an invaluable and inspiring colleague.

“Simon’s professionalism and willingness to go above and beyond truly embody what it means to ‘Be a Star.’” – Matthew Bennett

Stephen Fudge State Schools

Stephen has driven meaningful community impact through the school’s Winter Warmer events, helping provide hundreds of free meals and warm hospitality to local people. Working closely with the client and leading school food events, his creativity strengthened connections and boosted recognition.

“His dedication to both the school and the wider community has made a lasting impact.” – Julie Fox



Stacy Hiorns State Schools

Stacy has gone above and beyond while her manager has been out with a shoulder injury, stepping in early each day to support with cooking, paperwork and office tasks. Her initiative, reliability and willingness to help kept the kitchen running smoothly and made a huge difference.

“I couldn’t have managed without her – I’d love her to get noticed.” – Julie Fox

Stephen Owen Independents

Stephen has quickly become an invaluable member of the team, helping win a new contract and supporting new staff by teaching them essential systems like Foodbuy and The Source. His leadership, patience and positive influence have helped build confidence and unity within the team.

“He has been a great teacher for all new members of staff.” – Nominator Christopher Brown

ESS



Adelle Ling

DMA

Adelle's career progression showcases her drive, resilience and leadership. She manages two busy Messes with complex needs, supports colleagues, delivers improvements and recently completed a Level 4 management qualification - all with heart, organisation and energy.



She approaches every challenge with heart, energy, and the highest standards.” – Nominator Victoria Martin

Anita Roose

DMA

Anita led the launch of a new checkout-free store from planning to go-live, confidently embracing the technology others were nervous about. She handled unexpected launch day challenges - including a major flood - and ensured smooth operations with passion and commitment.



She has taken on the full responsibility for the store and embraced the new technology that we were all scared to death of.” – Nominator Claire Swift

Donna Edwards

DMA

Donna led a complex five-week cleaning chemical trial while continuing to run daily facilities operations with calm organisation, strong coordination and clear communication. Her proactive planning kept the project on track, minimised disruption, and delivered valuable insights.



She coordinated with multiple suppliers, managed deliveries, and ensured that all aspects of the trial ran smoothly.” – Nominator Jelio Gerassimov

Jackaline Holliday

DMA

Jacky helped tailor cleaning schedules to specific medical departments, raising standards across the centre and contributing to a client recognition award for exceptional cleanliness. Her positive approach has improved the environment for both staff and patients.



Jacky's work is a shining example of the difference one person can make and I am truly grateful to have her.” – Nominator Emma Boon

Karen Johnson

DMA

When half the retail team were off sick, Karen took it upon herself to complete food hygiene and allergen training, prepared sandwiches early, and helped on tills - all unfamiliar tasks. Her initiative and adaptability kept café service running smoothly and boosted team morale.



Without her, we would not have been able to maintain service.” – Nominator Chris Simmonds

Robert Rac

EGI

Robert goes above and beyond his mailroom duties, consistently helping colleagues and clients with a positive attitude. When snow blocked office access and the CEO was due, he cleared paths throughout the day to keep staff, visitors and the executive safe and secure.



Robert never complains - he is always supportive and dedicated to providing the best customer service.” – Nominator Fiona Farquhar



Rory Hannah

EGI

Rory has grown from varied catering roles to Head Chef, consistently putting colleagues and customers first. He stays late to perfect meals, supports others with calm confidence, takes extra shifts at short notice and brings positivity that lifts the whole kitchen.

“Rory always puts his colleagues first before himself at work.” – Nominator Harve Coltherd

Susan Mciver

DMA

Sue proactively challenged unfamiliar activity inside a secure area by verifying the work of a specialist security team, demonstrating vigilance and commitment to protective measures. Her actions reinforced the importance of a proactive security culture.

“Sue demonstrating excellent security awareness and a strong commitment to upholding the building’s protective measures.” – Nominator John Glusing

Stephen Bull

DMA

Steve prevented a potential information security breach by spotting sensitive documents meant for disposal and ensuring they were handled correctly. His quick awareness and action protected classified information and prevented what could have been a significant embarrassment for the organisation.

“His awareness and rapid action ensured that this material was handled appropriately.” – Nominator John Glusing

Will Stevens

EGI

Will consistently delivers excellent service in reprographics, accommodating urgent poster and business card printing needs. He communicates clearly to understand requirements, prioritised last-minute requests and ensured materials were ready in time for an important conference,

“Will showed dedication, flexibility and responsiveness that deeply impressed a customer.” - Nominator Katy Swain

Eurest, Dine and 14forty



Lakhbinder Singh Raiyat

14Forty

Lakhbinder spotted a theft attempt on CCTV and immediately took action - challenging the offenders and stopping a scooter from being taken. He stayed calm, secured the situation without injury or damage, kept the client informed and alerted nearby teams to stay vigilant.



The client has recognized his efforts and praised his great work, thank you Lakhbinder!" – Nominator Darren Rowledge

Lindsay Turner

Eurest

Lindsay played a pivotal role in closing down her current kitchen and setting up a temporary service in an office area not ideally suited for catering. She kept her team motivated, maintained standards and delivered sales well above expectations while receiving strong positive client feedback.



Her efforts boosted team morale during a stressful time." – Nominator Patrick Frayne

Niamh Gjeci

Eurest

Running operations from a one-oven kitchen, Niamh still delights a growing, demanding office - innovating daily and even raising concerns that improved colleague welfare. Her presence wins client admiration, proves what's possible with limited kit and champions doing the right thing for people.



With a growing office floor of associates - with some crazy demands - the team manages the asks and delivers!" – Nominator Nikki Davies

Nichola Hoyle

Dine

Chef Manager Nikki turned a struggling unit into a Dine centre of excellence. She stabilised a once-fractured team, raised standards, impressed client directors and now mentors other managers.



She is an asset to the company and is now an ambassador to Dine." – Nominator Marc Johansson

Rachel Tully

Eurest

Rachel took on additional responsibilities while covering for sickness and holidays - deep-cleaning and maintaining the coffee vending machines and still leading counter service in peak times. She has unwavering positivity and commitment to making a difference every single day.



She ends every day still full of enthusiasm and positivity." – Nominator Jess Freathy

Raymond Scappaticcio

Eurest

Ray has been a valued part of the business for over a decade. He played a key role in achieving an exceptional mystery shopper result, delivering consistently high service. Over a challenging year he grew into a confident mentor, lifting team morale and ensuring high-quality service.



His reputation extends far beyond our site. The business is better because of Ray, his energy lifts morale, and his service sets the standard." – Nominator Lottie Owen

Rob Blackburn

14Forty

During welding work that ignited a contractor's clothing, Rob followed training to the letter - extinguishing flames, making the area safe, checking welfare and escalating to the client operations team – then ensuring key learnings were taken for the future.

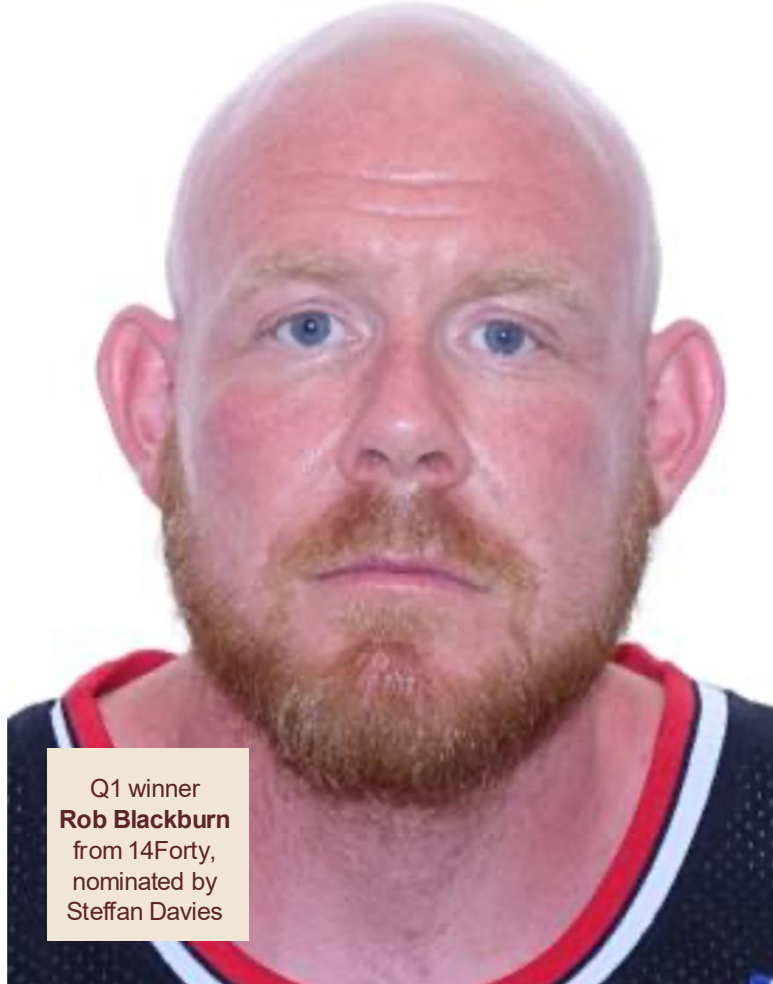
“Rob's prevented the incident escalating into a larger incident for the work party and the client.” – Nominator Steffan Davies

Toni Dawson

Dine

When the senior chef left, Toni stepped up and kept everything running smoothly. She took charge of daily operations, upheld food safety and quality and became the go-to person for the team. Over six months she grew in confidence, covered absences, handled extra responsibilities and helped bring stability during a big transition.

“She stepped up with exceptional commitment and professionalism.” - Nominator Louise Ironmonger



Q1 winner
Rob Blackburn
from 14Forty,
nominated by
Steffan Davies

Sara Ferrao

14Forty

Working independently on site, Sara keeps standards pristine and communication clear, often spotting what others miss. She even tidied discarded cigarettes (not part of her usual cleaning duties), winning client praise.

“Sara's dedication doesn't go unnoticed, and it's inspiring to see someone take such pride in their work.” – Nominator Charlton Mendes

Tracey June Haggerty

14Forty

When an agency chef no-show threatened service, Tracey came in on her day off, cooked full hot meals and delivered on time - avoiding disruption for warehouse teams and complaints for the client. Her ownership, pace and positivity safeguarded both service quality and trust.


“She ensured that no one on site was left without a proper meal.” – Nominator Bambo Adesanya

Healthcare & Retail




Ahmed Ettahiri Medirest

Ahmed responded immediately when a patient suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery, swiftly providing support so clinicians could focus on life-saving care. His calm actions helped maintain safety, prevent delays and protect patient experience under extreme pressure.

 **His swift and disciplined actions played a vital role in maintaining patient safety.” – Nominator Karolina Grigaitiene**

Alberta Doe Medirest

Alberta noticed a customer struggling to pay for food and immediately paid for his meal herself, turning a difficult moment into joy and gratitude. She also offered comfort to another regular during a personal loss, showing compassion that deeply touched customers and colleagues.

 **These are just two examples of the many acts of kindness Alberta shows every day. She brings joy and warmth to all.” – Samantha Walker**

Balbir Kaur Medirest

Balbir, at 80, continues to inspire through compassionate patient care, calm professionalism and deep commitment. She supports patients and staff, bringing dignity and reassurance to every interaction. Her experience and empathy make her an invaluable presence in the ward.

 **She brings unwavering dedication, exceptional work ethic and a positive spirit.” – Nominator Jenny Fay**


Beata Wojcik White Oaks

Beata led as a Change Champion by thoroughly testing a new system, identifying gaps and providing practical improvements. She coached and supported her teams, helping them adopt the change, which made the final tool more efficient, intuitive and fit for purpose.

 **Her insights ensured that the final product was truly fit for purpose within the care-home environment.” – Nominator Danielle Van Weenen**

Becky Stevens White Oaks

Becky delivered standout hospitality during sales presentations, earning praise from clients and residents and helping secure a new contract. She also led engaging resident activities including photography, painting and herb planting - creating memorable moments.

 **She goes above and beyond her role to create memorable moments for residents whilst supporting the wider company.” – Nominator Laura Tighe**

Chloe Cootes Medirest

Chloe responded immediately when a patient suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery, swiftly providing support so clinicians could focus on life-saving care. Her calm actions helped maintain safety, prevent delays and protect patient experience under extreme pressure.

 **Her swift and disciplined actions played a vital role in maintaining patient safety.” – Nominator Karolina Grigaitiene**

Emily Davis

Medirest

Emily responded immediately when a patient suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery, swiftly providing support so clinicians could focus on life-saving care. Her calm actions helped maintain safety, prevent delays and protect patient experience under extreme pressure.



Her swift and disciplined actions played a vital role in maintaining patient safety.” – Nominator Karolina Grigaitiene

Gennaro Cecere

Medirest

Gennaro responded immediately when a patient suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery, swiftly providing support so clinicians could focus on life-saving care. His calm actions helped maintain safety, prevent delays and protect patient experience under extreme pressure.



His swift and disciplined actions played a vital role in maintaining patient safety.” – Karolina Grigaitiene

Harvey Dove

Medirest

Harvey brings comfort and dignity to patients in hospital through thoughtful meal delivery, engaging conversation and genuine cheerfulness. His kindness has been praised by pharmacy staff, patients and families and his positive presence uplifts all around him.



He engages patients in cheerful conversation and ensures they feel seen and cared for.” – Nominator Egle Cironkaite

Jessica Barroso

Medirest

Jess consistently brings warmth, empathy and dignity to patients, turning meal service into moments of reassurance and human connection. Her genuine care brighten patients' days, earning heartfelt praise from those she supports and inspiring her colleagues.



She brings reassurance, dignity, and humanity at moments when people are often at their most vulnerable.” – Nominator Lina Syvok

Lewis Stapley

Healthcare Retail

Lewis excelled while managing a busy unit, developed his assistant manager and played a key role in launching a new site. He also stepped in to run another unit during a manager's hospitalisation and stabilised a low-performing site, demonstrating leadership, resilience and teamwork.



He worked collaboratively to keep operations stable and the team supported during a difficult phase.” – Nominator Simon Lawrence

Maria Mancas

Medirest

Maria stepped up during severe staffing shortages, covering extra wards to keep patient meal service running smoothly. She ensured everyone's needs were met and became a favourite with patients for her kindness, professionalism and dedication to high-quality care.




She embodies the values of exceptional patient care and teamwork every single day.” – Nominator Stephen Duce

Mellisa Perrin

Healthcare Retail


Mellisa played a pivotal role during a business-critical systems crisis, co-creating guides and processes that kept food safety and brand compliance operations running in challenging conditions. Her training and support helped store teams remain confident and compliant.

 **She takes everything in her stride and feels that everything she completes outside her role ... 'just needs to be done.'** – Nominator Mary Jones

Noel O'Mahony

Medirest

Noel responded immediately when a patient suffered a cardiac arrest during surgery, swiftly providing support so clinicians could focus on life-saving care. His calm actions helped maintain safety, prevent delays and protect patient experience under extreme pressure.

 **His swift and disciplined actions played a vital role in maintaining patient safety."** – Nominator Karolina Grigaitiene

Padrig Bowles

Medirest Signature


Paddy supported a major event by ordering, prepping and delivering food, helping prepare the venue and stepping in with good humour - even role-playing at the run-through - all while keeping his own unit running and supporting his team throughout.

 **Without Paddy's dedication the event would not have been a success."** – Nominator Chris Gilroy

Savitriben Patel

Medirest


Savi ensured a vulnerable patient's recovery by personalising meals, learning her preferences, encouraging intake and adjusting food choices. She even left detailed instructions for colleagues and offered small comforts like favourite biscuits, helping the patient gain weight and feel valued.

 **Savi's work embodies compassion, dignity, and excellence."** – Nominator Julie Hilsden

T'Keyah Michael

Retail Instore

TK single-handedly ran a café without formal management support, keeping standards immaculate and all Compass processes up to date. They balanced front-of-house duties while studying and commuting long hours - showing extraordinary resilience and positivity.

 **They were single-handedly doing the work of three people — and doing it exceptionally well."** – Nominator Nicci Lauder

Ireland



Bhuvana Ghanta

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Bhuvana has quickly become a standout team member, always smiling and engaging with customers. She took the initiative to introduce Buddha Bowls to the site's menu, which now sell 20–25 a day, showing her drive for innovation and customer focus.

“She also continues her development with a supervisor career pathway.” – Nominator Lee O'Donnell

Caio Lima Cabrerisso

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Caio stepped in to help when a delivery driver discovered a van had a puncture, personally changing the tyre so the driver could get back on the road quickly. His selfless act saved time, ensured other units received their food deliveries, and showed genuine care for the team's needs.

“He showed not only kindness but a dedication to the needs of Compass as a whole,” – Nominator Rhiannon Ryan

Carmen Leticia Hernandez Paredes

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Carmen consistently goes beyond her own role to help others succeed. She freely shares her time, knowledge and resources, acting as an informal mentor. Her collaborative spirit lifts the team, creating a supportive and work environment.

“Beyond her own development, Carmen consistently demonstrates an exceptional willingness to help others.” – Nominator Jorge Loyo Diaz

Conor Nugent

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Conor's can-do attitude shines through everything he does. He willingly supports other units when short-staffed, takes ownership of new tasks and helps teams work smarter. His strong record-keeping helped resolve a client issue and his positive leadership and support boost morale.

“He is always willing to support team members and even other units.” – Nominator Oreoluwa Oduko

Hellin Sonogo

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Hellin started as a kitchen porter with no foodservice experience, yet she quickly learned, took on customer-facing roles, trained and became a confident, valued team member. Her friendly service and reliability have elevated customer experience and inspired her colleagues.

“Her natural warmth now shines through in every customer interaction.” - Nominator Ion Pituscan

Iago Oliviera

Business & Industry Southern Ireland

Iago is a dependable, forward-thinking team member. He's supported multiple major events and day-to-day operations with enthusiasm and positivity. His ability to tackle challenges and deliver exemplary performance makes him a valuable colleague.

“There are no obstacles he cannot overcome, thank you Iago.” – Nominator Tonci Grgic



Q1 Winner
Bhuvanewari Devi Ghanta,
nominated by
Lee O'Donnell

Jason Brodie **Business & Industry Southern Ireland**

Jason joined as a commis chef and quickly became a vital part of the team. From day one he has brought energy, politeness and a positive attitude to every shift. Always eager to learn and never daunted by new challenges, he has significantly contributed to the team's success.

“ **Nothing is ever too much - head down and always eager to learn.**” –
Nominator Gary O'Brien

Natalja Pociene **Business & Industry Southern Ireland**

Natalja plays a key role in her unit's success, consistently delivering excellent customer service and high standards. Her contributions were instrumental in achieving an outstanding 98.5 % score on a recent audit, reflecting exceptional cleanliness, compliance and operational quality.

“ **Natalja is an important part of the success of the unit.**” –
Nominator Keith Dunne

Jessika Chagas Moretti **Business & Industry Southern Ireland**

Jessika is a standout hospitality team member, delighting customers each day with genuine warmth - remembering names, coffee preferences and personal details. Her proactive service and strong relationships have elevated customer experience and made the café a welcoming, familiar place.

“ **She remembers not only their names but also their favourite coffee orders.**” –
Nominator Eunjung Lee (Sylvia)

Yevhenii Syshchenko **Business & Industry Southern Ireland**

Yevhenii is always ready to help wherever needed, adapting easily to different tasks and making sure guests receive excellent service. His friendliness and attention to detail create a warm atmosphere and his support for colleagues contributes to a smooth, positive team environment.

“ **His friendliness, attention to detail, and willingness to support his colleagues create a warm atmosphere.**” –
Nominator Sofia Romanova

Levy





Q1 Winner
Jordan Baikie
from Keith Prowse,
nominated by
Graham Shaw

Airene Bague
Levy Ireland

Airene has been the cornerstone of the laundry operations since 2003, ensuring uniforms and presentation are impeccable across major venues. Her quiet dedication, meticulous care and long service have kept teams looking their best and operations running smoothly.

“She has single-handedly managed the laundry department with exceptional dedication and attention to detail.” – Nominator Kenneth McCaul

Jordan Baikie
Keith Prowse

Jordan has been vital in bringing teams together after a major organisational change. He took the lead on system setups and device rollouts, finding practical solutions that kept everything running smoothly. His proactive support and patience made the whole transition much easier for all.

“His proactive approach was instrumental in navigating the complexities of transitioning core systems.” – Nominator Graham Shaw

Damiano Curto
Constellation

Damiano is excelling in the kitchen, leading with passion, skill and a positive attitude that lifts the whole team. This year he took the culinary lead at major events including high-profile cricket hospitality services, earning excellent feedback and ensuring smooth, top-quality service.

“He brings not only incredible skill but also a positive, can-do attitude that lifts the whole team.” – Nominator Josh Stanton


Joshua Oyesanya
London and South

Joshua tackles one of the trickiest scheduling environments with patience, humour and a true can-do attitude. No matter how many last-minute changes or impossible requests come his way, he gets things done. His reliability and positivity make life easier for the whole group.

“When we ask the impossible Joshua just gets it done.” - Nominator Jeremy Warcup


Luke Hitchins London and South

Luke acted swiftly when a team member suffered a stroke at work, recognising the signs and calling for emergency help. His calm response and quick action ensured the person received urgent care when it mattered most, making a life-changing difference to them and their family.

 **His ability to remain composed and take decisive action in a critical moment was truly remarkable.” – Nominator Gené Willis**


Megan Bourne Levy - Central Overheads

Megan excels as a data scientist and plays a key role by analysing performance data and shaping new innovations. She led end-to-end analysis for a major frictionless food service initiative, secured client approval with clear insight, and worked ensured smooth implementation and success.

 **Her analysis was robust and the arguments she made in favour of change were articulate and creative.” – Nominator Matt Pattison**


Rebecca Slater London and South

Rebecca provided calm, clear support during a colleague's stroke emergency, helping keep the area safe, reassuring them and assisting with paramedic hand-over. Her composed response helped prevent panic, contributing to a smoother emergency response and a much better outcome.

 **Her ability to stay composed and provide emotional and practical support in such a critical moment was extraordinary.” – Nominator Gené Willis**


Rukshana Lambino Levy Ireland

Rukshana is a standout all-round professional, excelling in every role. She delivers exceptional service across corporate and VIP events, matchdays and retail areas - always ready to teach others, she lifts the whole team.

 **“If I could I would nominate Rukshana under every category I would, as she really does cover them all.” – Nominator Valerija Karkota**

Sophie Dymond Levy - Central Overheads

Sophie leads with enthusiasm and empathy as a Women in Food ambassador, helping shape support for new and expectant parents. After sharing her own breastfeeding experience, she drove creation of a focus group and contributed to return-to-work guidance that will help many.

 **She is really driving change for something she is passionate about that will support thousands of our colleagues for years to come.” - Nominator Leanne Turk**

Sophie Lampkin Jockey Club Catering

Sophie welcomed a colleague into a new role by offering a trial shift and then training and supporting them for over four years. When that colleague became unwell, Sophie single-handedly kept multiple courses running, smoothly covering major race days while managing her own workload.

 **Sophie effortlessly kept my job running smoothly, whilst still taking on her own role and our other two courses.” – Nominator Rachel Gresty**

RA Group





Q1 winner
Kamil Yeddou,
nominated by
Liubov Ruban

Alicia Strangio **Rapport**

Alicia remained calm during a major internet outage, securing temporary connectivity and emergency meeting space while coordinating weekend repairs. She kept customers informed and even resolved an out-of-hours CEO lock-out, demonstrating exceptional dedication and care

“She doesn’t just solve problems; she genuinely cares.” – Nominator Joao Estroia

Hannah Wade **Restaurant Associates**

Hannah played a pivotal role in delivering two VIP events, taking full ownership of logistics and leading with confidence under pressure. From managing complex requests to staying late to resolve last-minute issues, her proactive approach ensured flawless delivery.

“She delighted senior stakeholders and showcased exceptional professionalism and commitment.” – Nominator Neringa Samoskaite

Conor Todd **Restaurant Associates**

Conor led a complex kitchen refurbishment with calm, proactive coordination across teams, keeping communication clear and challenges managed. He ensured the project finished on time without disruption, boosted team morale and strengthened daily operations for colleagues and clients.

“Conor worked tirelessly ... ensuring clear and articulate communication throughout the project.” – Nominator Nikoletta Theofylaktidou

Kamil Yeddou **Rapport**

Kamil acted quickly when a cyclist was injured, clearing the road, calling emergency services and guiding them to the scene. He kept the injured person safe, controlled bleeding, reassured them, and worked with paramedics and police, ensuring fast, calm support that made a real difference.

“His positivity, proactivity and genuine care left a lasting impression on colleagues, emergency services, and the injured cyclist.” - Nominator Liubov Ruban

Manuela Teixeira

Rapport


When an event's timings changed unexpectedly, Manuela stayed calm and quickly coordinated room changes, setup and support. Her proactive planning and decisive action ensured everything was ready before guests arrived, turning a potential disaster into a perfectly smooth event.

 **I see a bright future ahead for her, and I am proud to have her as part of my team.” – Nominator Ana Maria Pirvu**

Marco Muca

Restaurant Associates

Marco has transformed his kitchen by creating a successful, commercially strong food offer from limited space, exceeding expectations and positioning the business for future growth. He collaborates proactively with suppliers, mentors his team and continuously refines the menu.

 **Marco's empathetic leadership, creativity and dedication to excellence make him a standout candidate.” – Nominator Nick Wyborn**

Megan Hassall

Restaurant Associates


Megan joined the team new to contract catering and quickly strengthened relationships with the client, colleagues and wider teams. She drove impressive commercial results, leading 17% year-on-year growth and on target to achieve significant results in FY25/26.

 **Megan is a fantastic attribute to the team, RA and Compass – she will achieve great heights in her career.” – Nominator Dave Morgan**

Polina Staneva

Rapport


Polina noticed donated clothing needed pressing for a charity supporting men's confidence and job interviews. She spent her own time making every garment immaculate, helping people feel respected and confident at important moments - a thoughtful act born of genuine compassion.

 **Her kindness has made a meaningful difference and her spirit truly represents what this award is all about.” - Nominator Stojanka Kowaczewa**

Renata Cudzich

Restaurant Associates


Renata stepped in when an agency kitchen porter failed to show, ensuring a large event ran smoothly while completing her own duties, then returned early to clear up. She also improved operations by taking ownership of a new plate count system and consistently supports her team.

 **Unsung heroes are the backbone of every success story - they work quietly, yet their impact echoes loudly.” – Nominator Anne Atkinson**

Samantha Parkinson

Restaurant Associates

Samantha leads with calm professionalism, encouraging her team through mentoring, shared knowledge and supportive leadership. She handles sudden changes smoothly, maintains high service standards under pressure and has enhanced wellbeing by taking mental health training.

 **Her empathy, positivity, and leadership have strengthened morale and performance.” - Nominator Jurgita Visokinskaite**

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