

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**

Central Functions



Alison Berry

Foodbuy Group


Ally, one of the Foodbuy Mental Health First Aiders, provides invaluable support to colleagues facing personal or work-related challenges. Always approachable and generous with her time, she goes above and beyond her role. Her guidance has had a significant, lasting impact on wellbeing across the team.

 **Nothing is ever too much trouble for her.” – Nominator Andy Porter**

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**

Douglas Green

Finance

Doug is the quiet engine behind major commercial projects, consistently delivering under intense pressure while supporting teams across the business with warmth, humility and unwavering reliability. He is an irreplaceable force whose impact far exceeds his role.

 **He tackles complex deadlines, solves problems without complaint and is trusted by everyone. He is the real heart of the business.” – Nominator Melanie McColgan**

Evan Judge

HSEQ


Evan has become a powerful force for Inclusion, leading major improvements to wellbeing resources, rebranding the You Matter network and creating practical guides that support colleagues through sensitive challenges. He even produced and edited cross-network podcasts in his own time.

 **His contribution deserves to be recognised.” – Nominator Mel Aston**

Evangeline Tanner

Foodbuy Group

Evie went above and beyond to ensure allergen and ingredient accuracy for 20+ products supplied to Wimbledon. She worked on-site with a struggling supplier, collating and verifying data until 1am. Her diligence ensured safe products and exceeded client expectations.

 **To say she went the extra mile is a massive understatement.” – Nominator Nicky Martin**

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**

Matthew Eakins

HSEQ

Matthew went far beyond his role to seamlessly integrate a new business - tackling immense food safety and allergen compliance challenges with precision and dedication. His tailored training and safety systems were pivotal in ensuring both regulatory compliance and team readiness.

“ I can honestly say, without Matt’s support we would still be fire fighting.”
– Nominator Gillian Tyldsley

William Hartley

Workforce Management

Will transformed an overwhelming, time-draining reporting process into a fast, accurate, automated system - completely off his own initiative. His technical skill, problem-solving mindset and genuine desire to help have lifted the workload for multiple teams, making him an indispensable partner across the function.

“ I honestly can’t put into words how much time and effort Will has saved me.” –
Nominator Hollie O’Neill



Q1 winner **Hari Chahal**
from Foodbuy Group,
nominated by
Ajith Polasani

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 and skill, 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’s contribution embodied community and heart.” –
Nominator Daniel Lemmon

CH&CO



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

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

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



Ellyn Reeve State Schools

Ellyn has driven remarkable change by tackling food waste, achieving reductions of 12–30% across schools. Her ability to identify opportunities, implement solutions and deliver measurable results sets her apart, showcasing her dedication and forward-thinking approach.

“Her contributions deserve to be recognised and celebrated.” – Nominator Marnie George

Karolina Olejniczak Universities & Colleges

Karolina leads 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



Hannah Densham Brown State Schools

Hannah became the trusted face of Chartwells during key tenders, building such strong credibility with senior leaders that her involvement directly influenced major contract wins. She delivers under pressure, bridges teams effortlessly and reassures clients with her reliability and expertise.

“Her work has a lasting impact on client relationships. A true standard-setter.” – Nominator Duncan La Roche

Katie Stenning PPP-IML

Katie is the operational heartbeat of her contract - expertly managing finance, helpdesk demands and major works with unwavering tenacity. Her leadership enabled the successful delivery of an extraordinary volume of summer projects, far exceeding forecasts.

“Highly trusted and indispensable to her team, she delivers consistency and clarity few could match.” – Simon Pearce


Kelly Ann Lamb State Schools

Kelly plays a vital role in transforming the school kitchen, ensuring every child receives high-quality meals while supporting the school community. Her teamwork, dedication and consistent excellence make her indispensable - helping increase meal uptake and creating a positive, supportive environment for both pupils and staff.

 **We couldn't manage without her!" – Nominator James Muldoon**

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**


Maciej Jaskulski Education

Maciej has consistently delivered high-quality food and service over seven years, guiding the school through multiple transitions with calm, dependable leadership. His resilience, dedication and unwavering commitment make him a standout example of professionalism and values in action.

 **Maciej delivers every day – quality food, great service and a calm, dependable presence." – Nominator Tom Wortley**

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." – 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.'" – Nominator Matthew Bennett**

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 Chris 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

Alexandra Stawarz

DMA

Alex displayed exceptional leadership and dedication during a severe kitchen flood. She quickly reorganised staff, relocated operations and ensured meals were still served from a much smaller kitchen. She managed multiple teams, keeping service seamless under extreme pressure.



I nominated Alex for her leadership, determination and dedication to the cause." – Nominator Wendy Read

Damian Newman

DMA

Damian exemplifies inspirational leadership and selfless mentorship, transforming young chefs through the Junior Chef Academy. He dedicates countless hours - preparing, guiding and delivering graduation events and his enthusiasm uplifts colleagues and students alike.



His commitment, skill and pride created lasting community impact!" – Nominator Ian Darker-Larkings

Jay Averill

DMA

When the Exec Chef fell ill at a high-profile event, Jay stepped up, leading a team of chefs to deliver flawless service to 180 guests, including 51 starred officers. His calm leadership and meticulous attention to detail ensured an exceptional experience under intense pressure.



The success of the event was directly attributed to Jay's clear, concise communication." – Nominator Karl Smith

Mustapha El Yousfi

EGI

Mustapha exemplifies excellence and dedication, excelling as a skilled barista and stepping into other roles with ease. His positivity and flexibility uplift the team and ensure smooth operations, while his team spirit make him a core asset and everyday superstar of our coffee shop.



Mustapha is a shining example of what it means to go above and beyond." – Nominator Adina Mihaltan

Eurest, Dine and 14forty





Nicholas Marfe Dine

Nick is instrumental to the team - bringing passion, structure and incredible talent to the kitchen. He has transformed our operations, inspired the team and elevated standards. His commitment, heart and unwavering drive make him not only invaluable, but truly deserving of recognition.

“Nick is the backbone of this site, we couldn't be more grateful to him.”
– Nominator Vanessa Sleep

Rebecca Allen Eurest

Rebecca is an exceptional head chef and Women in Food ambassador whose lived experience shaped the new Planning for Parenthood toolkit. While mobilising a major contract straight after maternity leave, she championed better support for new mothers, driving change with empathy and determination.

“Rebecca's story and passions are to be admired – she is influencing change and supporting the wider community.”

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 and the business is better because of Ray.”
– Nominator Lottie Owen

Healthcare & Retail





Alexandra Camber Medirest

When catastrophic floods threatened the Hospital, Alexandra's swift action and steady leadership turned crisis into resilience. Mobilizing staff, coordinating contractors and prioritizing patient safety, she led a seamless emergency response that kept vital services running.

“ Her efforts minimized disaster and created unity across the hospital. Truly heroic leadership.” – Nominator Aneta Zieja

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 the final product was truly fit for purpose within the care-home environment.” – Danielle Van Weenen

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

Chelsea Lowry Retail

Chelsea helped transform how allergen awareness is understood and embraced across Compass. She led complex integrations, using her own allergen experience to create powerful training videos. Her authentic storytelling inspired cultural change and left a lasting impact.

“ Chelsea inspired teams, improved safety and led with empathy and integrity.” – Nominator Angus Boyd

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

Julie Anne Simpson

Healthcare

Julie showed extraordinary courage and compassion when a vulnerable patient confided in her about a serious safeguarding concern. Despite shock and emotional strain, she acted decisively, speaking up to protect the patient and others.

“Her willingness to listen, report and follow through gave a voice to someone who needed it most.” – Nominator Egle Cironkaite

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.” – Simon Lawrence

Luke Redhead

Healthcare

Luke showed outstanding leadership and compassion when he managed a dangerous, highly distressing situation involving a vulnerable elderly patient. He calmly took control, protected pedestrians, de-escalated tension and ensured the patient's safety and wellbeing.

“He leads by example, acts with compassion and consistently puts the safety and wellbeing of others first.” – Nominator Mark Davies

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

Melissa Temby

Retail

Melissa noticed a regular customer feeling unwell and went above and beyond to ensure he was safe, providing water and making sure he got home safely. All while continuing her duties with her usual positivity, demonstrating care, professionalism and kindness.

“She is a true credit to the team, with a heart of gold!” - Nominator Samantha Sutton

Pasang Lama Medirest

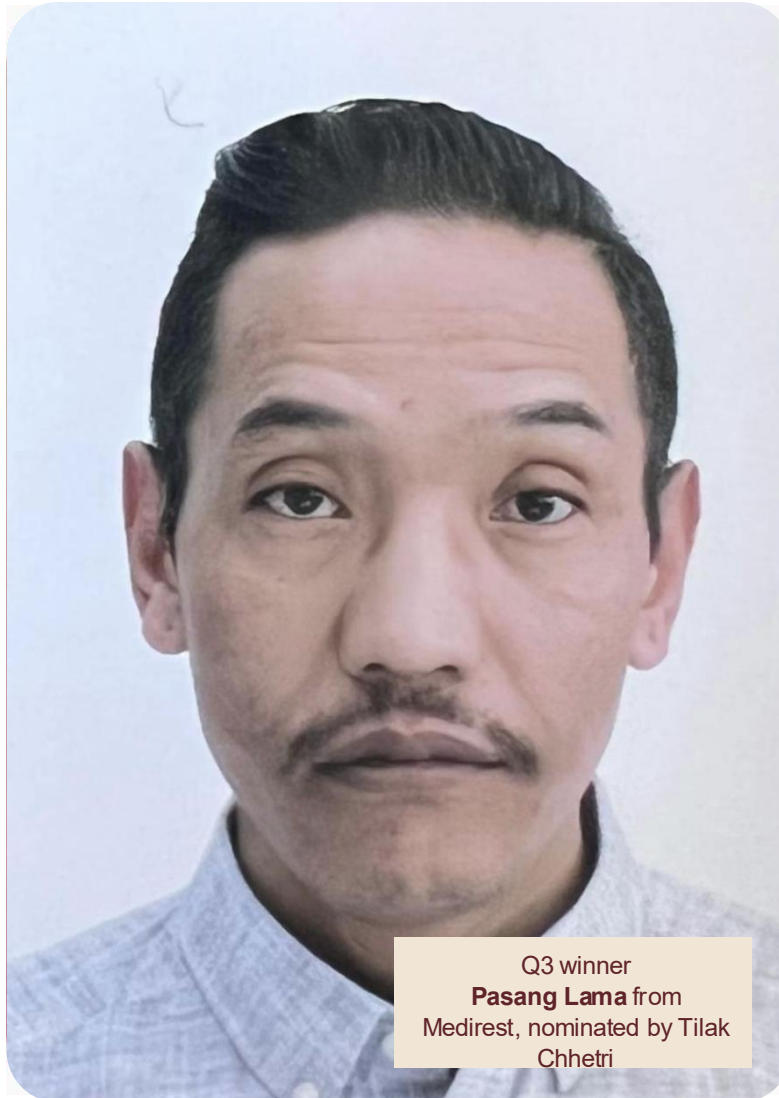
Pasang was nominated for his exceptional response to a staff member in distress after a theft incident. He provided immediate comfort, practical support - including lending his travel card - and ensured the staff member's safety by coordinating with management.

“**Pasang's commitment to customer service truly exemplifies the values we strive for in.**” – Nominator Tilak Chhetri

Teresa Newlan Retail

Teresa stood out during a major transition by becoming the trusted constant for colleagues and customers. She supported a new team with warmth, reliability and hands-on training, while delivering genuinely caring service that repeatedly lifted patients' spirits.

“**She has been an outstanding help... a shoulder to lean on and always reliable for success.**” – Nominator Macy Brown



Q3 winner
Pasang Lama from
Medirest, nominated by Tilak
Chhetri

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

Levy




Anshuka Kumari **Jockey Club Catering**

Anshuka's calm leadership and positivity transformed a hectic race day. She organized the bar team, supported new staff and kept service smooth under pressure. Her presence lifted morale and ensured guests left happy - she truly embodies teamwork and dedication.

 **She reminded me why I love working in hospitality... because of people like her.” – Nominator Louise Coumbe**


Billie-Jo Pearce **London and South**

Billie stands out for her resilience, warmth and determination in a demanding role. She's grown rapidly in confidence and capability, strengthened team relationships, reduced outstanding debt and turned personal challenges into strengths.

 **Her positivity and reliability make her indispensable, lifting both performance and morale across the team.” – Nominator Kasia Pardel**


Cecilia Marquis **London and South**

Cecilia, our venues EDI champion, played a key role in the successful Unity Cup, generating around £300k profit with 40% less labour than usual. She expertly managed operations and supported client activations, embodying the 'above and beyond' spirit and making a meaningful business impact.

 **Cecilia makes a difference in all areas of the business and is a credit to my team.” – Nominator Yunus Tumi**


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**

Leticia Rigo **Jockey Club Catering**

Leticia had only been in her new kitchen admin role for a couple of months when the head chef was suddenly off work - yet she took full control, managing menus, orders, staffing and logistics for the biggest event of the year with total composure and professionalism.

 **She has really risen to the occasion.” – Nominator Camille Pilcher**



Q1 winner **Sophie Dymond**,
nominated by
Leanne Turk

Loraine Penfold **Jockey Club Catering**

Loz has been an integral part of the kitchen team for 14 years, serving as the right hand to the head chef. Her dedication to a garden project - growing herbs and vegetables for the kitchen - has led to significant cost savings and enhanced engagement.

“Loz has sacrificed hours of her own time to tend to the garden, even giving up time on her weekends” – Nominator Mark Hillman

Simran Colaco **Constellation**

Simran elevates every environment she works in, blending professionalism, warmth and thoughtful care. She transforms ordinary moments into unforgettable experiences, showing quiet leadership and genuine humanity that inspires colleagues and delights guests alike.

“Her attention to detail and empathy make her a true standout in every setting she joins.” – Nominator Hinesh Parmar

Shanice Conteh **London and South**

Shanice has been a stabilising force during an exceptionally challenging period. Through multiple TUPEs and cultural change, she has kept everything running with calm professionalism, empathy and endless positivity.

“She supports colleagues, safeguards compliance and strengthens culture while holding the People function together.” – Nominator Emily Johnston

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 colleagues for years to come.” - Nominator Leanne Turk

RA Group



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

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, 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



Arati Rana Restaurant Associates

Arati consistently delivers exceptional customer service, brightening every customer’s day and earning 68 pieces of positive feedback this quarter alone. She supports her teammates, uplifts the team and transforms the coffee bar atmosphere with warmth and dedication.

“Arati brightens everyone’s day and makes every visit a pleasure.” – Nominator Carl Roach

Cydney Nicholson-Ray RA Venues

Cydney transformed a complex, high-pressure event into a standout commercial and client success. She seamlessly combined operational leadership with persuasive sales - securing significant additional revenue outside her remit and earning a confirmed rebooking.

“Her calm authority, client rapport and ability to inspire confidence set her apart as a true all-round leader.” – Alison Mcpherson

Dwaign Ramoutar Rapport

Dwaign consistently delivers excellence as Floor Lead - managing complex operations and client events while mentoring his team with calm professionalism. He steps up in crises, from administering first aid to guiding his team after a colleague's passing.

“Dwaign stays composed under pressure, leads with compassion and makes everyone feel supported and valued.” - Nominator Mira Kraveva-Greener

Laura Fernandez Restaurant Associates

When a major water leak threatened service for 900 customers, Laura quickly took control - reallocating staff, maintaining calm and keeping customers informed while restoring service within 40 minutes. Her leadership under pressure ensured a professional and positive experience.

“Laura led brilliantly and kept everything on track despite the unexpected disruption.” - Nominator Maria Gonzalez

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

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, 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.” - Anne Atkinson



Q1 winner **Sophie Dymond**,
nominated by
Leanne Turk

Roksana Kinga Welawska **Rapport**

Roksana demonstrated extraordinary composure and leadership during a colleague's suspected heart attack. She quickly contacted emergency services, provided reassurance and moved the employee to a safe, private space. Her calm response helped saved a life.

“Roksana acted brilliantly, combining care and professionalism under extreme pressure.” – Nominator Manuela Teixeira

Stacey Curtis **RA Venues**

Stacey has redefined service excellence through her client expertise, leadership and mentorship. She trains colleagues, ensures seamless venue operations and nurtures confidence in others. Her relationship-building secured a major client for their fifth consecutive year.

“Stacey empowers everyone around her while delivering exceptional client experiences.” - Nominator Anna Thorne

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.” - 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