

SNIFE

SCOTTISH AND NORTHERN IRELAND
PLUMBING EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION
Bellevue House • 22 Hopetoun Street
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www.SNIFE.org

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HIGHLAND SUPPLY CHAIN EVENT

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS SNIFE GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH

STAFF CHARITY DONATION 2015

Christmas time once again and the staff of Plumbing Pensions and SNIFE have joined the fun by helping play the part of Santa. Staff have been donating gifts to the Forth One radio station's "Mission Christmas Appeal", a charity which aims at providing presents to disadvantaged children in order to help make their Christmas morning that little bit brighter.

Plumbing Pensions Benefits Assistant Clare Mack asked all staff members if they would like to donate for the third year running and there was again overwhelming support for this fantastic cause which Clare personally delivered to the radio station's offices earlier this week.



15/12/15

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SNIFE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER ANNOUNCED

We are delighted to announce that the winner of the very first **SNIFE Business of the Year Award** is [LW Haddow](#) of Perth.

Mark Haddow Director, was presented with the award at a Gala Dinner on Friday 20th November. He said, *"I am delighted that our team has won SNIFE Business of the Year. We work hard to provide a great service to our customers. We know that they expect both great value and care for their property from our experienced technicians.*

SNIFE accreditation ensures that our customers can be confident of a high level of service. This award means a great deal, acknowledging the commitment, skill and professionalism of everyone in our team. I am proud of our team, and am grateful to our many customers whom we work with, keeping their homes and businesses warm, throughout the year."

Also presented on the night was the **SNIFE Merchant Customer Care Award**. The award recognises excellence in customer service from a merchant employee and is nominated by SNIFE members.

The award was won by Michael Fraser, Internal Sales at [William Wilson](#) Ltd in Inverness. On accepting his award, Mr Fraser said:

I think good service is key to developing long standing relationships with my customers and I and my colleagues always aim to do what's necessary to provide a great service. We will and do go the extra mile on occasion, so it's very pleasing to be recognized for those efforts by receiving this award nominated by SNIFE members.

The **SNIFE Merit Award** for outstanding contribution to the plumbing industry was won by David Osborne who invented a simple device, the [Jompy](#), based on the laws of conductivity to decontaminate water. In presenting the award SNIFE Chief Executive, Robert Burgon described the device as "already recognised internationally, the Jompy has the potential of changing lives" and said that Mr Osborne "has a vision to help the millions of people in our world who do not enjoy the benefits of basic water supply".

We congratulate all our winners and shortlisted nominees on their achievements.

25/11/15

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SNIPEF AWARDS SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

Today SNIPEF formally announced the shortlisted nominees for the new Annual Awards.

The successful firms shortlisted for Business of the Year 2015/16 are:

- [CHC Ltd, Craigavon](#)
- [LW Haddow Ltd, Perth](#)
- [Sugplumb Ltd](#)

The shortlisted nominees for the Merchant Customer Care Award are:

- **Brian Duffy, Richmonds Ltd, Paisley**
- **Michael Fraser, William Wilson, Inverness**
- **Karen Millar, Graham, Bellshill**

For further information and for details of the awards ceremony please read the full press release [here](#).

3/11/15

MEET THE BUYER EVENT– MENZIESHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNDEE

A Meet the Buyer Event for Menzieshill Primary School in Dundee hosted by Robertson's Construction will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2015 at West Park Hotel, 319 Perth Road, Dundee from 1pm - 5.30pm.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of the construction programme and let prospective subcontractors and suppliers find out about how to become part of Robertsons Supply Chain.

This programme will be delivered as part of the Scape Framework.

A flyer can be downloaded [here](#).

28/10/15

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TRADEPOINT OFFERS

Members will recently have received personalised TradePoint cards allowing them to access a range of special offers at TradePoint outlets across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

TradePoint are pleased to offer SNIFE members a special offer on paint purchases. Just log into our members area to download a voucher.

27/10/15

THREE SCOTTISH SNIFE MEMBERS REPRESENTED AT SkillPLUMB FINAL

Of the 10 competitors who have been selected for the 2015 SkillPLUMB UK final, three are employed by SNIFE member firms, which is a great achievement for professional plumbing in Scotland. Competitors will go head-to-head in a three-day practical task on 19-21 November at The Skills Show, the UK's largest skills and careers event at the NEC Birmingham where over 60 WorldSkills UK national competitions will be held across different occupations.

In the quest to be crowned SkillPLUMB champion, contestants will have to install a domestic central heating system including bespoke radiators, towel rail and hot and cold pipework to a simulated kitchen and bathroom.

The finalists, listed with their training provider and employer details, are:

- Alex Rooney, South West College/CITB NI, David Lindsay Plumbing & Heating
- **Algirds Balta, Borders College/SNIFE, Greenheat Renewables**
- Daniel Doughty, Coleg Sir Gar, E Jones Plumbing & Heating
- Daniel Martins, EAS Mechanical/BEST, Briggs & Forrester Group
- Gavin Rice, Southern Regional College/CITB NI, Seamus Matthews Ltd
- **Matthew Gorrie, Perth College/SNIFE, LW Haddow Plumbing & Heating**
- Matthew Jakeman, Bedford College, Pronto Plumber
- Owen Boswell, Suffolk New College, Sleepsafe
- **Richard Wilson, North East College Scotland/SNIFE, Sugplumb**
- Thomas Strong, Lakes College, Russel Dicks

SkillPLUMB has The Copper Initiative as its premier sponsor and is organised by BPEC.

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“The standard of work has been really high this year and we’re looking forward to seeing the best young apprentices of the industry battle it out to be named champion of the UK,” said Neil Collishaw of BPEC. “The finals are inspirational to young people thinking of a vocational career and The Skills Show, with around 75,000 visitors, is an excellent platform to showcase the skills and talents of all finalists.”

29/9/15

ADLP SOLICITORS – NEW ADDRESS

[ADLP](#) offer tailored services to SNIFE members including free legal advice, free demand letters to debtors and a fixed rate fee service for the review of terms and conditions.

Their new contact details are:

1 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS

New main office number: 0131 228 3501
New fax number: 0131 229 0093
New direct number Alistair Dean: 0131 229 0745
New direct number Katrina Venters: 0131 228 3007

WILLIS

Members can now contact [Willis](#), broker of plumbing industry insurance services to SNIFE members, via a dedicated email address.

Just send your enquiries to: SnipefAdmin@willis.com

Or existing policy holders can contact:

Laura McAfee Dip CII
Belfast Enterprise Team
Team Leader
Willis Risk Services (Ireland) Ltd,
Centrepoint Building
4 Ormeau Avenue
Belfast BT2 8HS.

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Direct Tel: +44 (0)28 9089 1827

Mobile: +44 (0)790 8796448

Fax: +44 (0)28 9089 5050

Email: mcafeel2@willis.com

And enquiries about new policies can be made to:

Andrea Browne

Contact Manager

Corporate Northern Ireland

Willis Risk Services (Ireland) Ltd

Centrepoint Building

4 Ormeau Avenue

Belfast BT2 8HS.

Direct: +44 (0)28 90895222,

Email: brownea@willis.com

23/9/15

VACANCY – TECHNICAL OFFICER

We are currently recruiting for a technical officer to provide technical input and advice to the organisation as a whole as well as direct to member firms.

Successful candidates will hold a plumbing related technical qualification at S/NVQ Level 3 or equivalent. A related building engineering services discipline may be considered.

Please see the attached [advert](#) and [job description](#) for further details

Closing date 21 September 2015.

9/9/15

SNIFE ANGLING COMPETITION 2015

The SNIFE Angling Competition was held at the Lake of Menteith on Tuesday 25 August, 2015. 42 anglers took part (21 boats). After the day's angling High Tea was provided at the Forth Inn, Aberfoyle.

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Allan McIntosh, who organised the event on the day and has done for quite some time, announced that this would be his last year doing so and was presented with a bottle of whisky on behalf of SNIFE by Alwyn Webster.

The results of the competition were:

1st Joe Bell with a combined weight of 10lb 8oz

2nd Ian Crighton a combined weight of 9lb 12oz

3rd Les McLean a combined weight of 8lb 8oz

Heaviest fish Ian Crighton at 3lb 14oz

Lucky Sweepstake winner David Stewart, McDonald Engineering won a free day's fishing at Lake of Menteith

The prizes were awarded at the High Tea at the Forth Inn, Aberfoyle

The total fish caught 44

21 boats

30/8/15

NORTHERN IRISH APPRENTICE WINS GOLD IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

In the 2015 WorldSkills Competition held recently in São Paulo, Brazil, the Gold medal in the Plumbing and Heating Category was awarded to UK competitor Gary Doyle, from Southern Regional College, Newry and employed by Kieran Trainor Plumbing and Heating, Newry. Gary represented Northern Ireland after excelling in national competitions such as the Skills Show.

WorldSkills is the collective voice for skills excellence and development in vocational, technological and service oriented careers around the globe. WorldSkills represents more than 45 skills in 72 Member countries and regions, all working together with youth, educators and industries to help prepare the workforce and talent of today for the jobs of the future.

Robert Burgon, SNIFE Chief Executive, said: "This is a fantastic achievement for Gary and we congratulate him on his win. It is testament to the excellent training that UK apprentices receive and the high level of skill that they can achieve in their trade. Gary's win reinforces that Scottish and Northern Irish plumbers are world class."

21/8/15

SNIEPF

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RAB SHERRY

After serving for 9 years on the SNIJIB Board, Mr Rab Sherry has retired. Fellow Board Members presented him with a special JIB cake in recognition of his role and contribution. We would like to wish Rab a very happy retirement.



14/7/15

SNIEPF ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2015

This year's tournament, on Friday 19 June 2015, took place as usual, at Alyth Golf Course, Alyth, Perthshire. Twelve teams (10 member firms, an Inverness Local Association team and a team from Worcester Bosch) totalling 48 players took part. After the golfers finished their rounds they had high tea in the Club House and Brian Warrender, SNIEPF Vice President, presented the prizes.



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Prizewinners were as follows:

Endeavour: Lee McGovern, John Queen & Son Plumbers Ltd

Nearest the Hole: Alan McHattie, John Queen & Son Plumbers Ltd

Longest Drive: Callum Mathewson, Walker & Son (pictured)

Second Place Individual: Graham Baxter Malcolm McArthur & Son Ltd

First Place/Tommy Thomson Cup: Michael McEwan, Almondvale Plumbing & Heating Services

Team Prizes

Third Place: Malcolm McArthur & Son Ltd, Billy Murphy, Bob Stevenson, Stewart Rennie and Graham Baxter

Second Place: Pitkerro Plumbing & Heating Ltd, Neil Campbell, Danny Craig, Declan Christie and Alan McLean (pictured)

First Place/Scottish Federation Cup: Almondvale Plumbing & Heating Services, David Hunt, Simon Hunt, Michael McEwan and David McFadyen

25/6/15

SNIFE PUBLISH 'FIRST' ANNUAL REPORT

This year SNIFE is proud to make available a 'new look' Annual Report. In previous years the report was very short and approved by Council during the Annual General Meeting. This year, however, the Federation would like to make members and stakeholders aware of the breadth and depth of the work in which it is involved.

The new report details a range of projects and initiatives that have been undertaken in the past year, [click here](#) to download a copy.

24/6/15

SNIFE ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND OFFICE BEARERS

SNIFE is pleased to announce that the incoming President for 2015/16 is Mr John Leonard of Belfast.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 29 May 2015 the following office bearers were elected:

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President	John Leonard, Belfast
Vice President	Brian Warrender, Inverbervie
Junior Vice President	Gerry Woods, Glasgow
Immediate Past President	Alwyn Webster, Aberdeen



John Leonard (pictured) is the fourth National President from Northern Ireland. His father, Joe, was SNIEPF President in 1996/97 and was present at the AGM to see his son being installed. This is only the second time in the history of SNIEPF that a son has followed his father in taking the national presidency. John said: *“The past year has seen considerable change within SNIEPF at what has been a challenging time. There have been a number of positive results of these changes including an increase in membership and greater participation in some of the schemes and services that have been arranged for our members. However, there is no room for complacency and...we need to ensure national policy reflects the needs of our membership. I look forward to playing my part in this.”*

10/6/15

ABERDEEN PLUMBING APPRENTICE WINS SNIEPF SKILLPLUMB COMPETITION

The 40th Annual SNIEPF SkillPLUMB competition was won by Richard Wilson, a third year plumbing apprentice from Aberdeen who works for Aberdeenshire firm, Sugplumb.

SkillPLUMB is an annual skills competition designed to promote standards and skills across the plumbing industry, developing competence into excellence. The winner may go on to represent Scotland at SkillBUILD UK in Birmingham in November where the highest scoring winners from the heats will compete in the UK final.

Read the full [press release](#) for details of the other winners on the day.

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Pictured (left to right): Alwyn Webster, SNIEPF Immediate Past President, Martin Ramsay, North East Scotland College Plumbing Lecturer, **Richard Wilson, Winner, North East Scotland College and Sugplumb Ltd**, Neil Robertson, North East Scotland College Plumbing Lecturer, Ross McGregor, Wolseley PlumbCenter Local Network Manager for Grampian and Henry McNicol, Regional Sales Director (Scotland & Northern Ireland) for Worcester Bosch Group

10/6/15

SNIEPF APPOINTS NEW REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER

We recently welcomed Vanessa Docherty to the SNIEPF team. Vanessa took up her role as regional training officer earlier this month following the retirement of Paul Roberts.

Vanessa previously held a variety of training roles in the oil and gas industry in Aberdeen. She will be working across Scotland with responsibility for the following colleges: Edinburgh; Borders, Fife East and West; and Dumfries and Galloway.



22/5/15

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THE SNIPEF AWARDS 2015

We are proud to announce the launch of two brand new awards celebrating professionalism in the plumbing and heating industry.

SNIPEF Licensed plumbing and heating businesses are invited to nominate themselves for the title of **SNIPEF Business of Year 2015**. The winning firm will show that they have excellent technical skills and ability, they offer excellence in customer service and they are committed to raising standards in the industry.

We are also recognising the contribution of our colleagues who work for plumbers' merchants by asking SNIPEF members to nominate a Merchant Customer Care Award winner.

Nominations are open now and full details are available [here](#). Download the full press release [here](#).

20/5/15

AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME

Details of the [Affordable Warmth Scheme](#), Northern Ireland and how to join the list of installers have been published on the [members' area](#) of the website.

8/5/15

CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2015

The new CDM Regulations 2015 came into force on 6th April 2015. A Technical Update summarising the key changes is available in the members' area.

22/4/15

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HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMMES FOR SCOTLAND (HEEPS)

The Scottish Government has now opened a new HEEPS Cashback Vouchers Scheme and a HEEPS Loans Scheme which will offer homeowners interest-free loans for energy efficiency measures. Through the Cashback Scheme, the Scottish Government is offering owner occupiers, private and social tenants and registered private sector landlords a rebate of up to £500 towards installing a new boiler for properties that are in council tax bands A to C.

Through the Loans Scheme, the Government is making available interest free, unsecured loans of up to £4,000 to householders for installing a new boiler, cylinder thermostat and hot water cylinder. All installations must be recommended by an energy advice report, and households in remote areas will be entitled to greater amounts to cover the increased costs they face.

Advice for applicants will be available through Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282. For further details please see www.homeenergyscotland.org.

21/4/15

NEW ONLINE TENDER SYSTEM NORTHERN IRELAND

A new, improved, online tender system for public sector contracts is being launched by CPD. Anyone who tenders for government procurement opportunities in Northern Ireland, or who wants to in the future, is being urged to prepare for the changeover.

Read more about the system [here](#) and find out how to register for one of a series of short information workshops or visit www.dfpni.gov.uk/cpd to find out more about eTendersNI.

17/4/15

LEADING CONSTRUCTION BODY URGES POLITICAL PARTIES TO DO MORE FOR CONSTRUCTION SMEs

Ahead of the General Election, the Specialist Engineering Contractors' (SEC) Group has published its Construction Manifesto. The SEC Group, of which SNIPEF is a part, represents the largest sector in UK construction by value. By publishing this manifesto the SEC Group invites all parties to give greater priority to the concerns of SMEs in construction.

[The Manifesto](#) lists the following seven priorities to be addressed by the next government.

- Improvement of cash flow through the wider use of project bank accounts and legislation to protect cash retentions;
- Standardisation of the pre-qualification process;
- Development of programmes of work directed at improving carbon efficiency in existing building stock through the use of incentives;
- A target of 3 years to return to pre-recession training levels for engineering apprentices;
- Reduction of wasteful activity and poor practices through radically changing public sector procurement by appointing the supply chain earlier and insuring an agreed cost plan;
- Introduction of legislation to establish the role of an adjudicator or ombudsman to promote good practice in public sector procurement; and
- Introduction of rigorous requirements relating to the health and safety competence of all firms before they carry out any construction activity.

14/4/15

REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

Following SummitSkills' review of the National Occupational Standards and re-accreditation of the Plumbing SVQ Level 3, the plumbing industry (SNIPEF) seeks the views of employers on the suitability of the modern apprenticeship (MA) for Plumbing and Heating. The MA is designed to provide apprentices with the opportunity to develop the necessary competencies required to carry out the role of a competent plumber and form part of the 4-year plumbing apprenticeship.

A copy of the MA framework can be viewed here [2013 MA Standard](#)

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Employers in the industry are invited to complete the [consultation survey](#). The survey will be open until Friday 24 April 2015, we are grateful to you for completing the survey and providing valuable feedback.

Duncan Wilson
Deputy Chief Executive

10/4/15

SNIPEF STAFF HAVE DEEP POCKETS

In recent weeks the office staff raised an impressive £303 for the Breast Cancer Campaign and £263 for Maggie's Centres. Members of the team were asked to bring in baking, raffle prizes and even cooked lunches to raise money for these worthy causes.

Well done to team SNIPEF for their selfless donating (and eating), and a special thanks to organisers Ashley Walker and Carol Roy.

16/3/15

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY – SUMMITSKILLS

SummitSkills, the standard setting organisation for building services engineering, has a vacancy for a research intern. This paid post is based in London, initially for 4 months, and will provide you with an opportunity to manage your own research project and establish a solid grounding in research and the development of industry data for the building services engineering sector.

Visit the [SummitSkills website](#) for further details.

11/2/15

HIGHLAND SUPPLY CHAIN EVENT

The Energy Saving Trust with funding from the Scottish Government, and in conjunction with Highland Council, has organised a free half day event aimed at construction firms operating in the Highlands. The aim of the event is to highlight to construction firms and installers the opportunities

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available to them in relation to the installation of energy efficient and renewables building improvements both for domestic and non-domestic sector.

A networking lunch will be provided. The event will take place at the **Highland Council chambers, Dingwall on 10 March 2015 (9:30 - 1:30pm)**, For further details on the event including how to book your place please follow this link: <http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/businesses/node/168>

If you have any questions in relation to the event please contact the Energy Saving Trust by emailing supplychainscotland@est.org.uk

3 February 2015

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS SNIFE GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND BRANCH

SNIFE Glasgow and West of Scotland Branch raised a very impressive £4876.30 for CHAS, [Children's Hospice Association Scotland](http://www.chas.org.uk), at their annual dinner which took place on 9 January in Glasgow.

In accepting the donation, Scott Maxwell of CHAS said: "Your gift £4876.30 means we can continue to support babies, children, young people and their families from across Scotland during some of their toughest times, as well as help to create special memories for them. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing total."

27 January 2015