THE BRITPAVE JOHN FERGUSON AWARD FOR EARLY CAREERS

britpave

The British Cementitious Paving Association

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INTRODUCTION

The Britpave John Ferguson Awards for Early Careers are designed to recognise and reward the contribution of the next generation of new talent. During his long career, John was passionate about forwarding and mentoring new talent, including graduates and apprentices. He was committed to helping others to develop their skills, experience and expertise.

In recognition of the tremendous positive impact that John had upon the industry, Britpave – the infrastructure industry association of which John was a founder and long-term member, have introduced the John Ferguson Awards.

THE AWARDS

The Awards are open to graduates, apprentices and trainee positions covering the annual period of April 1st to the following March 31st.

The annual awards are designed to recognise and reward the outstanding contribution from graduates, apprentices or trainees who demonstrate those top characteristics that will allow them to thrive.

These include: curiosity; creativity and innovation; ability to problem-solve; being a team player; good interpersonal skills and attention to detail, leading to their self-development.

All nominees must be working for a Britpave member. There will be one overall winner and two runners-up who will be expected to attend the Britpave annual conference in October to celebrate and receive their award.

TO ENTER

Entries are welcomed from Britpave member employers. They are invited to nominate graduates or apprentices/trainees who demonstrate:

- Contribution to industry innovation or best practice delivery
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills that build effective working relationships,
- Indepth curiosity and problem-solving abilities that allow challenges to be met and resolved,
- Capacity to be methodical and organised with attention to detail,
- Ability to manage several priorities at a time and to work under pressure,
- Ability to work both on own initiative and as a team member and build effective working relationships.

Britpave members should forward their nominations as a written appraisal of no more than 700 words that covers the characteristics above and includes working and project examples.

Any special mention with regards to central issues affecting the industry such as achieving net zero, digital working, the impact of AI, introduction and implementation of innovation and best practice should be included.

The appraisal should also include up to 500 words from the nominee graduate/apprentice on why they chose their specific role within the industry for their career.

Entry nominations should be sent as a Word Doc and include the name, job title email and telephone contact details for both the Britpave employer and graduate/apprentice/trainee. **Nominations to be forwarded to Britpave at: info@britpave.org.uk by July 13th.**

JUDGING PANEL

Al McDermid
Managing Director, Remediology (SE) Limited and Britpave Chair

Steve Phipps
Head of Material Engineering, Balfour Beatty VINCI

Stefan Stansfield
Managing Director, Combined Soil Stabilisation

Robin Styles
Technical Development Manager North, Heidelberg Materials UK – Cement

Neil Leak
National Technical Manager – Contracting, HOLCIM UK LTD

Adam Szczepalinski
Operations Director, PJD

Joe Quirke
Head of Material Engineering, VolkerFitzpatrick

Jack Bull
Pavement and Materials Consultant
Technical Principal, Mott MacDonald

Rory Keogh
Gomaco Internation and Vice President of EUPAVE

WHY ENTER?

The Awards aim to celebrate the civil engineering industry. They aim to forward a sense of pride and motivation. Enter a graduate/apprentice/trainee to underline opportunities of working in the civil engineering industry and the talent of the next generation.

Entering the Awards will help to raise the profile of your company's involvement in and programme for forwarding and supporting young professionals. Entering the graduate/apprentice/trainee will recognise their ongoing work and achievements. In particular, it will showcase their achievements and celebrate their success to a wide industry audience. Furthermore, the overall winner will receive a prize of £500.00. Each runner-up will receive £250.00

AWARDS PRESENTATION

The presentation of the Awards will take place at the annual Britpave Industry Conference held in October.

JOHN FERGUSON

John started his career in the construction industry in 1973 where he joined Messrs Sandberg as a materials testing technician. After a year there learning the fundamentals of materials testing, John joined the Transport and Road Research Laboratory where he would spend a year in their bridge construction division investigating concrete failures on structures on the M1 motorway and researching new test methods.

In 1975 John took up a position within Surrey County Council where he spent the next two years carrying out their highway's maintenance testing programme. This involved operating complex equipment during road surveys. He joined Bovis Civil Engineering in 1977 taking up the position of Regional Materials Engineer where he spent the next 5 years. John worked on multiple projects in the southeast including constructing parts of the M25 motorway between Chertsey and Egham, and some local roads around the southeast that he would drive regularly in the years to follow.

In 1982 John joined Balfour Beatty where he worked on many of the UK's highest profile projects across multiple sectors including roads, rail, airfields, and nuclear. He provided numerous innovative and cost-effective solutions contributing to a significant number of winning bids for new projects. He also supported project-based teams in the delivery of those solutions to great effect.

In 2021, Balfour Beatty named John as their Major Projects 'Make a Difference' Behaviour Champion. This was in large part in recognition for his passion for nurturing the next generation of materials engineers. He was committed to helping others develop their skills and expertise so his impact will continue to endure. It is this legacy that the Britpave John Ferguson Awards aim to honour.

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