

Cliff Williams: Carpentry

Competed in:	WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
Home town:	Talley
Region:	Wales
Date of birth:	01/07/1987
Age at competition:	22
Employer whilst competing:	Anthony Rees
Employer:	Cliff Williams Carpentry
Learning provider:	Coleg Sir Gâr

Qualifications

- NVQ Level 2 & 3 Wood Occupation
- Foundation & Advanced Constructing Award
- City & Guilds Maths & English



What was your route into Team UK?

Cliff started competing at a Welsh regional SkillBuild competition which he won and was put through to the UK final. Cliff stormed ahead of the competition at the UK final and was invited to take part in the shortlisting for WorldSkills. Impressing the judges with his skills at both the Squad and Team selection competitions, Cliff earned himself a place in Team UK.

Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

It was simple for Cliff; he saw it as a once in a lifetime opportunity and just went for it.

What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

Cliff started his intensive training as soon as he was shortlisted for WorldSkills. He travelled all around the UK working with top professionals, learning new skills and building his knowledge of the carpentry trade.

“It was really hard work and I spent a lot of time away from home. It didn’t bother me though as it was really worthwhile as I was learning so much.”

What was WorldSkills like?

“WorldSkills was massive. I enjoyed every bit of it especially the opening and closing ceremonies.”

What did you have to do during the competition?

Over the 22 hours of competition time Cliff had to construct a gazebo with a really complex roof.

“The project was extremely difficult but my training and hard work paid off as I finished the project on time. It was so difficult that over half the competitors didn’t manage to finish.”

What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?

Having the opportunity to represent the UK in his skill was a real honour for Cliff.

“Being there and competing at such a high level meant everything to me. It was brilliant to know that I was part of such a friendly and talented team.”

What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

The experience has had a huge impact on Cliff's professional life.

"I'm much more professional and efficient at work. As a person it has opened my eyes to new and exciting opportunities which I want to make the most of."

What is the dream?

Cliff is already running his own business that he started just before travelling to WorldSkills.

"I'm going to continue to develop my business and work really hard to make it as successful as possible."

Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and a chance to represent the UK on the world stage. I would definitely recommend it to anyone."

What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?

"It's great that it is coming to London and I'm keen to be involved and help out. I think it will do wonders in raising the profile of skills and competitions; making them more accessible to everyone."



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:
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