



worldskills
UK Alumni

Mark Nevin: Painting and Decorating

Competed in: WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
Awarded: Gold medal and Best in Nation
Home town: Livingston
Region: Scotland
Date of birth: 17/07/1987
Age at competition: 22
Employer: Nevin of Edinburgh
Learning provider: Edinburgh Telford College

Qualifications

- SVQ Level 2 & 3

City &
Guilds
Qualified



What was your route into Team UK?

Mark's competition career started back in 2005. He achieved success in both the SkillBuild regional and national competitions. Mark then began the selection process for WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 Team UK but unfortunately just missed out on a place. Mark picked himself up and came back fighting for the 2009 selection competitions. Beating off the competition at the Team Selection, Mark was awarded a well deserved place in Team UK.

Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

"My personal desire to be the best. Having won the UK competitions I wanted to compete against the best in the world."

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

Mark's intense training built on his knowledge and experience from the

2007 selection process. In the run up to Calgary, Mark was spending every minute of the day practising for the competition. One/two weeks each month was also spent working with his Training Manager and WorldSkills expert Peter Walters.

"I was training all the time to get my work perfect. It meant sacrificing work commitments, social events and even relationships."

What was WorldSkills like?

"Its hard to remember what it was like as it went so quickly. The opening and closing ceremonies were great and it was incredible to see all the competitors and experts in one place, but the bit in the middle is a bit of a blur."

What did you have to do during the competition?

Mark's competition was split into five modules over the 22 hours of competition. The modules included preparation and finishing timber

products, paper hanging, lettering and freehand design, colour matching and harmony and a free technique.

At WorldSkills Calgary 2009, two new speed tests were introduced to the painting and decorating competition. The colour matching and paper hanging modules were both set as speed tests with extra marks available to any competitor that completed the task within the time limit.

What inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

Overcoming the heartbreak of not making it into the 2007 Team UK, Mark was determined to make it all the way to Calgary.

"Missing out at the last team selection made me work even harder during my preparation and training. A place in Team UK and the chance to be the best in the world was my inspiration throughout the whole journey."

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

"To say it meant a lot to me would be an understatement. Being part of the team and having the chance to compete at the pinnacle of my skill meant everything to me!"

How did it feel to win the gold medal?

"It was incredible! Getting up on the podium to receive the gold medal was the best moment of my life. It was a real rush of emotions; I was happy, sad and relieved all at the same time."

What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

Mark has developed as a person and it has helped him mature a great deal. Mark works as a foreman and previously found it tricky working with people older than himself.

"After returning from the competition and achieving gold, the people I work with are now showing me much more respect. I think it demonstrates to people my level of skill and professionalism and that has helped me a great deal at work."

What is the dream?

"I'm going to continue working on developing my career and hopefully work my way up within the company. I'm aiming to have a Porsche by the time I'm 25!"

Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

"100% wholeheartedly, yes! It's a fantastic opportunity that people with the desire to do something special should get involved with. Anyone entering the competition should be prepared for it to take over your life and put everything

on hold, but the outcome is worth it!"

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

Mark is keen to stay involved with WorldSkills and is excited that the event is coming to London in 2011.

"It will be great for Team UK to have the home supporters all around them. It will also be a fantastic opportunity for youngsters to watch and take part in skills which they may not have previously considered as a career choice."



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:
T: 020 7429 2806 E: ukskills@ukskills.org.uk W: worldskillsukalumni.org.uk

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