

Stewart Wright: Aircraft Maintenance

Competed in:	WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
Awarded:	Bronze Medal
Home town:	Northampton
Region:	East Midlands
Date of birth:	11/07/1984
Age at competition:	25
Employer:	Royal Navy
Learning provider:	Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering (DCAE) Gosport HMS Sultan and Kingston University (Distance Learning)

Qualifications

- Currently studying for a foundation degree in Aeronautical Engineering
- Advanced Modern Apprenticeship in Aircraft Maintenance including NVQ3
- Certificate of Higher Education in Aeronautical Engineering



What was your route into Team UK?

Stewart's journey to WorldSkills began at the Technician of the Year Competition hosted by RAF Cosford. Representing the Royal Navy, Stewart won the competition against both the Army and the Royal Air Force. Stewart and two runners up then went onto to compete at the squad selection. Continuing his winning streak, Stewart won at both the squad and the team selections, earning himself a place in Team UK.

Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

Stewart saw the potential opportunities available to WorldSkills competitors and with the ongoing support of the Royal Navy and Jonnah Jones, the Training Manager/WorldSkills Expert, he took on the challenge.

"It was an opportunity to test myself against the best in the world and to push myself to the limit to find out what I could really achieve."

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

Stewart embarked on an intensive training program from the moment he was selected as part of Squad UK. Travelling around the UK to a variety of institutions he undertook specific training based on the WorldSkills competition that was not covered by his everyday job. Military institutions played host to all of Stewart's training including the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Coningsby, RAF Cosford and H&S Aviation in Portsmouth. It was a demanding programme of training that took over Stewart's life in the run up to WorldSkills.

What was WorldSkills like?

"It was a fantastic experience; the size and scale of the event was incredible! During the event I also had the opportunity to meet some really nice people from around the world."

What did you have to do during the competition?

Over the 22 hours of competition, Stewart completed a total of six modules each with their own individual deadline. Ranging from a weight and balance calculation to a daily inspection, the tasks were designed by the international panel of experts to test the competitors' knowledge and skills to the limit.

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

"It was a great opportunity for me to demonstrate all the hard work and skill of the technicians and ground crew that keep UK military air assets in action. Representing the UK on the world stage was fantastic and something I thought was only available to athletes."

How did it feel to win the Bronze medal?

"Winning the bronze medal was unbelievable! I felt like all of the hard work, time and effort I had put into training for the competition had been rewarded."

What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

Stewart has seen significant improvement in both his hand skills and approach to work.

"It has really changed my approach to work. Instead of diving straight into a task I take a step back and consider what I'm doing, which in the long run has helped to improve the work I do."

What is the dream?

"I'm going to continue working towards a promotion to eventual promotion to Warrant Officer, which is the highest non commissioned role in the Royal Navy."

Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

"Yeah definitely, it offers some fantastic opportunities. Anyone looking to be part of Team UK should understand what a commitment it is, as it takes a lot of time and effort to get to WorldSkills."

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

"It should help to raise the profile of skills and of WorldSkills. It is important that young people are aware of what career paths are available in the skills sector and I think WorldSkills will definitely encourage more people to choose a vocational career."



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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