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**PROFESSIONAL  
CLOTHING AWARDS**  
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THE GLOBAL NETWORKING EVENT

**PRESS RELEASE**

## The Winners of the Professional Clothing Awards 2016



On 22nd June, the who's who of the professional clothing industry turned up for the prestigious Professional Clothing Awards 2016. Hosted by Olympic medallist Sharon Davies, MBE and Sophie L Smith, nearly 400 attended the opulent event with industry buyers and suppliers from around the world.

Yvette Ashby, Managing Director of Professional Clothing director-e, Show and Awards says: "I am truly honoured and proud to be serving this industry for the last 22 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors, suppliers, buyers and young designers who took part to make this ceremony a huge success."

### **PPE Innovation of The Year 2016**

The PPE Innovation of the Year 2016 Award was kindly sponsored by Magnum. This years Highly Commended was HB Protective Clothing for their Softshell Jacket. HB Protective Clothing impressed the judges with a high-quality, multi risk softshell jacket providing protection from the elements, fire, flame, and electric arc up to class 2. The product offers high visibility and wearing comfort benefiting staff from utilities, civil engineering, railways, automotive and manufacture.

## Suppliers, Distributors and Manufacturer Awards

This year the competition was fierce and we would like to commend all those who entered. The judges were amazed at the high standard set making the final decision extremely difficult. In the end Two Highly Commended for Best Managed Major Contract and these were The Cooneen Group for their Transport for London Uniform designed by Wayne Hemingway and Direct Corporate Clothing awarded for BT Group Uniform. The Winner of Best Managed Major Contract was Goose Design awarded for Clydesdale Yorkshire Bank Uniform. Goose Design wowed the judges with a very impressive contract that showed intensive research, design, development wear testing and production receiving top marks all round. The contract succeeded in its intention to re-evaluate and modernize the current uniform to work in harmony with their new brand direction with unique elements of Scotland and Yorkshire mixed together. The contract succeeded in its intention to re-evaluate and modernize the current uniform to work in harmony with their new brand direction with unique elements of Scotland and Yorkshire mixed together.

Best Managed Boutique Contract Highly Commended was Jermyn Street Design awarded for Guinness Record with the Studio 104 Awarded for Quagliano Uniform breaking a Professional Clothing Awards record year as it was the first company to receive full marks from all the judges. The contract was managed seamlessly from start to finish but not without its many challenges along the way with the gold and black Art Deco-inspired palette gives the garments a glamorous cabaret feeling.

Highly Commended for Best Stock Design for Corporate Clothing was Alexandra awarded for Cadenza – Suiting Collection who showed the judges a fabulous collection of suits. Simon Jersey were announced as the winner for the Simon Jersey Jumpsuit as the item brought something new and exciting to Corporate Clothing. Launched at Professional Beauty North in September 2015 it is now available to buy online.

The Highly Commended for Best Stock Design for Workwear blew the judges away with their unique range for this category. Proving that they are the future of next generation workwear the Highly Commended was Snickers Workwear for the next generation workwear range. The Winner was Arco for Women's Hi-vis Hazardwear and won over the judges by leaving a great impression, sparking an enthusiastic discussion.

Best Fabric and Fibre Innovation was kindly sponsored by Simon Jersey and the judges awarded two entries with Highly Commended. In no particular order the first was Sofileta Advanced Textiles for Smoke and SofiShield Products and the second APT Fabrics awarded for Eco Dry Fabrics. Carrington was awarded the Winner for Flameban Max 310 as it is the first to market a high-end inherent product, which performs extremely well under different conditions and extremely well facing an electric arc.

It has become increasingly important in the digital age to have a strong online presence and user friendly website. This year two companies were Highly Commended for Best IT Innovation and Website and these were Badgemaster Ltd and Alexandra. The Winner for Best IT Innovation and Website was Cintas who created an app to make it easier for everyday working professionals.

The Highly Commended for Best Catalogue was Simon Jersey who offer a range of diverse catalogues and the Winning Catalogue went to Sioen for their newly updated catalogue which gives clear guidance to customers. Split into categories with easily identifiable cutaways it gives fast access to the ranges you are looking for with extensive indexing inside the back cover.

Best Manufacturer/Distributor was a strong category with Badgemaster Ltd Highly Commended for making all their products onsite in the UK. The Cooneen Group was awarded the winner of Best Manufacturer/Distributor as they supply the uniform garments for one of the most influential transport companies in the country, manufacturing and supplying uniforms to over 10,000 wearers.

The next category was for Best Innovation in Safety Footwear and this was another tough category with two companies' competing for the top prize. In the end the Highly Commended for Best Innovation in Footwear was Magnum Hi-Tec Sports UK Ltd for the Strike Force 8.0 Side – Zip Waterproof Boot with Snickers Workwear awarded the top prize for The Solid Gear Polar GTX Safety Boot.

“Made in UK” Awards 2016 was a new category this year and was kindly sponsored by Jermyn Street Design and Eurostar. The UK is home to many talented professionals and the judges were dazzled by the amount of entries in this category. The competition was so strong that two were selected as the Highly Commended who were Dimensions and Badgemaster Ltd. The Winner was Marton Mills and Uniform Express for the TSB Uniform as even though it was apparent that there was insufficient capacity within the UK to produce such a large scale production they still used fabrics woven in Britain by a family firm in Yorkshire.

## **Industry Recognition Awards**

Lifetime Achievement and Long Service to the Textiles Industry Awards celebrate individual achievement. This year multiple names were put forward leading to two winners for each.

The First Winner of Long Service to the Textile Industry Award went to Douglas Bailey from Stuncroft. Douglas Bailey’s career in the corporatewear sector began over 20 years ago. He played a major role as the driving force in the establishment, introduction and development of the "Wardrobe" range of ‘stock supported’ garments for Brook Taverner putting them where they are today. This was the first range of its kind to be introduced in the UK and then into Europe and broke the boundaries of quality, design & style, incorporating high performance fabrics, stylish garment designs and rapid supply.

The Second Winner of Long Service to the Textiles Industry Award went to The Cooneen Group who is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2016. With a presence across the globe, and supplying a diverse range of clothing products to internationally recognised public and private sector customers this company has made substantial and sustained progress since the business was first established in 1966. Quite a few of today’s employees have worked with the company for over 30 years, and in fact two employees Margaret Foy and Thelma Williamson have worked with the company since 1996 and are still working there now.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to two winners who had shown incredible dedication to the industry and have helped it become what it is today. The First Lifetime Achievement Award went to Helen Harker from Simon Jersey who has worked as a designer for more than 27 years. Helen is passionate about uniform design and has been central in securing key contracts. She leads a team responsible for translating client briefs into reality, developing uniforms that enhance brand names and is renowned for being stylish yet practical. Perhaps she is best known for creating designs for Team GB that will be seen by nearly a billion people worldwide at the closing ceremony of the Olympic Games.

The Second Winner was Graham Hunter from Hunter Apparel. He has been in the industry for nearly 50 years and began working in the company at aged 16. Graham worked his way up through the engineering division to become Managing Director of one of the UK’s premier uniform shirt manufacturing companies, at only 21 years of age. He spent his working life in this company creating many hundreds of jobs in Ireland and passed the reigns of the business to his oldest son 6 years ago.

## **Business Manager Awards**

The Business Manager Awards are presented to both the buyer and the supplier in recognition of their winning partnership. The Highly Commended for Best Bespoke Corporatewear Uniform was given to HSBC uniform supplied by Incorporatewear Ltd as they had a refreshed range retaining some of the favourite styles from the current collection along with the addition of fantastic new styles by consultant designer Jeff Banks. The items were designed following feedback from staff from all over the branch network and the range was developed to ensure staff feel confident and professional.

The Winner for Best Bespoke Corporatewear Uniform dazzled the judges with an inspiring vision. These two companies have been working in partnership for several years and during this time a close working relationship has been formed. With refreshing ranges which have progressively evolved and enhanced the brand’s values the clothing has adapted to the changing needs of business. The Winner for Best Bespoke Corporatewear Uniform went to Nationwide uniform supplied by Incorporatewear Ltd.

The Winner for Best Bespoke Workwear Uniform provides for approximately 20,000 wearers. The Compass Group supplied by Direct Corporate Clothing includes chef's wear, waiters and waitresses, cleaners, porters, gardeners and security staff with the uniform is divided between their own bespoke range and client-specific needs

The Best Bespoke Uniform for PPE was a close call this year leading the judges to choosing two Highly Commended uniforms. Both companies showed great skill and communication in the design process leading to innovation designs. The Highly Commended were Dublin Fire Brigade supplied by Hunter Apparel and Morrisons supplied by Direct Corporate Clothing. The Winner of this award had undoubtedly succeeded in creating a close relationship and supplies all workwear, outerwear, footwear and PPE to the homes of the 88,000 employees. The Winner was BT Group supplied by Direct Corporate Clothing as the design team produced samples that were trialled by staff to establish the best comfort, fit and suitability and last year supplied a dedicated range to 1,000 female wearers, representing 10,000 garments.

Last in this section was the Business Manager of the Year Award with the Highly Commended responsible for around 14,000 staff with the aim to unite two discrete organisations with one uniform. Hunter Apparel supplied by Border Force have been in partnership for a long time and share commitment to providing a uniform which staff can be proud to wear.

The Winner of the 2016 Business Manager of the Year was awarded to Eurostar supplied by Jermyn Street Design which was worn by staff during the event. The current uniform is the result of an extensive programme of consultations with staff and customers. Whilst meeting the needs of a wide range of busy and demanding customer service roles, it is also the most elegant and professional to date. Thanks to new fabrics that are both stretchy and durable, they have been able to create a uniform that looks good yet is more comfortable to wear. The uniform has been designed to be fit for purpose and flexible enough with a range of garments to layer on one another to be suitable for all staff across the business. It also has a maternity clothing range which is comfortable and stylish.

### **Project 20/20 Young Design Award**

The Project 20/20 Design Awards is a national competition open to students at universities up and down the country studying fashion, textiles and design. This year's event required students to imagine the future and create their visions of professional clothing (corporatewear, workwear and PPE) for the Year 2020.

The Overall Winner of Project 20/20 Young Design Award was James Parker from University of Brighton for his research into arboriculture and pushing his technical thinking. He received £700 cash prize plus a chance to work with Paula Cannon, Head of Design at Incorporatewear. The Winner's University, University of Brighton also received £500 cash prize. In second place was Mollie Crabtree from University of Northampton for her vision of Nationwide's future uniform who received £500 cash prize and in third place was Lauren Jones also from University of Northampton. She created a new dominos uniform based on first hand research and received £250 cash prize.

This year we were also excited to offer a new award category with the support of INVISTA's CORDURA® brand. Stylish, hardworking CORDURA® fabrics are used by many leading workwear manufacturers around the world and the CORDURA® Durable Design Award, part of the Project 20/20 Design Awards challenges students to integrate fabric functionality and commercial viability into their design entry. The winner of CORDURA® Durable Design Award was Bethany Martin from University of Northampton for her range of clothing for working outdoors and the forward thinking behind it, Bethany received £1000 cash prize.

Congratulations to all the winners of The Professional Clothing Awards 2016 and thank you to all those who entered. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their wonderful support of this event. Jermyn Street Design and Eurostar were this year's Platinum sponsor and the category sponsors included INVISTA CORDURA Brand, Incorporatewear, Simon Jersey, Magnum and Carrington. Supporting sponsors were UKFT and Badgemaster