

SkillPLUMB 2008

SkillPLUMB is a competition that gives colleges and individuals an opportunity to participate in a national initiative focusing on plumbing skills and education.

The event took place at Highbury College in Portsmouth and covered two days, Thursday 22 May and Friday 23 May. There were seven competitors from three different regions and over seventy visitors, including employers, students, lecturers and the sponsors, The Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors (APHC) who were the premier sponsors, La-co, UK Copper Board, B-Pec, Monument, and Plumb Center.



We had Mark Williamson as our worthy candidate, and I accompanied him to spur him on. Mark is currently working as a plumber and has been an excellent student at Acton & West London College. After the introduction on Thursday morning, the theory test took place. Mark did extremely well and was looking forward to the practical test the following day. Indeed, on Friday he stormed ahead in the morning and looked likely to win but, unfortunately, was caught up with in the afternoon.

Neil Collishaw, Development Manager for Summit ME said he was very impressed with Mark's attitude and conduct and added that Mark was a credit to the college and his employers.

Well done, Mark!

The competition winner goes on to compete in the Inter Build at the NEC in Birmingham on the 26th - 30th October. The overall top two places at this competition will go on to the finals at World Skills in Canada in 2009! The following World Skills Final will be held in London in 2011, a fantastic opportunity for students and colleges alike.

If you would like more information on the competition you can visit the SkillPLUMB website at www.skillmande.org.uk. This site also contains information on other trades in the competition such as SkillELECTRIC and SkillFRIDGE (which cover refrigeration and air conditioning) along with the results of the SkillPLUMB competition in Wales.

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