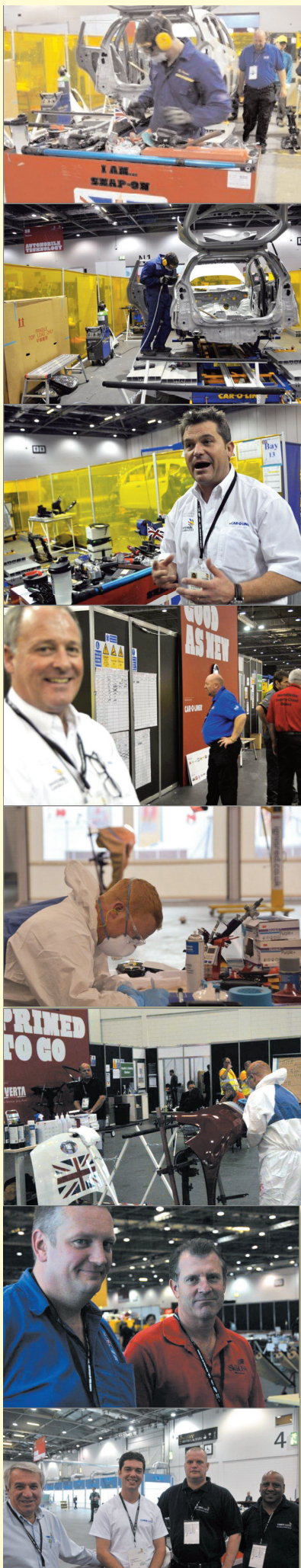


Weekly Review

7th October 2011

The 2011 Weekly Review is sponsored by Mirka Abrasives.

MIRKA



The excitement of WorldSkills London 2011 has spilled over into the BODY office today after our visit there yesterday. If you can get along for a look, please take the opportunity – Saturday is the last day of the competition itself and so your last chance to take along your young people.

They will get an incredibly exciting insight into the skills open to them if they pursue one of the 60-odd trades on display there.

Representing the vehicle body repair and refinish industry are a great gang of people supporting the competitors Ben Eaton and Ross Varnum. I was lucky enough to meet Ben's family and friends and his employers yesterday. It was terrific to see the support that these young people have won from those who know them best.

Ben's employer said it was obvious that he'd do well in the trade because he's a perfectionist who won't succumb to taking shortcuts.

Ben and Ross are just about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the four set tasks that they and their fellow competitors have to undertake. Watching them work, the focus and concentration they are putting into their efforts are impressive. They have to wait till Sunday evening to see how successful they've been in terms of medals. As Ben said tho' 'the whole experience has just been fantastic and the run up to the competition has been great fun'.

An unappreciated aspect of the London WorldSkills competition is the depth and breadth of effort put into the event by the sponsors. Just looking at car painting and auto body repair, there are 32 workbays that are fully kitted out with the most modern equipment and products.

Each one is identical – a mammoth job for the sponsors who set them up, with equipment that has all been donated free of charge to WorldSkills. Camco Equipment, Car-O-Liner, Snapon, Sherwin Williams, Southgate College, 3M, Honda, Newcastle College, RPM Welding, Fein and Ignis Red have all donated either equipment or the time and commitment from their staff - some of those named have done both. When you walk into the competition halls you get an idea of just how big and generous those commitments have been.

They really deserve the thanks of the sector for presenting such a professional and enthusiastic face to the outside world, to the UK government, and all those young people – the technicians of tomorrow - who have visited and enjoyed a brief taste of working life in our modern vehicle body repair sector.

Our 2011 Features List is available from Sophie Dickson, call 01536 747333 or email: sophie.dickson@mainlinemedia.co.uk

Judi Barton, Editor judi@vbra.co.uk • Sophie Dickson, Advertising Sales Exec
Sophie.Dickson@mainlinemedia.co.uk • Lily Quayle, Production body@vbra.co.uk