

SCOTTISH WHOLESALE ACHIEVERS: CELEBRATING THE INNOVATION AND RESILIENCE OF SCOTLAND'S FOOD AND DRINK WHOLESALERS



IT WAS a night of celebration as wholesalers, suppliers and other supporters of Scotland's food and drink industry gathered in Edinburgh for the annual Scottish Wholesale Achievers Awards – an event that this year paid tribute to the resilience and innovation displayed by Scotland's wholesale industry.

Achievers, organised by the Scottish Wholesale Association for two decades, recognises excellence across all sectors of the wholesale industry and this year also celebrated the achievements that have made a difference to individuals, communities and businesses during the pandemic.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy Kate Forbes, who has worked closely with the SWA as part of



Colin Smith, SWA chief executive with Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy



Meghan Henderson of Lomond Foods
Rising Star of the Year



Amanda Casey of JW Filshill
Employee of the Year



Hazel Boyd of Heineken UK
Supplier Sales Executive of the Year



Failte Foodservice picked up this year's Great Place to Work
award

the Scottish Government's commitment to recognise wholesale as a key business sector in keeping Scotland supplied with food, was a special guest. She presented the Rising Star of the Year award, won by Meghan Henderson of Lomond Foods.

Also present from the Scottish Government was George Burgess, who heads up the food and drink team at Holyrood.

Colin Smith, SWA chief executive, said: "Both have worked tirelessly to help not just wholesalers but the wider food and drink supply chain. We all owe them a large vote of thanks for their efforts."

Over 400 people attended the Achievers gala dinner and awards presentation, hosted by TV presenter Amy Irons, at the Sheraton Grand on Thursday, 10 February, with 17 categories up for grabs across retail, foodservice, licensed, technology and community-focused sectors.

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Colin Smith, SWA chief executive

Achievers shone a spotlight on the people who play such an integral part in the success of wholesale and supplier businesses with awards for wholesale Employee of the Year and Supplier Sales Executive of the Year in addition to the Rising Star category. The Great Place to Work category also returned for 2022.

Meanwhile, wholesalers had an opportunity to impress the judges with their Best Business Initiative and outline their efforts in making their businesses more sustainable in the Green Wholesaler of the Year category.

Suppliers, too, took centre stage and were rewarded for Best Overall Service and Outstanding Achievement while foodservice suppliers were judged for the Best Foodservice Supplier category.

Multiple winners on the night included United Wholesale Scotland which won Best Cash & Carry for its depot in Queenslie, Glasgow, Best Technology Initiative and Best Business Initiative.

Another Glasgow-based wholesaler, JW Filshill, saw its health and safety manager Amanda Casey win the Employee of the Year category, Best Symbol Group for KeyStore and Best Delivered Operation – Retail.



This year's Best Business Initiative award went to United Wholesale Scotland



Booker won the Green Wholesaler of the Year award



Millers Larder, winner of this year's Supplier Outstanding Achievement award



Winner of the Best Overall Service award was AG Barr



AG Barr also picked up the award for Best Foodservice Supplier



Best Cash & Carry was one of three accolades awarded to United Wholesale Scotland



The Best Delivered Operation – Foodservice award went to Lomond Foods

Lomond Foods, also based in Glasgow, who had raised the roof for Meghan Henderson who won the Rising Star of Wholesale category at the start of the night, also claimed the top prize in the Best Delivered Operation – Foodservice.

For Wick-based Sutherland Brothers, the long drive down to Edinburgh from the Highlands was made all the sweeter when the Sutherland family collected the Best Licensed Wholesaler accolade.

Green Wholesaler of the Year went to Booker while Dundee's CJ Lang won the Community Service Award.

While wholesalers already know that their industry is a great place to work, the official category – Great Place to Work – was claimed by Glasgow's Faïte Foodservice.

Celebrating the support of suppliers to the wholesale industry and recognising the great people who work for them, Achievers crowned Hazel Boyd of Heineken UK the Supplier Sales Executive of the Year.

And in a double whammy for AG Barr, the soft drinks firm won both the Best Overall Service and Best Foodservice Supplier categories.

Meanwhile, Millers Larder won a new category – the Outstanding Achievement Award – and Best



Sutherland Brothers received the award for Best Licensed Wholesaler



CJ Lang & Son picked up the Community Service Award

Advertising Campaign went to Tennent's Lager for its 'Don't Worry England. We Bottle It Too' campaign.

Colin Smith added: "As well as shining a spotlight on the efforts of Scotland's wholesalers, our awards recognise the lengths that suppliers and their employees have gone to in supporting their customers and communities during the pandemic.

"That is one of the reasons why these Achievers awards attracted such a high number of entries, both from our longstanding members and from many of the 35 new wholesalers that joined our Association during the pandemic.

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Colin Smith, SWA chief executive

"At our last Achievers, in 2019, I spoke about how the industry was witnessing unprecedented change – little did I know that the most unprecedented disruption and change was waiting in the wings.

"But we have worked together as an industry, and the SWA took the lead in fighting for recognition of the impact on our sector, and for equality and fairness in recompensing our members for their losses, ensuring that the Scottish Government recognises wholesale's key role in the food and drink supply chain.

"It is often said that success is hard won in challenging times and tonight that speaks for itself and we celebrate and acknowledge the resilience and perseverance of our wholesaler and supplier members."



The Best Advertising Campaign award went to Tennent's Lager for "Don't Worry England. We Bottle It Too"



Best Symbol Group was JW Filshill, KeyStore



United Wholesales Scotland received the award for Best Technology Initiative



Best Delivered Operation – Retail award went to JW Filshill







Scottish Wholesale Achievers 2022

ROLL OF HONOUR

RIISING STAR OF WHOLESALE

SPONSORED BY SWA AND CAPITA

- **WINNER: MEGHAN HENDERSON, LOMOND FOODS**
- Runner-Up: Alana Taylor, Southeast Traders
- Highly Commended: Mohammed Aftab, Batleys Sher Bros

BEST DELIVERED OPERATION – RETAIL

SPONSORED BY BUDWEISER

- **WINNER: JW FILSHILL**
- Runner-Up: United Wholesale Scotland
- Highly Commended: CJ Lang & Son

BEST LICENSED WHOLESALE

SPONSORED BY HALEWOOD

- **WINNER: SUTHERLAND BROTHERS**
- Runner-Up: United Wholesale Scotland
- Highly Commended: JW Filshill

SUPPLIER SALES EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY UNITAS WHOLESALE

- **WINNER: HAZEL BOYD, HEINEKEN UK**
- Runner-Up: Mark Violet, Kepak
- Highly Commended: Kay Sims, Halewood Artisanal Spirits

BEST BUSINESS INITIATIVE

SPONSORED BY BOOST DRINKS

- **WINNER: UNITED WHOLESALE SCOTLAND**
- Runner-Up: Dunns Food and Drinks
- Highly Commended: Fáilte Foodservice

BEST OVERALL SERVICE

SPONSORED BY SWA

- **WINNER: AG BARR**
- Runner-Up: JTI UK
- Highly Commended: JUUL

GREAT PLACE TO WORK

SPONSORED BY SUNTORY BEVERAGE & FOOD

- **WINNER: FÁILTE FOODSERVICE**
- Runner-Up: Booker, Dunfermline
- Highly Commended: United Wholesale Scotland

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

SPONSORED BY BARR SOFT DRINKS

- **WINNER: CJ LANG & SON**
- Runner-Up: Williamson Foodservice
- Highly Commended: Nisa Retail

BEST DELIVERED OPERATION – FOODSERVICE

SPONSORED BY PREMIER FOODS

- **WINNER: LOMOND FOODS**
- Runner-Up: Fáilte Foodservice
- Highly Commended: Dunns Food and Drinks

BEST FOODSERVICE SUPPLIER

SPONSORED BY SWA

- **WINNER: AG BARR**
- Runner-Up: Premier Foods
- Highly Commended: Mackie's of Scotland

BEST TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

SPONSORED BY TWC

- **WINNER: UNITED WHOLESALE SCOTLAND**
- Runner-Up: Sutherland Brothers
- Highly Commended: JW Filshill

SUPPLIER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SPONSORED BY BESTWAY

- **WINNER: MILLERS LARDER**
- Runner-Up: Coca-Cola Europacific Partners
- Highly Commended: Heineken UK

GREEN WHOLESALE OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY JTI

- **WINNER: BOOKER**
- Runner-Up: Lomond Foods
- Highly Commended: Sutherland Brothers

BEST ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

SPONSORED BY SWA

- **WINNER: TENNENT'S LAGER – DON'T WORRY ENGLAND. WE BOTTLE IT TOO**

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY KP SNACKS

- **WINNER: AMANDA CASEY, JW FILSHILL**
- Runner-Up: Nicole Robertson, CJ Lang & Son
- Highly Commended: Jamie Bowick, Taylor Wholesale

BEST SYMBOL GROUP

SPONSORED BY JUUL

- **WINNER: JW FILSHILL, KEYSTORE**
- Runner-Up: United Wholesale Scotland, Day-Today
- Highly Commended: CJ Lang & Son, SPAR Scotland

BEST CASH & CARRY

SPONSORED BY PHILIP MORRIS LTD

- **WINNER: UNITED WHOLESALE SCOTLAND, QUEENSLIE**
- Runner-Up: Makro/Booker, Edinburgh
- Highly Commended: Batleys Edinburgh Bellevue