

# Meet our new **SCREWFIX** top trader of the year



## CARING DARREN'S ON A REAL HIGH!



by NADINE LINGE

**ROOFER** Darren McGhee is on top of the world – he's been named Screwfix Britain's Top Tradesperson 2019.

The 38-year-old beat nine other worthy finalists in the competition, which is supported by the Daily Star, and bagged the most coveted title in the business.

He has also scooped a £20,000 trade bundle prize – £10,000 worth of tools, £5,000 of tech and £5,000 to go towards future training.

Darren said: "I am over the moon. I can't express how happy I am and what a massive help this will be to take my business forward."

He impressed our judges on many counts – most notably the care initiative he set up to protect homeowners and combat negative impressions of the industry.

After being horrified by shoddy work and hearing heart-breaking stories of customers being ripped off by cowboy traders, Darren thought long and hard about what he could do to prevent this and protect people.

### Repairs

The result was his MyRoofCare scheme, which allows users to pay a monthly fee of £12.99 and in return receive a twice-yearly inspection and gutter clean, plus £500 towards any necessary repairs.

His DMG Roofing & Building company already has 169 customers signed up to the plan and, after being crowned Britain's Top Tradesperson 2019, Darren is expecting a flood of new business.

Darren, of Coatbridge, North Lanarks, revealed: "It took me a year to come up with this idea and get it going but I hope



**PROUD:** Darren & wife Kerry. Top, finalists



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that it is really going to change the market.

"If you can pay £12.99 a month, get any problems fixed by a professional roof tiler and not have to worry about forking out thousands for repairs, what's not to love?"

"The customer is happy and they will stay with me forever, so we are both winners."

Darren's passion for his trade was also a key factor in his win. And he has roofing in his blood – his father and

grandfather were also both in the trade.

"I used to go out with my father on a Saturday as a kid," he laughs. "I was only paid £5 a shift but I loved it."

"All I ever wanted was to be the best roofer I could be."

Darren was presented with his winner's trophy by England and Southampton football legend Matt Le Tissier.

He was also joined at the final by wife Kerry, 40. The pair have a two-year-old son Sonny, and Darren is also stepdad to 16-year-old Cody.

So what next for Britain's Top Tradesperson 2019?

Darren says: "I want to take on some apprentices and help youngsters who maybe don't know what they want to do with their lives."

"I want to give them the very best life I can, just like my father did for me."

[nadine.linge@dailystar.co.uk](mailto:nadine.linge@dailystar.co.uk)

Pictures: WAYNE STARR



**RESULT:** Star reader Darren and with Matt Le Tissier