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Press Release

BUILDERS' MERCHANTS TEST THEIR SKILLS AT CRC

Builders' merchants from across the country converged on Cambridge Regional College yesterday to prove just how much they knew about the products they sell.

The first 'Practical Building Skills Challenge Day' organised by the Institute of Builders' Merchants attracted teams from some of the biggest names in the business, including Travis Perkins, Jewson, Wickes and Ridgeons.



Pictured left to right: IOBM President Rebecca Mason with the winning Ridgeons team Ian Clark, Ross Hewitt, Rebecca Brown and Ashley Connor, and judge Roger Havis.

Working in teams of four in the College's SmartLife building, they spent the day laying bricks, fitting tiles, installing pipes and even building and erecting a timber-frame structure.

Steve Sellick, from the Institute of Builders' Merchants, said the day had gone extremely well.

"We all know that practical experience enhances product knowledge and enables employees to better advise customers on how to use and work with the products they sell," he said.

"We wanted to set a skills challenge that allowed those taking part to get some practical knowledge and experience on those products in a very hands-on and fun way.

"We chose CRC to host the competition as the facilities are fantastic and the College has very good connections with Ridgeons, where our current president Rebecca Mason is HR manager.

"This is the first skills challenge we have done, and it has been so successful that we hope to repeat the event in the spring."

Seven teams of four took part in the skills challenge, judged by CRC's Roger Havis, with first place going to Ridgeons and second to Jewsons. All attendees were given a year's free membership of the Institute, which recognises, accredits and monitors educational qualifications and professional standards for employees in the Builders Merchants industry.

For more information on the Institute, see www.iobm.co.uk

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Trains to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.