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Press Release

BUILDERS' MERCHANTS PUT THEIR PRACTICAL SKILLS TO THE TEST

Builders' merchants from across the region have been putting their practical skills to the test in a competition to prove just how much they know about the products they sell.

Carpentry, brickwork, paving and painting projects were all hotly contested as seven teams competed against the clock in the Practical Building Skills Challenge at Cambridge Regional College's SmartLife construction centre yesterday.

The Challenge, organised by the Institute of Builders' Merchants, was won by a three-man team from MKM Building Supplies in Norwich – fielding one member less than the other teams - while the four-strong team from Parker Building Supplies took second place.

The hands-on event, the third of its kind, was designed by the Institute to boost product knowledge and help improve sales through the practical experience of installing products dealt with on a daily basis.

Among the other competitors were teams from Ridgeons, Travis Perkins, BMF and EH Smith Limited.

The winners were presented with trophies to mark the occasion and 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.



Winners Carl Felstead, Peter Eyre and Gavin Lloyd Thompson from MKM, with Gary Hopkins, Master of the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants, left, and Andrew Pine, President of the Institute of Builders' Merchants

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming 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 work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.