

South West Rep Awards 2011 – Union Learning Rep Award (winner)

Kev Maggs, GMB Union Learning Rep, A&P Falmouth

Embedding a sustainable learning culture at a company takes the efforts of many people but one of the most important individuals is the union learning rep.

At A&P Falmouth, that person is Kev Maggs, whose passion and commitment has been crucial in ensuring all employees at the Falmouth-based ship repairer – one of Europe’s biggest – have the opportunity to access learning and training.

As well as negotiating with the company, which was very supportive of the GMB’s Marine Skills project, Kev also played a vital role in engaging employees throughout the dockyard in the idea of training.



In September 2009, he organised two open days, the first of which attracted more than 70 people and the second more than 80. The result is that more than 70 people have undertaken more than 120 learning programmes from NVQs to conversational Spanish, contract law and car body repairs.

“Some people have been able to gain a qualification for a job they’ve have undertaken for years at the company, and with the numeracy and literacy improvements, have been able to understand their pay slip for the first time,” he says.

As well as encouraging learners to enrol in courses, Kev also supports them during training, and says the learning project contributes to a healthy dialogue between himself and other employees which helps maintain union membership.

Text: Susie Weldon, South West TUC Media Officer

Pictures: Clint Randall www.pixelphotography.co.uk

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