

## News Release

### Bolton Man Wins Top Engineering Award

David Ball is IMechE Outstanding Member of the Year

21 February 2008

A Bolton man has fought off competition from over 80,000 candidates to win the prestigious Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) 'Outstanding Member of the Year' award.

David Ball, a lifelong Bolton resident, was presented with a plaque from IMechE President, John Baxter, at the Institution's headquarters in London last night (20 February).

In an organisation with over 80,000 members competition for the award was understandably fierce but Mr Ball was selected for working with outstanding enthusiasm to promote engineering in the Greater Manchester area.

Mr Ball, who has worked for xxx, feels passionately about encouraging the next generation to take up engineering as a profession. There is currently a national shortage of engineers, in some areas such as process and energy, by as much as 20,000.



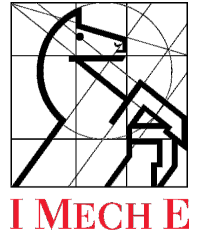
He said: "All members are volunteers, so we are working for our Institution and everything it represents such as excellence in engineering. I am absolutely delighted to win the award and it is always nice to be recognised for the work that you do."

"I enjoyed my career in engineering and it now I am really passionate about giving something back to the profession. The Greater Manchester area has around 3,500 IMechE members and we have managed to put on a programme of events that have generated a high level of interest."

"I would hope that someone reading this story now would be inspired to find out more about engineering as a career as it really is one of the few jobs you can do that will make a difference to the world."

Mr Ball was invited to take up the position of Chairman of the Greater Manchester Area three years ago. He was relatively new to the North Western IMechE network but quickly worked to familiarise himself with the various committees and key contacts in the Region.

Some of the standout achievements that earned Mr Ball the award were: the strong links he has built with the area's universities, the establishment of a strong programme of



events, his vital role in sustaining the North Western Power Industries Division Centre and his tireless promotion of the engineering industry.

\* Richard Atkins of Hastings also won an IMechE “Outstanding Member of the Year” award.

### **Notes to Editor**

- For more information on this release please contact Andrew Fagan on 0207 3046970 / 0207 3036973 or email [media@imeche.org.uk](mailto:media@imeche.org.uk).
- The IMechE was established in 1847 and has some of the world’s greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 78,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org) for more information.
- The Outstanding Region/Branch Member of the Year Award was established in 1994 to recognise that there are many IMechE members acting with great enthusiasm and effectiveness on behalf of the Institution at a local level, whose efforts are worthy of formal recognition.