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THE DAVID LYELL SCHOLARSHIP 2015

The David Lyell Scholarship is open to any pastry chef, aged 21 years and under on the day of the competition and working in a hotel kitchen, a restaurant kitchen or training at college.

The competition is designed to show both skills and flair with competitors submitting two recipes for plated desserts; a classic soufflé and a dessert of their choice. One or other of the desserts must use Cocoa Barry chocolate and one of Gourmet Classics cooking spirits. The finalists are then required to prepare and present their two dishes within a two hour time-frame.

Each finalist receives a chef's jacket, a commemorative certificate and a memento donated by Villeroy & Boch and, this year finalists received a copy of Mick Burke's Professional Patisserie: For Levels 2, 3 and Professional Chefs. They also attended a chocolate master class with William Curley, renowned British patissier chocolatier at his London shop in Belgravia on 30th March for those last minute tips.

The winner holds The David Lyell Scholarship Trophy presented by Town & Country Fine Foods for a year and receives a commemorative silver platter together with an all-expenses paid trip to the World Chocolate Masters in Paris this coming October.

This year's final was held at Sheffield College on 20th May and was hotly contested between Fiona Bailey (Sheffield City College), Reece Hunt (Eagle & Child, Ramsbottom), Penny Ramsey (Suffolk New College) and Alicja Szmyt (West Anglia College).

The judges Alan Whatley and Michael Zietek eventually decided in favour of Reece Hunt with Fiona Bailey and Penny Ramsey as runner-ups – Alan Whatley commented 'there was hardly any difference between the top three with a point or two divining them'.

Master Chefs Mick Burke, Paul Gutteridge, Neil Taylor and Len Unwin from Sheffield City College put on a wonderful dinner for the competitors, judges, sponsors and local Master Chefs where the winner was announced.

