



ANDREW MILLAR, BB BODY REPAIRERS

Senior paint technician Andrew Millar tells **Neil Kennett** why achieving the ATA qualification matters to him, his company and his customers



WHO IS...?
ANDREW MILLAR

AGE 37

TITLE Senior paint technician

QUALIFICATIONS City & Guilds parts 1 & 2, ATA

YEARS IN THE TRADE 21

COMPANY BB Body Repairers

LOCATION Dumfries, Scotland

WEB bbbbody.co.uk

"I would recommend the ATA to all paint sprayers and all technicians," Andrew Millar, pictured (right) with Sandy Burgess, IMI





This summer Andrew Millar of BB Body Repairers in Dumfries became the 14,000th technician to achieve the Automotive Technician Accreditation standard.

Of course getting the qualification was the most important thing but being the one to hit the milestone was also lucky. It meant that on top of his ATA ID card, Millar also received a bottle of champagne courtesy of the IMI's national manager for Scotland, Sandy Burgess.

Millar, 37, has been a vehicle spray painter for over two decades. In that time he has been on numerous training courses. But, encouragingly for the trade, he thinks the ATA scheme is making a real difference.

"Getting the ATA was certainly worthwhile, even though it was

quite nerve racking," he says. "It gives you a sense of purpose and definitely makes you feel more confident in your own ability. It also helps when speaking to customers because the ATA card shows them that they can rely on me to do a good job."

Having been in the trade since he was 16, car-mad Millar

"I LOVE TO SEE A VEHICLE COMING IN LOOKING ROUGH AND THEN GOING OUT AGAIN LOOKING PERFECT"

clearly loves what he does, but he nearly ended up doing something completely different.

He explains: "Straight out of school I got a job working on a scaffold, but I am not very good with heights. I thought: I cannot see myself doing this for the rest of my life!

"Around the same time, my dad's car got damaged and my uncle recommended we take it to BB Body Repairers. He introduced me to the manager, Tom Beattie, and when an apprentice position came up I jumped at the chance. That was about 21 years ago and I have been here ever since."

Tom Beattie now intends to put the rest of his technicians through the ATA scheme in what are exciting times for BB Body Repairers. The company is due to move to a new purpose-built site early next year and part of the reason for pursuing ATA is to enable him to apply for

the coveted BSI Kitemark for Vehicle Body Repair.

Now a family man, Millar says he must mention his partner, Karen and their two-and-a half year-old daughter, Erin.

He concludes: "I would recommend the ATA to all paint sprayers and all technicians, but the most important thing is to enjoy what you do. I love to see a vehicle come in looking pretty rough and go out looking just about perfect." 🍷

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