



MotorTransport
Awards 2016



Service to Industry Award

Glyn Davies

This special award is made by a panel of previous winners, the editor of Motor Transport and the sponsor Ryder to the individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the road transport industry



Glyn Davies, director of Hanbury Riverside, second left, collects the Service to Industry Award from Ryder Europe MD David Hunt, second right

To sell one company that you built from scratch for £50m is a remarkable achievement in itself. To build another after that and sell it for £25m is incredible. Throw into that a career running one of the most successful independent truck dealerships in the country, and a list of former employees that have gone on to create businesses that have shaped the modern face of UK road transport and you have a career that superlatives can no longer do justice.

Glyn Davies left school in 1966, and by 1974 he had launched Russell Davies. The pioneer of container haulage and contract logistics was sold to Securicor in 1995 for £50m in a deal that shocked the industry.

Thirteen years later he repeated the trick. Hanbury Davies was formed after Davies bought two struggling transport operations — Loadwell

and Goodway — in 1999. In 2002 it took on the Felixstowe business of Newell & Wright and in 2003 it took over the third-party maritime business for DFDS. At its peak it had 480 trucks. Wincanton came along in November 2006, and 13 months later he agreed on the sale of Hanbury Holdings.

Part of that deal saw Davies buy back Hanbury Riverside out of Hanbury Holdings. Davies had bought Riverside Commercials from owner Ron Smith in 1997. Today he runs the business with Ron's son Lee. Last year Lee told sister magazine Commercial Motor: "You can't have a better person in your back room than Glyn, with his industry knowledge."

Davies became a non-executive director at one of the fastest-growing chilled and ambient operators in the UK, Culina Logistics, in 2011.

Its not just his development of businesses that marks his contribution to industry. The list of those who served under his tutelage, and the businesses they have gone on to work for is extraordinary: John Williams (Maritime Transport); Peter Brown (Jack Richards); Harvey MacIntyre (MacIntyre Transport); Matthew Ashworth and Simon Day (Goldstar Transport) to name but five.

Harvey MacIntyre, who retired earlier this year, said back in 2010: "A lot goes back to the apprenticeship we all served at Russell Davies. There's a subliminal voice in the back of your head saying: 'Would Glyn approve of this?'"

Matthew Ashworth, MD of Goldstar, said: "I have to remind myself he's not my boss anymore. He's held in enormously high regard in the industry."

"I'm delighted, but it's such a shock. I've got to thank those who voted for me. It's a complete surprise. I've been in the job for 50 years"
Glyn Davies, Hanbury Riverside

