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**Leading trade association for marinas, The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), has held its first marina awards at the London Boat Show, on TYHA's 'Which Marina Stand'. The awards were sponsored by GJW Insurance, one of the largest insurers in the marine trade.**

The first award, presented by Chairman of GJW Insurance, Mike Pope, was "Employee of the Year". The winner was Cara Hodgson-Read from the Wiltshire marina, Caen Hill. Cara was described as "extremely friendly, efficient, approachable and very welcoming" She even provides treats for visiting dogs! With her husband Rob, Cara was delighted to go on to scoop the "Inland Marina of the Year" award. Caen Hill Marina is located on the Kennet and Avon canal and hosts

up to 250 narrow boats. Runners up were Tingdene's Brundall Bay Marina, situated in the Norfolk Broads, Stourport Marina set in rural Worcestershire on the River Severn and Tingdene's Upton Marina, also on the Severn, south of historic Worcester and north of Tewkesbury. A popular winner of the "British Marina of the Year" was Plymouth's Mayflower Marina, an independent marina at the entrance to the River Tamar in Devon. The award was made by CEO of the Royal Yachting

Association, Sarah Treseder and collected by the proud Marina Manager, Charles Bush CMM. Runners up were Poole Quay Boat Haven on the South Coast within Poole Harbour, Portavadie Marina, near Tarbert, Loch Fyne, Scotland and Lowestoft Haven Marina on the most Easterly point. TYHA has established global credibility for its work in supporting and developing the marina industry. It originated in the UK but is now in 27 countries. The "International Marina of the Year" went to IGY: Cabo San Lucas in

Mexico, a picturesque marina at the entrance to the sea of Cortez. It was again presented by Sarah Treseder to IGY's Executive Vice President, Kenny Jones. The runners up included D - Marin Didim Marina the largest marina in Turkey, The Yacht Club IGY: Isle de Sol in St Maarten, in the Carribean and Emirates Palace Marina in United Arab Emirates. After the awards Cara Hodgson-Read said she was "surprised and pleased" and praised all the staff at the Caen Hill marina. Rob described his feelings as "ecstatic and grateful". He thanked sponsor

GJW Insurance and all of the moorers at the Caen Hill marina. Charles Bush, MD of Mayflower Marina said "What a fabulous way to start 2014, especially after all the awful weather". He went on to say that all of his staff are "beaming with pride." Libby Gordon from TYHA said "These awards are an excellent way to acknowledge the hard work that marina staff do not only in the UK, but all over the world. We are grateful to our sponsors GJW Insurance for supporting this year's awards and hope to build on the awards in future years"

Sarah Hanna, the Chairman of TYHA added 'The quality of marinas and the desire to engage with their berth holders, shows an unprecedented commitment towards customer service, best practice and excellent marina facilities, the Winners of each category are leading the way and setting goals for other marinas to aim for, another reward worth gaining through the Gold Anchor award process.'

Words by: Sarah Hanna

Awardees were voted for by their customers and have been approved by the following organisations

