



Roy Westwick, Steeplejack, 1988



Roy Westwick, Safety Manager, 2024

“From Steeplejack to Safety Manager”

Name: Roy Westwick | **Job title:** Safety, Health, Environmental & Quality Manager, Nottingham

Length of service: 36 years

I started my career as a **steeplejack apprentice in 1988**. The three-year course involved training in church/chimney restorations, lightning protection installations, and personal safety while working at height using Bosun chairs, flying scaffolding and temporary ladders for access. During my apprenticeship I was presented with the Dr Short Award for academic achievement at the Construction Industries Training Centre in Kings Lynn. The photos show Herbert Bird presenting me with my Apprenticeship certification and award; Herbert was the president of the Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists, which strangely enough, I will become in June as well as being the Chairman of the Steeplejack & Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG).

At the end of my apprenticeship, I progressed to a Lightning Protection Engineer role and have been climbing the ladder at Omega ever since. I have enjoyed several challenging roles over the last 33 years including Contracts Supervisor, Power Earthing Technical Engineer and Human Resources Manager. I am currently the Safety, Health, Environmental & Quality Manager for Omega where I support all the management team on safety, health, environmental and quality issues.

The best working day is one where tasks are well-defined and achievable, collaboration with colleagues is smooth and there is a positive atmosphere/environment at work, involving effective communication, successful problem solving, and a sense of accomplishment.

Starting my career as an apprentice gave me a real opportunity for career growth, and this is something I still enjoy about working for Omega. I enjoyed being part of the leadership team that implemented the latest Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in the business (IFS), I like the team collaboration and I like the market competitiveness in our trade. I have the opportunity to learn, grow, and help protect my colleagues from health and safety issues, and that's what makes my job role fulfilling.