

Biographies

Michael Cordon **Manager, Training & Development** **O.C. Tanner**

Michael Cordon is the manager of training and development for the O.C. Tanner Company and has 15 years experience as a coach. While his specialty is focused on performance coaching and the areas of training, development, lean manufacturing, team building and process improvement, he has also served as a fitness coach in nutrition, exercise and healthy living.

Mike is a passionate speaker, coach, trainer, teacher and presenter. He works daily with managers, team facilitators, and company leaders teaching them how to improve team member performance and incorporate an improvement system into their work habits.

John J Oliver OBE **Chair** **Northern Leadership Academy**

John Oliver, Director of Team Enterprise Solutions LLP, is the former Chief Executive of Leyland Trucks, the largest UK truck manufacturer; he was a prominent member of the buy-out team which rescued Leyland from the receivership of its original parent company, DAF NV in June 1993. John now devotes himself full-time to the teaching and development of new concepts in employee involvement and empowerment; he is much in demand as an entertaining speaker on the subject of 'Profiting Thro' People' and as a coach/facilitator to senior management.

In 1989 John devised the now widely known Team Enterprise concept, transforming Leyland Trucks from an unprofitable, declining truckmaker into the most cost-efficient operation in Europe. Leyland's success and indeed profitability over the period 1993 to 1998 led to its acquisition by the USA giant, PACCAR Inc. In 2000 Leyland Trucks was deemed to be the 'Best Engineering Factory in the UK' by the prestigious Management Today/Cranfield judging team. His book on the subject "The Team Enterprise Solution" was published in 2002.

John has helped a leading further education college, Runshaw College, similarly transform itself from virtual insolvency to sector exemplar in his capacity as Chairman of Governors. Runshaw has won numerous accolades in the recent past, including Beacon College Status (2001), the Millennium Award for Business Excellence in the NW (2000) and the NW Quality Award for Business Excellence in 1996. Runshaw has for the past nine years been the No. 1 Further Education College in England and Wales as measured by academic performance. In 2003 it won the prestigious European (EFQM) Excellence award for the public sector as well as the special award for Leadership.

John was until recently Chairman of North and West Lancashire Business Link and Chair of the North Western Business Support Council. John was presented with the OBE by Prince Charles in recognition of his work in education. He was appointed by Government Office North West to the Lancashire Learning and Skills Council and acted as Chair of that high profile group for 2000-2004. He also chaired the regional body of that organisation. His new book "Growing Your Own Heroes" co-written with Clive Memmott, was published in spring 2006.

David Roberts **Production Manager** **Siemens Industry Automation and Drive Technologies**

David comes from an engineering background: he joined the Royal Naval Submarine Service in 1983 and then studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering upon leaving the service in 1992. He has worked for Siemens for eight years, initially in Product and Process Engineering then New

Product Design and Introduction, working his way up through to his current role as the Factories Production Manager. Whilst at Siemens David has also completed a number of their corporate management development training programmes.

David's main areas of responsibility are direct labour management and factory output as well as driving lean forward on the shopfloor. He has been involved from the beginning of the lean journey at Congleton and has been involved in most aspects of this, from setting policy to implementing the lean initiatives including Gemba Kanri, SOPs, flow lines, Kanban and benchmarking.

David's interests outside work include mountain walking and cycling and he just completed the Coast to Coast in August 2008. Other interests include films and home improvements.

Carl Tomlinson
Principal Consultant
The Manufacturing Institute

While at The Manufacturing Institute Carl has worked on a number of projects including leading a comprehensive lean transformation working with Senior Management through to shop floor at James Walker & Co Ltd. The company has improved its productivity by 35%, DDP is consistently in >90% and over dues have been slashed. The previously loss-making company has consistently made a profit every month for the past 2 years.

Carl has worked with a number of other clients including United Biscuits, Astra Zeneca, Ashton Pharmaceuticals Ltd, H J Heinz Company Ltd, Quantum Profile Systems Ltd, Gardner Aerospace and Whitford Plastics Ltd to help them start and work through their lean journeys.

Carl joined The Manufacturing Institute from speciality chemicals company Ineos Silicas in Warrington. Prior to this, he was at Ellesmere Port engineering company ABB Power Technology Products, where he was Supply Chain Manager. Previously, Carl held positions at Garrett Turbo Charger Aftermarket in Cheadle, JCB Transmission in Wrexham and Kent-based Lucas Diesel Systems.

Carl has a BSc in Mechanical Engineering and an MSc in Manufacturing Systems Engineering. He is an Incorporated Member of the IMechE and also an MCIPS.

Dr Adrian West
Research Director
The Edward de Bono Foundation UK

Dr Adrian West is The Edward de Bono Foundation UK's Research Director, and a certified instructor. Adrian co-founded the Virtual Reality Research Group ('Advanced Interfaces') at the University of Manchester where he lectured in Computer Science for thirteen years, invariably receiving 'best lecturer' rating from the students. He has held UK and European research grants, managing computer science and psychology contributions in citizen-focused Inhabited Information Spaces (virtual realities). He has been an Expert Reviewer for the EU on these topics and an external examiner for PhD students.

Adrian has a strong commercial track record in personnel, project management and engineering from his work at the venture capital funded research spin-off Transitive Ltd, which is now valued at some \$130M, and earlier at Logica Space and Defence. He also spent three years facilitating teamworking, thinking skills and innovation for doctoral candidates at the University of Liverpool.