

Former trainee moves on to board of directors

Appointment: Painting and decorating company planning expansion

BY REBECCA BUCHAN

A man who started his career as a trainee less than a decade ago has risen through the ranks at a north-east firm and been appointed to the board of directors.

Gavin McCombie joined R Davidson (Banchory) Painter and Decorator eight years ago as a quantity surveyor and on Thursday he will start his new position as commercial director to help steer the firm through a period of growth.

The business has 90 staff in Aberdeen and 18 in the north following the

"I am very much in tune with the ambitious growth plans for the business"

acquisition of Inverness firm, Kelman Decorating, earlier this year.

It has seen steady growth across both regions in the past three months as the firm has doubled the team in the north since June to meet client demand.

Managing director Trevor Mutch took over R Davidson in 2004 and has grown the business, which is headquartered in Banchory, by 50% in the past 14 years.

He says there has been growth in 2018 in both the domestic and commercial divisions and Mr McCombie's appointment



GROWTH PLANS: Gavin McCombie and Trevor Mutch of decorators R Davidson

will benefit them both as the company prepares to expand further.

He said: "Gavin has been a great member of the team since he joined us and we are delighted to reward him for his commitment.

"We have a great management team that can support growth and Gavin is enthusiastic and motivated and has the

drive to support the future plans.

"It is also beneficial to add some youth to the board and he will bring fresh ideas as well as additional commercial focus to the board table."

The management team has plans to grow the Inverness side of the business and double the workforce to the mid 30s during the

coming 12-18 months. With the Aberdeen housing market showing signs of improving, they believe the business is in a strong position to capitalise on projected growth.

Mr McCombie, 29, from Montrose, graduated with a quantity surveying degree from RGU in 2010.

He said: "There has always been career

progression in my role and Trevor has always shown a lot of faith in me, so I am very much in tune with the ambitious growth plans for the business. There is a strong management team which I respect, so this is a great opportunity for me.

"I have a good commercial awareness in the business and have a real handle on what's going on

day-to-day, so this will benefit me at board level while I establish my position."

Founded in 1930, R Davidson is one of the north-east's longest established home improvement contractors, specialising in painting, decorating, Ames taping and plastering services for the private domestic and commercial markets.

RECRUITMENT Car firm appoints finance chief

Car dealership chain Pendragon said yesterday it has hired Ten Entertainment's chief financial officer to be its own new finance head.

The group said Mark Willis will join the firm following the resignation of Tim Holden, who is standing down on March 31 2019 after 10 years in the role "to pursue other interests".

Willis's date of appointment is to be confirmed. He will be serving his six-month notice at Ten Entertainment, where he will help with a smooth handover ahead of his April 18 departure date, the 10-pin bowling alley operator said.

Fish prices

PETERHEAD - Landings from 8 boats and 7 consignments totalled 5,813 boxes. Cod Large £3.00-£4.65; Cod Medium £2.50-£3.50; Cod Selected £2.00-£3.20; Cod Small £1.50-£2.90; Haddock Large £2.20-£2.50; Haddock Medium £2.00-£2.50; Haddock Selected £2.00-£2.50; Seed £1.60-£2.25; Chippers 70p-£1.50; Metros 45p-90p; Round Haddock 45p-55p; Whiting £1.20-£2.00; Round Whiting £1.10-£1.75; Lemon Sole £3.00-£8.00; Monks Lge/Med/Sel £3.00-£5.40; Coley Large £1.00-£1.50; Medium £1.20-£1.50; Selected £1.00-£1.10; Small 80p-£1.00; Megrim £2.00-£7.00; Plaice £2.00-£3.00; Hake £1.10-£3.00; Witches 80p-£1.50; Ling £1.20-£1.60; Squid £3.00-£7.00

BOATS - Ocean Harvest, Harvester, Shekinah, Amity, Fruitful Vine, Steadfast Hope, Genesis, Acorn.

CONSIGNED - Aalskere, Valhalla, Nordan, Atlantic Challenge, Jubilee Quest, Ranger, Arrow.

FRASERBURGH - Landings from 2 boats and totalled 195 fish boxes and 180 prawn boxes. Haddock Round - £0.70, Haddock Gutted - £0.85 - £1.70, Whiting Round - £1.00 - £1.10, Whiting Gutted - £1.44, Monkfish - £3.60 - £5.36, Witches - £1.20 - £1.88, Lemon sole - £1.50 - £5.00, Hake - £2.00, Squid - £2.60 - £5.20

BOATS - FR890 Davalyn, FR253 Virtuous.

Hotel owners add second venue to portfolio



The Archiestown Hotel will be run by the Murray family

HOSPITALITY BY REBECCA BUCHAN

Owners of a Moray hotel are expanding their business.

The Archiestown Hotel, in the village it's named after, has been acquired by the Shawfern Group which previously converted the nearby Dowans hotel in Aberlour.

Family-owned and

operated, the business has begun an extensive "six-figure" renovation of the Archiestown funded by RBS, which is due to reopen in the second quarter of 2019.

The relaunch is expected to bring 30 jobs to the local community and is hoped will provide a boost for local tourism.

Led by Michael Murray, his wife Marie, and daughters Steph and

Lauren, the Shawfern Group has ambitious plans for the venue, having grown the Dowans Hotel six-fold since taking the reins in 2012.

Mr Murray said: "Aberlour has long been a region rich in tourism.

"We want the Archiestown to add to the reasons people visit the area, by creating a unique experience and opportunity for guests to

stay in a beautiful hotel set in an equally breath-taking landscape.

"Once renovations are complete at the Archiestown our intentions are for the two hotels combined to offer something for everyone, whether that be for a drink, meal or as a luxury base to explore the region, or, as a venue suitable to host weddings or corporate away days."