

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBER AWARDS 2018: WINNER STORIES

# Andy Murray bags another trophy

No, not *that* Andy Murray – we mean the prize-winning accountant, who ditched an unsatisfactory career for accountancy and has been getting promoted ever since

Andy Murray AATQB is still studying for his final AAT qualifications, but he's already racing up the career ladder. "It's quite scary how much can happen in a short space of time," he says. "I'm not even fully qualified, but I've been promoted several times, with two promotions happening in the space of 18 months. I never expected to achieve so much, but it does make me proud."

Murray spent the first seven years of his career – starting at just 15 years old – as a casual waiter in a hotel restaurant, working long shifts and unsociable hours. "I didn't even know what a weekend was," he recalls. "I often worked over Christmas and rarely celebrated the new year because I was working. I couldn't make plans. It was just a job, but the shifts took over my life."

Murray landed an office-based role at the hotel group in 2013, doing invoice-related tasks and getting involved with finances. "I remember thinking: 'I actually really like doing this and I want to do more of it,'" he says.

The hotel's financial controller suggested that he train as an accountant with AAT. Murray progressed quickly through the qualifications, landing a role as a finance administrator at maintenance company NCH Corporation just a few months after enrolling.



## ANDY MURRAY WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

A *big* thanks to my college, First Intuition – especially to Alison Raddings and Nick Craggs. They're just fantastic!

*What was your defining moment? Email [mark.rowland@thinkpublishing.co.uk](mailto:mark.rowland@thinkpublishing.co.uk)*

Murray was quickly promoted to junior UK accountant when he passed his Advanced Diploma, but he soon found he couldn't get involved in the financial reporting side of the business, as so much of it was done in the US.

"I realised I'd hit a brick wall," he says. "I got a new job pretty quickly after that at Country Court Care as an assistant accountant. In five months, I was promoted to my first managerial role as group accounts payable manager."

After nearly two years, Murray was on the lookout for a new challenge; he wanted to move from accounts payable into reporting. After a short career break, he started at Caterfix, a catering distributor, in 2017, where he now works as an accounts manager. "I already knew the terminology, having worked in the hospitality sector, so it was all familiar to me."

Studying with AAT has boosted Murray's confidence both professionally and personally. He's overcome his anxiety issues and quickly achieved numerous promotions. He also managed to bag the Professional Member of the Year (AATQB) gong at last year's AAT Professional Member Awards.

"I was overwhelmed and in shock," Murray says of his win. "To be recognised for my achievements throughout my AAT journey really made me feel so proud."