

### The IMF's toughest academic award

Two members of the staff of South West Metal Finishing, Leigh Cox and Chris Mayer, have undertaken the most difficult course that the Institute of Materials Finishing can set.

The Licentiate grade has not been awarded for 10 years and is the culmination of several years of study, passing through Foundation, Technician, Advanced Technician and finally Licentiate grade.

To satisfy the needs of this award they have had to complete, over two years, a literature study of their chosen project, the project itself including experimental work and finally provide a 10,000 word report; not an objective to be taken lightly !



The two students were presented with their certificates by Barry Gay, the IMF's President, and Allen Turner, their tutor and mentor, at the premises of their Exeter employer South West Metal Finishing.

Chris Mayer is quoted as,

*"The reason I undertook the Licentiate program was because it was an opportunity to push and test myself to see what I could achieve academically as well as increasing my knowledge within the Surface Engineering Sector. Although the program was hard and required a lot of work what I got out of it was more than just a deeper understanding of the subject matter I researched and studied but also the development of a new set of skills previously unknown to me."*

Leigh Cox also added,

*"These past 2 years have been very challenging, finding the balance between working in our high pressure industry, family life and undertaking the Licentiate course was difficult.*

*That being said the challenge was very beneficial as I left school at an earlier age. I have worked my way up through practical experience and this move into a more academic approach opened my eyes to a new way of researching which I feel will benefit me going forward.*

*I would especially like to thank Allen Turner for his continued support and tuition over the past 15 years to take me from knowing nothing about surface engineering to being capable of gaining this qualification."*

Congratulation is due to both students and we wish them a successful career in our industry.