



Manager is the first employee to get to the top February 2007

An insurance underwriter has climbed to the top of his profession's tree after five years of studying and examinations. James Leathley, a team manager with BiB Underwriters in Darlington, has reached the industry's highest level of professional achievement to become a Chartered Insurer. He is the first member of staff to become an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute while an employee of BiB, having been given time to study and achieve his qualifications by the company.

James, 31, who grew up in Gainford and went to Teesdale Comprehensive School, said: "What's great about BiB is that they have given me the opportunities and helped me to progress my career not just in terms of qualifications but also with promotion and allowing me to play a part in decisions I might not be a part of elsewhere."

He passed ten exams from certificate to diploma level and on to the advanced diploma which brings chartered status.

James, who lives in Darlington, joins group managing director Martin Littleton, retail division manager Jacqui Watson and his own boss Steve Record, managing director of BiB Underwriters, in holding Chartered status.

He joined BiB five years ago, starting as an underwriter before progressing to his current management role.

He explained: "We wholesale our Farm and Estate policy to brokers nationwide and managers like me have delegated authority to make underwriting decisions on behalf of insurers subject to certain criteria."

