

Celtic FC's John Hayes Is The IOG Professional Groundsman Of The Year

The Institute of Groundsmanship's 'Professional Football Groundsman of the Year' award for 2006 has been won by John Hayes of Celtic FC. This follows his success last year as the IOG Scottish Football Groundsman of the Year.

Adjudged using criteria that includes such factors as available resources, presentation and housekeeping standards, technical knowledge and scope of operations, the coveted award was announced at this month's IOG SALTEX open space management show at Windsor.

Commenting on his award, John Hayes said: "My thanks to the IOG for this award, but it is important to recognise that what is achieved at Celtic Park is due to team effort and I would like to personally thank Andy McCann, Michael Cook, James Brady and Graham Cartwright for their efforts over the years."

Alex Millar, national chairman of the IOG and chairman of the judges, commented: "The high standard of groundsmanship at football stadia throughout the country has again been highlighted by the Groundsman of the Year awards. John Hayes is to be congratulated not only on winning a keenly-contested competition but also for building on last year's success.

"The IOG strives to ensure that the skill of groundsmen is increasingly recognised by a wider audience, and the achievements of professionals like John Hayes are perfect adverts for the industry."