

Visitors And Exhibitors Celebrate IOG Scotsturf Success

With hundreds of products including a host of launches and 'first time on show in Scotland' displays, coupled with an informative seminar programme and a busy demonstration area, the scene was set for a successful IOG Scotsturf show last week at Edinburgh's Royal Highland Showground. And the event did not disappoint.

Designed to present grounds professionals with an array of products, techniques, technologies and strategies to enable them to be more effective and efficient in their day-to-day roles, IOG Scotsturf certainly delivered the goods, if visitor comments were any guide.

For example, the representatives from East Lothian and Inverclyde Councils, and Kilgraston School, were among the plaudits: "A wide variety of useful products," they said, "all contributing to a very worthwhile day out."

Endorsements like these explain why this year's attendance reached over 2,000 – a slight increase on the previous event.

Exhibitors, too, were quick to comment on the 'quality' of visitors, with companies such as Briggs & Stratton, Massey Ferguson, Overton and Scot JCB all pleased with the level of enquiries received. The Alpha Plus Group also used the event to successfully launch its 'one-stop arb shop' to meet arboriculture needs, to complement its chipper, access platform and chainsaw business.

Indeed, Etesia's general manager Les Malin said the show has enabled his company to "talk to people we've been trying to see for some time – it's exactly what we needed".

Another measure of success of IOG Scotsturf from the exhibitors' point of view is the fact that 75 per cent of stand space has already been booked for next year's show.

In addition to an informative seminar programme and a well-supported demonstration area where, for example, visitors could pit their skills in the Scotsturf Challenge, award presentations were another crowd-pulling feature of the show.

The Groundsman of the Year awards saw John Hayes, head groundsman at Celtic Football Club, continue his amazing run of success by being named as the IOG Scottish Football Groundsman of the Year. This follows his success in September when he collected the IOG's Professional Football Groundsman of

the Year 2006 award and, in 2005, when he was IOG Scottish Football Groundsman of the Year.

The award is based on criteria that includes such factors as available resources, presentation and housekeeping standards, technical knowledge and scope of operations, and is sponsored by turf care, grass and sports maintenance specialists Rigby Taylor.

Other winners at the IOG Scottish Football Groundsman of the Year 2006 awards were:

Division 1 - Chris Smith, St Johnston FC

Division 2 - Paul Barnett, Gretna FC

Division 3 - Mickey Ellis, Stenhousemuir FC.

In addition, in the New & Innovative Product Awards scheme, the accolades were won by:

Terra Firma - Pan-Aquarius turf fungicide

ADH – Chemical Box pesticide carrier

Rigby Taylor – Impact Glider pitch marking equipment

Double A – Timberwolf turbo shredder.

Next year's IOG Scotsturf show will again be held at the Royal Highland Showground, Edinburgh, on 7-8 November.