



Press Release 1st May 2009
**The Homes for Scotland
People Awards**
Recognising talent
and achievement **09**

Talent & achievement rewarded within the resilient home building industry

Winners Announced at Scottish Home Building Industry Awards

Individuals from Scotland's home building industry were recognised for their talent and achievement at the industry's key annual event at the EICC in Edinburgh on Friday 1st May 2009, which attracted almost 500 senior industry representatives.

The theme of this year's Homes for Scotland Awards, now in their seventh year, was chosen to reflect the challenges presented by the severe economic downturn, acknowledging that it will be the efforts of those remaining at the industry's core which will deliver the many new homes that Scotland desperately needs.

Homes for Scotland represents an industry which, prior to the financial crisis, was the largest source of private investment in Scotland, building 20,000 new homes per year and contributing £6bn to the economy and directly impacting on the employment of 100,000 people. However, 26,000 jobs within the sector (half the industry's directly employed workforce) have been lost in the last twelve months.

John Low, Managing Director of Stewart Milne Homes North, who was elected as the new Chairman of Homes for Scotland at the organisation's AGM which took place earlier the same day, said:

"Scottish home building has borne the brunt of the credit crunch fallout, resulting in dramatic drops in activity and the loss of many thousands of jobs. It will be the talent, passion and commitment of those who remain that will move the industry beyond the current crisis – it is they who will implement its recovery in the months and years ahead."

Michael Coogan, Director General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, provided the keynote address, giving his views on mortgage availability and what is required to lay the future foundations for a more vibrant housing market.

Winners of this year's awards were announced by broadcaster Isla Traquair. These included a special Homes for Scotland Industry Achievement Award which was received by Mike Walker, Chairman of the Walker Group (Scotland).

A total of eight categories were considered by the independent judging panel, chaired by Mary Mulligan MSP of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee.

The full judging panel comprised: Mary Mulligan MSP; Kennedy Foster – CML Scotland; Helen Stuart – General Manager, Scotland's New Homebuyer; Graeme Ogilvy – ConstructionSkills Scotland; Bill Jamieson – Executive Editor, The Scotsman; Nick Barley – Director, The Lighthouse.

Homes for Scotland People Awards 2009 – Recognising Talent and Achievement



HALLIDAY FRASER MUNRO
CHARTERED ARCHITECTS & PLANNING CONSULTANTS
ABERDEEN • BELFAST • DUNDEE • EDINBURGH • GLASGOW

Winner of Architecture & Design Award *Sponsored by*



Kenneth Cooper, Architectural Manager, Miller Homes

Judges were very impressed by his design of a small village extension at Howgate. Not only has he designed homes in keeping with the existing character of the village but, using creativity and innovation, he has also brilliantly created a sense of place through the use of an excellent master plan.

Powerwall
systems limited

Winner of Construction Award *Sponsored by*



Paddy Malone, Mactaggart & Mickel

Paddy goes the extra mile to organise his workforce to ensure the highest standards of construction are maintained across the company. He has developed a highly acclaimed manual to assist in the construction process, which continues to be used and adapted to changing circumstances.

Commended in the Construction Category



John Main, Managing Director, Springfield Properties

John established his own business, before studying architecture at university. He returned to the industry to eventually run what is now the largest private house building company in Moray.

Commended in the Construction Category



Robert Teasdale, Manager, R&D Construction Group

An employee of R&D Construction Group for 38 years, Robert is responsible for developing a first class manufacturing facility which has achieved the highest accolades for quality and service throughout its product range



Winner of the Environment Award *Sponsored by*



Liz Farrell, Land Manager, Mactaggart & Mickel

Liz's focus has been on minimizing the impact of developments on the environment and increasing energy efficiency in line with her company's clear move towards Zero Carbon house building. The judges were impressed with Liz's systematic approach, her tenacity in meeting objectives, even when some new technologies are not yet readily available.

Commended in the Environment Category



Andy Pearson, MD of Tweed Homes

Andy's infectious passion has made a real impact on Tweed's developments in the Borders, typified by his programme of tree and shrub planting, which the panel believe should and will inspire other Scottish house builders.

Paul & Williamsons LLP

Winner Of Land & Planning Category Award *Sponsored by Solicitors*



Brian Leith, Land Director, Miller Homes

Brian's tenacious research work in relation to a sensitive setting resulted in a breakthrough that won public support at a crucial moment in the planning stage, allowing the development to succeed against the odds.

Commended in the Land & Planning Category



David Morgan, Land Director, Miller Homes

This was an outstanding submission which rested on skills applied across the board to whole number of issues which required dogged determination over a ten year period.



Winner of Customer Care Category *Sponsored by*



Ann Wojcik, After Sales Manager, Springfield Properties

Ann has demonstrated her clear success through the use of client questionnaires which have revealed satisfaction levels to have improved dramatically in recent years. She has introduced excellent customer care strategies which are backed up by sound new management systems to ensure their implementation and effectiveness.

Commended in the Customer Care Category



Mike Mullen, Site Manager, George Wimpey (East Scotland)

Strong testimonial evidence from Mike's customers resulted in an impressive 91% success rating in a recent customer survey. He is a genuinely impressive developer with a sound reputation for customer service.



Joint Winner of Regeneration Award *Sponsored by*



Ron Smith, Project Manager with Glasgow City Council

This Award acknowledges Ron's excellent work on one of the largest regeneration projects in the UK, Oatland in Glasgow, which has been undertaken in partnership with Gladedale Homes. As an enthusiastic champion and key ambassador of the project, Ron has been highly instrumental in its success.



Joint Winner of Regeneration Award *Sponsored by*



Tom Gallacher, Development Director, Persimmon Partnerships

Tom has been responsible for the construction of more than 17,000 homes during his career, working in partnership with councils and housing associations, to deliver affordable housing in a number of very successful mixed communities.



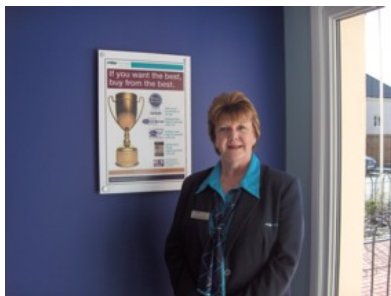
Winner of Sales & Marketing Award *Sponsored by*



Margaret McMurdo, Sales Adviser, Persimmon Homes

Margaret has enjoyed exceptional success during one of the toughest years on record for Scotland's home building industry, securing no less than 59 completions during 2008.

Commended in the Sales & Marketing Award



Elizabeth Symonds, Sales Adviser, Miller Homes

Elizabeth's rapid level of transactions has demonstrated her impressive talent for achieving sales in a very difficult market.

Winner of Homes for Scotland Industry Achievement Award



Mike Walker, Chairman of the Walker Group (Scotland)

A pioneer of timber frame construction, Mike Walker has made an outstanding contribution to the Scottish home building industry and has shown true leadership – particularly during periods of downturn and retrenchment of which he has seen three. In addition to the demands of running a successful business, he has always sought to champion the industry, making important contributions on a wide variety of key issues including the reform of the planning system and affordable housing.

Mike founded the Walker Group in 1969 and this year will celebrate 40 years in home building. He is no stranger to receiving awards, having received a multitude of honours, including a CBE, over the years. However, Homes for Scotland is particularly pleased to be able to demonstrate its respect and admiration for the talent and energy he has invested in the industry.

Ends

Enquiries to:

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Notes to Editors:

Images are available on request