

A Celebration of Excellence in Scotland...

The Lead Contractors Association celebrated their Silver Jubilee at the October Conference, which had a strong Scottish theme – in more ways than one!

Attended by founder members, past Chairmen and past and present Members of the LCA Council, accompanied by their wives and partners, the Conference was also strongly supported by senior executives from Associate members in the manufacturing and distribution sectors of the industry.

The Conference culminated in the Saturday night reception and Gala Dinner, for which many delegates dressed for the occasion in full Scottish regalia.

Jamestown Metals’ pre-dinner champagne reception provided the perfect opportunity for delegates and guests to view a large gallery of photographs featuring the entrants for the 2009 Murdoch Award, the competition organised by the LCA to find the best leadwork project carried out by its members during the year.

The traditional Annual Conference of the LCA was a very special occasion this year, as 2009 marked the 25th Anniversary of the LCA. With the imposing Ardoe House in Aberdeen chosen by Council as the venue, the Conference programme contained the usual mixture of formal and social events.

Conference...

awards and accolades

Together with the Murdoch Sponsors Award for the smaller lead project, the announcement of the winning projects and subsequent presentations has become a traditional feature of the Gala Dinner in bringing the formalities of the Conference to a close.

Since its inception in 1996, the Murdoch Award has become recognised by the industry as the ultimate accolade for leadwork quality and is keenly contested by the LCA membership. Sponsors Associated Lead Mills had brought the three finalists of the 2009 competition to the ConferenceDinner and, like the rest of the gathering, eagerly awaited the judging panel’s decision.

Delegates and guests were led into dinner by a Highland Piper, who proceeded to address the steaming haggis presented by the hotel chef. During a superb meal the assembly were entertained by Award winning Scottish Dancers

and traditional folk music from the region.

The formal proceedings began at the end of the meal, with Mr Charlie Sherling of Jamestown Metals presenting the Royal Dublin Golf Trophy to this year's winner, Calvin Moran of Skyline.

Richard Murdoch proudly presents
the Murdoch Sponsors Award 2009
and the ultimate

accolade...
The Murdoch Award 2009

Richard Murdoch himself then took the floor to describe the entries for the 2009 Murdoch Sponsors Award and the Murdoch Award itself. There was no doubt, he said, that the overall quality of leadwork entries submitted by LCA members had continued to improve since the inception of the Awards. Potential Murdoch Award winners were no longer confined to some of the larger members and now many LCA members of all sizes were capable of producing outstanding examples of their craft.

Recognising first the entries for the Murdoch Sponsors Award for projects below five tonnes, Richard called forward Graham Hudson, Managing Director of Associated Lead Mills to present the Sponsors Award for 2009 to Vince McKee of McKee Plumbing & Leadwork for their Oast House project in Barming, Kent. This was the second time Vince McKee had won the Sponsors Award and he was warmly congratulated by both Richard Murdoch and Graham Hudson.

Graham Hudson, Managing Director of Associated Lead Mills (pictured right) and Richard Murdoch (centre) present the Murdoch Sponsors Award for 2009 to Vince McKee of McKee Plumbing & Leadwork for their Oast House project in Barming, Kent.

McKee Plumbing & Leadwork - Oast House, Barming, Kent.

The Ultimate Accolade... The Murdoch Award Finalists

McEwan Hall

Elder Park Library

Park Place

Turning to the 2009 Murdoch Award itself, Richard assured the audience that the location of the Annual Conference in Aberdeen had no bearing on the fact that two of the three finalists this year were from Scotland.

Entries had been submitted from all over the UK and the judging panel, Chaired by Phil Turner from Exe Valley Services, had pored over literally hundreds of photographs and site reports, often returning to a site to check details or have a second look at the design, before they eventually decided on the three finalists.

Richard commended the work that had been submitted by

D Blake of Edinburgh (McEwan Hall),

John Fulton (Plumbers) of Glasgow (Elder Park Library)

Norman and Underwood of Leicester (Park Place, Henley)

and asked their representatives to come forward to receive their “Finalist” certificates which commemorated their achievement.

And finally the moment everyone had been waiting for...

John Fulton (Plumbers) Ltd win the 2009 Murdoch Award

Richard paid tribute to the restoration work which, in the minds of the Judging Panel had been the outstanding project for 2009 and a worthy winner of the ultimate accolade for leadwork, the John Fulton project at Elder Park Library.

David White, Managing Director of John Fulton (pictured left) receiving the Murdoch Award for 2009 from Richard Murdoch for his company's’ excellence in leadwork

In accepting the 2009 Murdoch Award on behalf of John Fulton, Managing Director David White thanked the judges and paid tribute to his team that had completed a difficult project to such an extremely high standard. He was delighted and very proud that their efforts had been rewarded in such magnificent fashion, by being recognised as the very best of the very best in leadwork.

Previous Winners of the Murdoch Award...

1996 B R Plumbing & Heating (Belfast) Castle Coole, Co Fermanough, NI

1997 D Blake & Co (Edinburgh) Cardie Hill, Peebles

1998 T & P Lead Roofing (Essex) Crosby Hall, London

1999 NDM Lead Sheet Specialists (London) Education Block at Canterbury Cathedral

2000 T & P Lead Roofing (Essex) The Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

2001 NDM Lead Sheet Specialists (London) Kinnaird House, Pall Mall, London

2002 Exe Valley Services (Exeter) Melbury House, Dorset

2003 Marshott Non Ferrous Roofing (Kent) Memorial to the Missing, Pozieres, France

2004 Full Metal Jacket (Essex) St Mary's Church, Great Dunmow, Essex

2005 Richardson Roofing Company (Staines) Stowe House, Buckingham

2006 John Fulton (Plumbers) Ltd (Glasgow) Cloncaird Castle, Scotland

2007 GSL (Hampshire) All Saints Church, Hampshire

2008 D Blake & Co. (Edinburgh) McManus Galleries & Museum, Dundee

A final presentation was made in bringing the evening to a close, although this time it was one of personal recognition for outstanding service to the Association.

LCA Chairman David Martin (left) paid tribute to David White's many years of personal commitment to the lead Contractors Association, both through his company John Fulton, as leading members of the LCA and as an active participant on the LCA Council for more than 21 years.

During his time as LCA Chairman from December 1996 to July 1999, David White had instigated the 25 Year Guarantee Scheme, an innovative move which set LCA members apart from the rest by enabling them to offer their clients a long term guarantee of workmanship and performance which was not dependent upon the individual contractor.

The scheme had created an insurance backed Trust Fund for financial security and now had almost 150 projects

registered, with leadwork valued in excess of £4 million.

Still active today on the LCA Council as Chairman of the Finance Committee, David White had personally travelled hundreds of thousands of miles in fulfilling his responsibilities to the LCA over many years.

David Martin as LCA Chairman was therefore honoured to be able to take such an entirely appropriate opportunity to enrol David White as a Fellow of the LCA, only the fourth person to receive such personal recognition for an outstanding long term contribution to the operations, standards and status of the Lead Contractors Association.

David Martin, LCA Chairman (pictured right) welcoming

David White as a Fellow of the LCA - acknowledging

his outstanding achievements and contributions to the

Lead Contractors Association