



The Grange Courier

Haulier of the Year! Top award for our company

The Motor Transport awards ceremony was held this year at London's Albert hall on Thursday 11th July. This event is the transport equivalent of the Oscars and even to receive an invite is quite a feat in itself! Our Company had passed the early rounds of the competition with flying colours and we were now down to the last three.

The Haulier of the Year is the top award of the evening and is presented last, so despite enjoying the gala dinner and entertainment Iain Mitchell, Catherine Weir and Bobby Rae had a tense wait to hear the result.



Host Jeremy Clarkson announced the award and a truly delighted Iain and Catherine made their way to the stage to accept the trophy from Dr. Jurgen Knorpp boss of MAN Truck and Bus UK Ltd. Iain said, "It's fantastic, fantastic... we won because of good people - just because we've got good people who want to win, want to be the best. It's not so much about training, they are just simply good. You can have seen everything, but this award is really special".

"Outstanding overall quality of operation with great customer focus."

"A very forward-looking, well-run profitable family business."

It is a great accolade for our family firm to be recognised at UK level for our outstanding performance in the Haulage Industry and this is a great boost for all the staff and their families. We remain committed to our long-standing principles of focusing on high quality service and trust, working closely with customers and developing staff, which help to keep us at the forefront of business.

Although this is John Mitchell's first national award it is the company's third major accolade, our other prizes being "Fleet of the Year", in 1998 and "Scotland's Most Innovative Haulier" (2002) both sponsored by Scotland's premier industry magazine, Transport News.

What the Motor Transport Judges said.

- *"Outstanding overall quality of operation with great customer focus. A good story of changing customers in a changing world with a very good improvement of profit".*
- *"A very forward-looking, well-run profitable family business".*
- *"Three years of challenge were exceptionally well managed".*



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New Vehicles Roll In!



Our fleet replacement and addition programme continues on schedule this year with the arrival of twenty new trucks from the MAN and Mercedes Benz marques, the majority of these being tractor units along with some specialised six wheeled rigids in dedicated customer livery. New technical innovations are always being looked at and advances implemented this year are satellite tracking of the vehicles and some of our new trailers feature sliding roofs for ease of loading from cranes etc.

Scotland's Industry showcase event, "Truckfest", took place at the Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, on the first weekend in August. The company enjoyed a high profile at this event with new Mercedes Benz and MAN tractors having pride of place on the relevant manufacturer's stands. Our drivers did us proud too, with a superb display of their working vehicles polished to perfection in the fleet displays, which seemed to provide a lot of interest to the many visitors who stopped to inspect the Lorries.

All the new vehicles carry the traditional fleet names (prefixed by "Grange") this year's subject being Scottish occupations. Interest in our trucks from transport fans of all ages from across the country continues to grow, with the enthusiast's website, Lorryspotting.com displaying increased awareness in John Mitchell vehicles. Details of our current general haulage fleet can now be downloaded from our Web Site homepage.





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The Fat MAN's Walk

Back in May this year an intrepid group of individuals took part in a 4 day, 75 mile sponsored walk from Skye to Inverness to raise much needed funds for the transport charity Transaid. The Fat MAN walkers included senior management from MAN HQ in Swindon and MAN customers including Iain Mitchell. Transaid is the transport industry charity, which helps to develop transport links in third world countries. The walk itself was a really tough challenge but with some excellent teamwork and camaraderie, all the participating walkers made it to the finish point at Inverness fire station to have their sizzling feet hosed down by the local crew! A cheque for over £22,000 was handed over to Transaid and a big thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored our now slimmer Managing Director.

Par for the Course

The annual John Mitchell Golf Competition was held at Glenbervie golf course on Tuesday September 17th. The sun shone on the event which was attended by thirty-two of our customers and suppliers, all of whom enjoyed the tournament played over 18 holes to the stableford rules. Congratulations to the winner, Paul Anderson of UBC, Hull who amassed 37 points.

In the evening the guest enjoyed a dinner and prize-giving ceremony in the clubhouse, which was entertainingly rounded off by guest speaker Stuart Coull of Cumbernauld.

Fun In The Sun.



Fine weather and a very warm atmosphere blessed the first ever-family fun Day on Sunday September 22nd. The event was a tremendous success and was organised to say a very big thank you to all our staff, whose hard work and commitment has contributed so much to John Mitchell's recent achievements and awards. Our Earls Road headquarters were miraculously transformed from a transport depot into a small

theme park for the day! Outside a wide variety of entertainment for all ages was on offer, including a bouncy castle, falconry exhibitions, police and fire brigade displays, go-karts and football and basketball competitions.

A large marquee also housed an excellent barbeque and well stocked bar and a truly wonderful children's entertainment team, who had the young and the young at heart enthralled with magic tricks, music and comedy. Balloon modelling and face painting were also very much in demand, with the team virtually working overtime to ensure no one went home disappointed! Well done and thank you to the many people who helped to make this a very special day.



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Showtime!



Despite the ever-changing weather this year our Drivers and vehicles have taken part in the usual round of festivals, gala days and charity events. One of the biggest events of the year is The Edinburgh International Festival, which traditionally starts with the cavalcade procession. Our Driver Jim Cairnie is pictured left, with festival participants on the trailer, making his way along Princes Street.

Driven Without Distraction

Road Safety is always our top priority and it's always pleasing when members of the public make positive comments about the standard of driving of one of our vehicles.

One such example is on the Berridale Café's website (www.transportcafe.co.uk).

A section of the site shows in a series of pictures the correct, safe way for a heavy goods vehicle to approach and negotiate the Berridale, a notorious piece of road, located on the A9 between Inverness and Wick. Congratulations to our driver Stuart MacDougall whose MAN truck in customer-International Timber livery, features in the article. Many thanks to Edinburgh road transport enthusiast, David Henderson who brought our attention to this site.

Spot the Difference!



A prize of £25 worth of Marks and Spencer gift vouchers is on offer to the eagle eyed reader who can

spot six differences in these two Photographs. E-mail your answers to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk before 31st December 2002. The winner will be drawn at random from the correct entries and the result will be announced in the next newsletter.



Order Shop

A book on our company was published in November 2000. "Mitchell's of Grangemouth ", a family and transport history, by John W. Henderson is a 48-page lavishly illustrated history of the Mitchell family's carting, haulage and local involvement in the area's heritage from 1892 right up to present day.

To order a copy of this book please send a cheque or postal for £12 (includes postage and packing) To John Mitchell Haulage and Warehousing, Earls Road Industrial Estate, Grangemouth. FK3 8XA. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Thank you for reading The Grange Courier, if you have a story or picture that you think would be suitable for our magazine, please send a short e-mail to newsdesk@johnmitchell.co.uk