

19 June 2009

Hamilton Park manager is recognised as industry acorn

Hamilton Park Racecourse general manager, Gavin Tiffin, fought off scores of candidates to become an elite Acorn winner, an annual award given to 30 people under the age of 30 by leading trade magazine *Caterer and Hotelkeeper*, as a reward for their contribution to the hospitality industry

Gavin, (29), who is employed by Prestige Scotland, is the general manager for catering and events at Hamilton Park Racecourse, where he is responsible for all aspects of the business from finance, operations and sales. Gavin joined Prestige Scotland, the dedicated Scottish division of Sodexo Prestige, in 2007.

To celebrate the award Gavin and the other 29 Acorn Award winners spent a weekend at Lower Slaughter Manor Hotel in Gloucestershire where the winners took part in a team building challenge, followed by the official awards, where all the winners were presented with a trophy. Previous winners include Marco Pierre White and Gary Rhodes.

Hamilton Park Racecourse is one of the leading conference, events and wedding venues in Scotland. On receiving this award Gavin said: "This is a great achievement for me personally, Prestige Scotland, and Hamilton Park Racecourse. Winning was a complete surprise, it is a real honour to be recognised, especially given the amount of dedicated and great people there are in the industry. The hospitality industry is one of the hardest places to work, but is also one of the most rewarding, for me this is the icing on the cake. I learned from a great mentor, and I hope I will be able to pass on my knowledge to the next generation to enable others to go onto great things as well. I'm a people person and I never wanted to a nine-to-five job, so it's a fantastic feeling to be given an award for doing a job that I love to do."

Gavin manages both race day and non race day catering requirements; he has a core team of 20 staff which increases to over 200 for large events. This year alone Gavin and his team at Hamilton Park have provided the catering for 30 weddings and over 30 conferences. In the run up to Christmas the team look after over 2,500 party goers at their themed extravaganza party nights.

Alyson Cawley, managing director for Prestige Scotland said: "Gavin is a key member of our team. He is highly respected and liked amongst many in the industry. Gavin's commitment is demonstrated in his willingness to always go the extra mile and is always on hand to provide help to others. This year Gavin is a mentor for scholarship students on behalf on HIT Scotland (Hospitality Industry Trust) and a six month student placement from Napier University therefore helping to develop the hospitality talent of the future. We are very proud to have Gavin as a member of our team and look forward to seeing his continued success."

ENDS