

great example of what we're trying to achieve on Bute," he told The Herald.

"There are many similarities between the islands. We both have cheesemakers, seafood, a fish smokery and ice cream, but Bute has more beef and lamb farms.

"It would be wonderful to see more of our meat sold on

increasingly interested in farming." The 51-year-old was born in the mansion, which has been in his family for seven centuries.

Formerly known as Formula 1 driver Johnny Dumfries, he addressed a gathering of over 100 dinner guests to announce his delight that so many local

food producers were taking part in this weekend's festival. It will include a farmers' market featuring produce from the Mount Stuart kitchen garden, cheese-making sessions, and food demonstrations using local produce by top chefs Skye Gyngell, Dundee-born Jeremy Lee, and Rory O'Connell.

He also expressed gratitude for a £9000 grant from EventScotland, and support from Scotland Food and Drink, Rothesay Creamery, CalMac and many others. "The support we have had this year is a real vote of confidence in what we're trying to achieve here on Bute," said the marquis, who lives in

London with his second wife Serena and six children, but spends more than half his time at Mount Stuart.

"We have 59 local producers taking part this year compared to 22 at last year's inaugural event. Forty-one of them are from Bute itself and include farmers, Loch Fad fisheries, Rothesay

Creameries, and langoustine from local fisherman Colin McArthur."

The Mount Stuart Trust is working closely with Rothesay Joint Campus school to help increase awareness of local food among children – the consumers of the future.

"The farmers and I



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SECC is crowned king of events at awards ceremony

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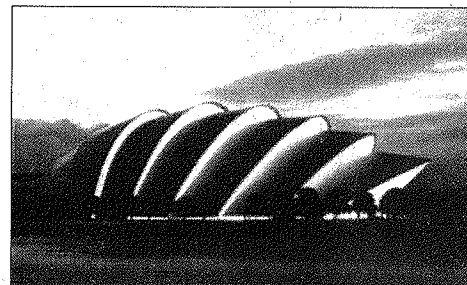
SOME of Scotland's most innovative and cutting-edge events organisers were honoured last night at an awards ceremony in Glasgow.

The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SECC) scooped the Grand Prix for Event Services in recognition of its work at the forefront of Scotland's international events industry.

Ben Goedegebuure, director of sales for the Glasgow arena, said: "These awards are further testament to the SECC's ability to host and deliver truly world class events, and to the fact that we now compete on a global stage for both national and international business, which in turn brings enormous economic benefit, not just to Glasgow, but to the whole of Scotland."

The prize for Event Management was awarded to Cycling Scotland for its Pedal For Scotland campaign last year, and the Chairman's Award went to the Scottish Social Services Council for their Care Accolades scheme.

Tennent's Lager and DF Concerts won the accolade of Best PR Strategy for the 15th



TOP VENUE:
The Clyde Auditorium, known as the Armadillo, part of the award-winning SECC.

T in the Park festival, while Glasgow's Concert Halls were named in the Best Cultural Event category.

Judges said that Glasgow Science Centre ran the best in-house events and the Glasgow Film Festival beat tough competition to be named best large event. Best medium event was Haddington Pipe Band's Pipe Idol, and Queen Margaret University won in the small event category for their green fashion night.

QD Events took home a brace of awards, winning best business exhibition with their Main Event conference and best leisure exhibition with their Scottish Wedding Show.

The Caves in Edinburgh was named best small venue, and Glasgow's Oran Mor beat The Arches to the title of best unusual venue. Ginger Snap was the best caterer, and

Northern Light was the best technical services company. Perthshire-based Volpa took the best strategy prize for their Enchanted Forest event last year, and Bank of Scotland took first and second place for the best use of sponsorship.

Maximillion took a special prize for green activities, the Young Scot organisation had the best traditional event, with their Burns Resurrection 2009, and Capgemini won an award for best charity event in honour of their work for the Prince's Trust. Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design were praised for the best educational event.

Robert Wright, managing director of category sponsor Davies Tanner, said: "These awards showcase the very best of Scotland's event industry, including its passion, creativity and sheer joy of life."