

# Conference Report – TEC2001

By Linda Jonstone

Our eighth annual conference is now behind us and we are already planning our ninth. In doing so, we are greatly helped by the many conference attendees who take the time to complete evaluation forms. This year we received 65% of the total possible forms back, quite an achievement.


So what did they say? Virtually all speakers received a good to excellent rating. Alison Butterill received the highest number of votes as the speaker most mentioned, closely followed by Skip Marchesani.

Comments ranged from recommendations on what to have for lunch, to complaints of too much choice of sessions, or at least that making a choice was difficult. Should we reduce the number of concurrent sessions? What to leave out is as important as what to include. Should we set up some repeat sessions? If so how do we forecast which will be the most popular? Anyone got a crystal ball? If so, we want to talk to you!

An extra novelty this year were the fire alarms. We accidentally discovered during the Showcase on Tuesday evening that a test of the fire alarms was planned



*Linda Johnstone*

So a great vote of thanks is due to all concerned: volunteers; speakers; vendors; contractors; hotel staff; and not least the attendees for making it all worthwhile. As I said at the beginning, we are already planning for next year, so any comments or advice for the next conference (or other educational offering) will be much appreciated. Please e-mail me. Thank you. 



Alison definitely won the accolade for the most attendees, with 98 at her Mixing Java and RPG session. In fact, Alison and Rick Stevens each had three sessions in the top six sessions attended: Alison with Java, and Rick with XML.

Web topics were not far behind. This perhaps should not have been a surprise to us, but in fact we were not prepared for the sheer numbers at Alison's and Rick's sessions and had to rearrange seating between sessions. The sessions with the least attendees were generally those of a less technical nature, confirming that technology is what our members are looking for.

in five minutes time. While I was on my way to have an announcement made to warn everyone, the alarms went off. With all the noise, all anyone could do was drink the wine and eat the food. For those of us staying overnight at the hotel, we had a repeat unplanned sessions of the fire alarms at 2:30 a.m. These interruptions didn't dampen any spirits though. Day two began bright and early and progressed to plan, the worst glitch being a couple of sessions where speakers and attendees couldn't drag themselves away on time even for the keynote lunch.

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