

## ***Chairman's Announcements***

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Wiltshire Sports Awards - Nominate Your Sporting Hero</b>
<b>Officer Contact Details:</b>	<b>Tamzin Earley (tamzin.earley@wiltshire.gov.uk)</b>
<b>Further details available:</b>	

**\*\*Quotes and pictures from some of last year's winners at bottom of the release\*\***

People are being encouraged to nominate clubs, coaches, athletes and volunteers who have a passion for sport for the 2014 Wiltshire Sports Awards.

The awards, now in their fifth year, have 12 categories which recognise and honour the work and achievements of athletes, sports clubs, volunteers and coaches across Wiltshire.

They are sponsored by Landmarc and are being hosted jointly by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Health Improvement Partnership and Wiltshire and Swindon Sport.

The top three from each category will be invited to attend a special awards event at The Atrium, County Hall, Trowbridge on October 22 hosted by former England rugby captain, Phil de Glanville.

Anyone can nominate a Wiltshire individual or organisation for one of the 12 categories from today (June 2) until the closing date of Friday August 1.

This year's Wiltshire Sports Awards categories are:

- Sports Personality of the Year
- Young Sports Personality of the Year
- Sports Personality of the Year (athlete with a disability)
- Unsung Hero of the Year
- Long Service to Sport award
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Coach of the Year (voluntary)
- Coach of the Year (professional)
- Inclusion Coach of the Year
- Young Coach of the Year
- Sports Club/Team of the Year
- Most Inclusive Club of the Year

Jonathon Seed, cabinet member for leisure said: "We have some exciting sporting talent in Wiltshire and this is an opportunity to recognise their achievements but also to turn the spotlight on the many unsung heroes whose tireless enthusiasm keeps so many clubs alive in Wiltshire. Sport plays a major part in improving our health and sense of wellbeing and we hope these awards will inspire more people to take up sport."

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Phil de Glanville said: "I'm delighted to be hosting the Wiltshire Sports Awards again this year. Having seen previous winners' responses as they step up to receive their award I know first-hand how much formal recognition means to them. I'd encourage people to nominate now so we can celebrate more of Wiltshire's sporting heroes."

Corporate director Maggie Rae said: "Many of us appreciate and admire the efforts of people connected with sport in Wiltshire. This is an opportunity to nominate someone who you believe has made a real difference to sport and I look forward to seeing many people's names being put forward for this recognition."

The awards criteria can be downloaded from the website and nominations made online at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/sportsawards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/sportsawards) For any questions on the awards email: [sportsawards@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sportsawards@wiltshire.gov.uk) For Twitter updates use the hashtag #WiltsSportsAwards

Notes to editors:

For more information contact communications on 01225 713370/713115/713116. For out of hours contact 07747 007340

For more detail on Wiltshire and Swindon Sport Partnership (WASP) go to <http://www.wiltssport.org.uk/wasp-news/local-sports-news>

**Tom North** was last year's Young Volunteer of the year. Tom 19, from Chippenham had spent three years volunteering as a young leader in both school and clubs, working on the Lets Kick Racism Out of Football programme, including refereeing, assisting with the registration of teams, and setting venues. He also volunteers with the Bath Rugby Foundation and Chippenham Rugby Club. Since winning the award Tom has become an apprentice at Active Trowbridge – a group which delivers community sport coaching.

Tom said: "I was shocked to find out I'd been put forward for an award and then to be the winner. It's great to receive that recognition and for your efforts to be noticed. I would encourage people to nominate."

**Jonnie Crowley** won the Young Coach of the year category in 2013.

Jonnie from Devizes was a Lawn Tennis Association Level 2 coach, at Devizes Tennis Club assisting the head coach. He actively promoted the club to increase participation and memberships. Since winning the award he has moved to Level 3 coaching.

He said: "Winning the award was a definite confidence booster and brought a lot of attention to the club as well. It's great to know what you're doing is being noticed and gaining recognition."

**Andrew Evans** won Official of the year in 2013.

Andrew from Trowbridge has now progressed from Level 5 Senior County Football Referee to Level 4, and is a referee at semi-professional games.

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He said: "I was shocked and overwhelmed to be nominated because from a personal point of view I'm not in it to pick up awards – that's just a bonus. Such awards give people more confidence though and it's great to receive the recognition.

For political comment:

Conservatives: Jonathon Seed - [jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Liberal Democrats: Jon Hubbard - [jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jon.hubbard@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Labour: Ricky Rogers - [ricky.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ricky.rogers@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Independents: Ernie Clark -  
[ernie.clark@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:ernie.clark@wiltshire.gov.uk)