

Mole Valley Sports Awards

Winners and Nominees

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*Some nominations have a number next to them because they have received more than one vote.



Outstanding Service to Sport

This award is for an individual who has:

1. Contributed significantly to sport over a minimum of 5 years
2. Demonstrated continued enthusiasm and devoted time and resources to enable others to take part (please include the range and number of people helped and any personal sacrifices made)
3. Increased participation and enjoyment of sport and made a positive impact in their local community.

Nominees:

John Callcut

Sadie Herbert

Andrey Pozdnyakov

Leah Connolly

Rositsa Vasileva

Mike Knott

Stephanie Kay (4)

Greg Stallard (4)

Winner: Mike Knott – It is a pleasure to nominate Mike Knott for the Mole Valley Outstanding Service to Sport Award. For decades, Mike has been influential in a wide range of local sports. His contributions to Dorking Badminton and Cricket Clubs have facilitated the enjoyment of sport for literally hundreds of adults and children alike. He has run the junior section at Dorking Badminton Club for longer than anyone can remember - at least 15 years. We estimate that in that time he has coached over 250 children, many of whom have gone on to play competitively as adults or qualified as coaches themselves. He has taken on the management of Mole Valley's Surrey Youth Games badminton teams and his signature can be found on many a Duke of Edinburgh assessment. In a world where fewer and fewer people seem to volunteer for the onerous behind the scenes jobs required to run successful sports clubs, Mike has quietly volunteered for every committee going. He has been Chairman and Treasurer of Dorking Cricket Club, Secretary and Junior Secretary at Dorking Badminton Club, committee member for the Surrey Badminton League; in some years filling several of these roles concurrently. As if these contributions were not time consuming enough, Mike has also tended to the grounds of Dorking Cricket club for 20+ years and can often be seen trailing lawn mowers from one ground to another. These achievements and efforts would be immense for most of us, but this is a man well into retirement age, and still going strong. Finally, Mike has been instrumental in improving local sports facilities. From involvement in the lottery bid for The Ashcombe sports hall to the development of the Westhumble cricket ground and pavilion, to the renovation of Ashted Cricket Clubhouse on national television's "Changing Rooms", Mike's contributions will touch the lives of local sports men, women and children for many years to come.

Sports Club of the Year

This award is for a formally constituted sports club that has:

1. A proven track record of working with schools, local authorities and other community organisations
2. Evidence of a commitment to effective recruitment, recognition and training of volunteers, coaches and players
3. Actively encouraged participation from underrepresented groups (e.g. people with a disability)
4. Implemented a new idea and demonstrated innovation.

Winner: Girls Alive –

Eleanor Lestrangle and Philippa Curphey created Girls Alive and have encouraged and supported a whole group of local women to try new sports and get active. We've got a beginners group and a 5k regular group and are also using our WhatsApp groups to arrange other social runs. We've tried wild swimming, stand up paddle boarding, cycling, hiking and soon mountain biking. We live in an amazing area with great trails, paths and fresh air just waiting to be enjoyed. The girls have incredible passion and enthusiasm and support us all regardless of our fitness levels. All groups are social and everyone participates at their own pace without pressure. The club is free to join and there is a real sense of camaraderie- we love to hear of each other's successes and are constantly sharing ideas for new challenges. We loved supporting the social media campaign to get Dame Kelly Holmes to join us for a ride and run as part of the JoinInJune campaign.

Sports Personality of the Year

This award is for an individual (aged 19 years or above at the time of their achievement) who has:

1. Made significant progress in the field of sport.
2. Had significant impact on sport in Surrey and been an inspiration to others
3. Exceeded expectations in their sporting performance or made significant difference to a team.

Nominees:

Saul Brignell

Nick Harris

Stephanie Kay (11)

Winner: Saul Brignell - Saul has been running with a club less than two years, and has made significant progress in the last year. So much so that he challenged himself to run 10 marathons in 10 days. Taking an unpaid Sabbatical from his job as Transport Manager at Mole Valley Community Transport, he supports two very worthy causes, the Conservatory Club- which is a centre for people with dementia and the Meeting Room- drop-in for people coping with Mental Health issues. He ran and completed all of his 10 marathons over the last week or so, in blistering sunshine, with temperatures reaching 90 degrees on some days. He is an inspiration to everyone here at Mole Valley District Council, and I believe he will inspire others to believe in themselves and to achieve what might be thought as the "un-achievable".

Sports Team of the Year:

This award is for a sports team (aged 19 years or above at the time of their achievement) that has:

1. Achieved success and competed at a consistently high level throughout the year.
2. Demonstrated fair play and good sporting attitude throughout the year.
3. Shown significant improvement from previous years.

Winner: Blue Swans Walking Netballers - Blue Swans Walking Netball Club/Team are a unique group that began on 6th March 2017. Since the inaugural session when 17 ladies first stepped onto the netball court, its popularity has risen so that over 50 ladies have now sampled the delights of this adapted version of the game and regularly attend the 2 sessions that I run at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. The improvement that has been made in their skills levels and understanding of the game has been amazing. Their ages range from 45 years to 80 years. Some had not played since school, whereas others had only recently stopped playing the traditional game. Their eagerness to improve and enthusiasm has culminated in the team achieving the top accolade at regional level - winners of the 1st Walking Netball Festival at Crystal Palace 2017, complimented by repeated success at local tournaments run by England Netball. Camaraderie, team spirit and excellent sporting attitude underpin every aspect of our training and participation in tournaments. Respect for others and a sense of fair play are our moto!

Volunteer of the Year

This award is for an administrator, coach, official, or general helper (aged 19 years or above as of 31 August 2017) who has:

1. Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to a sport or club.
2. Made a tremendous impact on a club or organisation through volunteering
3. Shown a commitment to personal development, team working and supporting the development of other volunteers

Nominees:

Debbie Watts

Philippa Curphey (4)

Eleanor LeStrange (4)

Winner: Philippa Curphey -

1. Philippa and Eleanor have set up All Girls Can (which has grown into All Girls Run, All Girls Bike, All Girls Off Road, All Girls SUP, All Kids Run...) which aims to get women motivated, energised and enthused about exercising. This has been running for a year and it is astounding how many women (and kids) have been welcomed, encouraged and challenged by their boundless enthusiasm and selfless time giving. Many, many of us would never have got into running without their support and it has changed how I feel about exercise, fitness and general health. Their positive encouragement and determination saw Dame Kelly Holmes visit All Girls Can for a bike up Box Hill and a run down during Join in June. I wholeheartedly endorse their nomination and would be very proud to see their hard work rewarded.

2. In September 2017 Philippa and her friend Eleanor set up a free running club AllGirls in Brockham for women to be all inclusive and break down barriers to help get women more active. There are now 3 running clubs, a ride club, and a hiking club, along with taster sessions in wild swimming and stand up paddle boarding. Philippa has no previous experience at doing anything like this but is so enthusiastic and encouraging of all the women. Showing up every week just to encourage others. The village of Brockham and surrounding is becoming much more active with literally dozens of women regularly exercising now thanks to AllGirls which would never have happened without Philippa. Personally I joined the club in October 2017 and was encouraged all the way from running my first 1 minute to crossing the line of my first half marathon, the support was almost constant and unwavering. Philippa has also encouraged and supported members to become volunteers themselves and set up AllGirls clubs for different activities such as hiking and swimming.

3. Philippa is the most enthusiastic person I know. She co-started All Girls Can a year ago and has lead it from strength to strength, all completely voluntarily. 2. Philippa gives her time and energy selflessly to grow All Girls Can and encourage women to be their best, in the nicest possible way. 3. Philippa has encouraged me and many others to take up running and take up volunteering, she is truly inspirational.

4. Phil and Eleanor set up 'All Girls' with a view to getting as many women into sport as possible. Last year Phil completed the London Marathon and Eleanor completed the Ride 100. They were both new to these sports and had not even exercised in years. They have used this experience to encourage other women to do the same. They really believe you can do it, when when you think you can't and push you forward to achieve your goals. The group has gone from strength to strength and there are now several groups that meet regularly including 'All Girls Run', All Girls Ride', All Girls Swim' and All Girls hike'. In June Dame Kelly Holmes even joined us on a ride up Boxhill and a run down it. Phil and Eleanor have inspired so many local women to push themselves and do more than they ever thought they could and I really feel that this is only the beginning. They really encourage team work and leave no one behind. They know we are stronger together. I would love them to receive this award as they have worked incredibly hard and put so much time into this. They will probably never know the true extent of the impact they have had on the lives of so many not to mention inspiring our children!

Young Sports Personality of the Year:

This awards is for an individual (aged 18 years or under at the time of their achievement) who has:

1. Made significant progress in the field of sport.
2. Had significant impact on sport in Surrey and been an inspiration to others.
3. Exceeded expectations in their sporting performance or made significant difference to a team.

Nominees:

Emily Odunsi

Rianna Hodgson

Cameron Stirling

Izzy Hilliard

Anne-Marie Cobb

Caitlin Curlewis

Tali Gibbons

Winner: Cameron Stirling – Cameron has been training for 8 years from the age of 10. He has worked hard to become the fighter, student and coach. He trains at all of the classes that the club offers and helps with the ladies class, adults and the junior classes. He is an inspiration to the youngsters at the club and also to many of the senior students. He has fought in the UK and also abroad. In his weight category he fights for Great Britain against the rest of the world. This year he will be fighting in the World championships. He is currently 10th in the world rankings with only one other British fighter ahead of him. He is also ranked in the UK in 1st, 2nd and 3rd position. Due to the hard work and effort that Cameron has put in over the years and even more now as a recognised champion, I think he deserves to be recognised as he is an inspiration in a growing sport and to many people in Surrey and across the world.

Young Sports Team of the Year:

This award is for a sports team (aged 18 years or under at the time of their achievement) that has:

1. Achieved success and competed at a consistently high level throughout the year.
2. Demonstrated fair play and a good sporting attitude throughout the year.
3. Shown significant improvement from previous years.

Winner: St Paul's Lacrosse Team – The team had never played lacrosse before this academic year began. Through their enthusiasm and determination in class lessons they learnt the relevant skills to a high standard and were, as a consequence, selected to practice as a team in club time and to then represent the school in the lacrosse county finals. Two teams from St Paul's took part and came 1st and 4th. This meant our first team then progressed to the national Finals in Sheffield. They competed against 24 other teams from all over the UK. Once this place had been secured this team practiced every break and lunch to improve their skills and game play, really showing a passion for their sport and a desire to succeed. Whilst at the national finals, the St Paul's team stood out to both the umpires and other school's coaches due to their gracious approach and collaborative skills within their own team but also with other teams. They helped opposition teams up when someone stumbled, shook hands at the end and never failed to say thank you to the referees and umpires of games. Overall the team managed to secure 5th place for the whole of the UK and were eager to continue their opportunity to play lacrosse, moving into secondary school. I feel it was a remarkable achievement and their determination, motivation and desire to sharpen and improve their skills was a credit to them and their coach, Miss George (one of our Yr 6 teachers).

Young Volunteer of the Year

This award is for a coach, official, administrator or general helper (aged 18 or under as of 31 August 2018) who has:

1. Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to a sport or club
2. Made a tremendous impact on a club or organisation through volunteering
3. Shown a commitment to personal development, team working and supporting the development of other volunteers.

Winner: Naomi Brown (3) –

1. Naomi has played rugby with us since we started the Girls Rugby section about 5 years ago. She has been a dedicated member of the squad, rarely missing a training session since she started playing and has been one of our most talented and influential players in both the U15's and U18's teams. She is a good team player, an excellent communicator and she leads from the front on the pitch. She has played in numerous matches and has represented Surrey in both the U15's and U18's County teams. Last year she also took on a coaching role and assisted the RFU when they set up an 8 week Girls After School Rugby Club at The Priory School. The club was highly successful and Naomi continued to run it for the remainder of the year, developing players and encouraging them to join Dorking RFC. This coming season she will be an assistant coach for the U15's and U18's at Dorking, and she will also be taking on a Community Coaching role, going into local primary and secondary schools to offer taster rugby sessions. Naomi is committed, hard-working, talented and engaging. She is a credit to her family and to Dorking RFC

2. commitment to the Club over the last few years in terms of playing but also her coaching role at The Priory with the Girls After School Club there and her imminent roles of assistant coach with the Girls U15's and Community Coach.

3. Our daughter aspires to be like Naomi (Nim) and if she turns out to have just 50% of Nim's enthusiasm and commitment not only to rugby but to all players both younger and older around her, then our hearts will soar. I have witness on a typical wet cold miserable rugby morning, when someone had let our coach down, Nim being asked to take the session initially and how she leapt at this, got all the girls going and laughing before they had even hit the muddy field. Although Nim has never played competitive rugby with my daughters age group she has stood on the side line cheering them on, at half time boosting their morale with her infectious fun, to even taking water on etc Thankfully Nim, has managed to get a significant number of girls to join our team through an after school club, and is starting this season as an assistant coach to the Dorking Girls U15's. Her influence in rugby can only be seen as an incredible achievement and she is without doubt an ambassador for girls/womens rugby within our Surrey Setting.