



PRESS RELEASE

6TH NOVEMBER 2017

2017 Cornwall Sports Awards

And the winners are...

Sponsored by University of Exeter and Truro & Penwith College



Recognising people who inspire others to be physically active!

Winners of the **2017 Cornwall Sports Awards** were announced at the annual event, held at The Headland Hotel, Newquay on **Friday 6th November 2017**.

The awards which are now in their twelfth year recognise and reward volunteers and organisations from across Cornwall who inspire others to be physically active.

Organised by the Cornwall Sports Partnership, the event was presented by Pirate FM's very own Neil Caddy and saw over **200** of Cornwall's inspiring **volunteers, coaches, community groups and organisations** come together to help celebrate the amazing achievements and impact these volunteers have had on people being active.

Neil Caddy said: "As well as celebrating success, the Cornwall Sports Awards tells the amazing stories behind the performers. Sport is not just the activity or discipline, nor is it just the competitor - it's their family and friends, their coach, their club and in many instances a much wider support network...and the fact that they all receive a nod of acknowledgment makes me very proud to be a part of the evening. Well done on another fantastic awards!"



This year **11 awards** were presented and the worthy winners are:

Disability Activator of the Year – David Painter, Special Olympics Cornwall

Young Coach of the Year U25 – Ryan Borley, FXU Dodgeball Club

Coach of the Year – Matthew Gale, Roselyon Fencing Club

Community Participation Project of the Year – Plymouth Raiders Foundation

Social Impact in the Community – SPARC Sport

Club of the Year – Special Olympics Cornwall

CAPH Time 2 Move Primary School of the Year – Treleigh Community Primary School

Active Workplace of the Year – Truro & Penwith College

Young Volunteer of the Year U25 – Jay Davies, The Wave Project

Volunteer of the Year – Darren Kirwan, St Blazey CC / AFC St Blazey Youth

Lifetime Services to Sport – Peter Thorne, Wendron CC / Wendron United FC

(Information on all winners, plus quotes are available in the editors notes)



Guests heard from Pegleg Bennett, a local Adventurer and Adaptive World Championship Surfer from Perranporth. Pegleg inspired the audience with his stories of physical and mental challenges including climbing Kilimanjaro and to Everest Base Camp, running the London Marathon twice and competing in the World Adaptive Surf Championships. Pegleg overcame numerous mental challenges after being born with one leg and shares his stories and achievements with other young people going through life changing circumstances.

With the evenings focus on the role Sport and Physical Activity can have on your mental health the **2017 Cornwall Sports Awards** supported the charity **MIND** who provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a

mental health problem and also raised the awareness of **The Mental Health Charter** for Sport. If you would like to make a donation to this amazing charity please visit

www.mind.org.uk

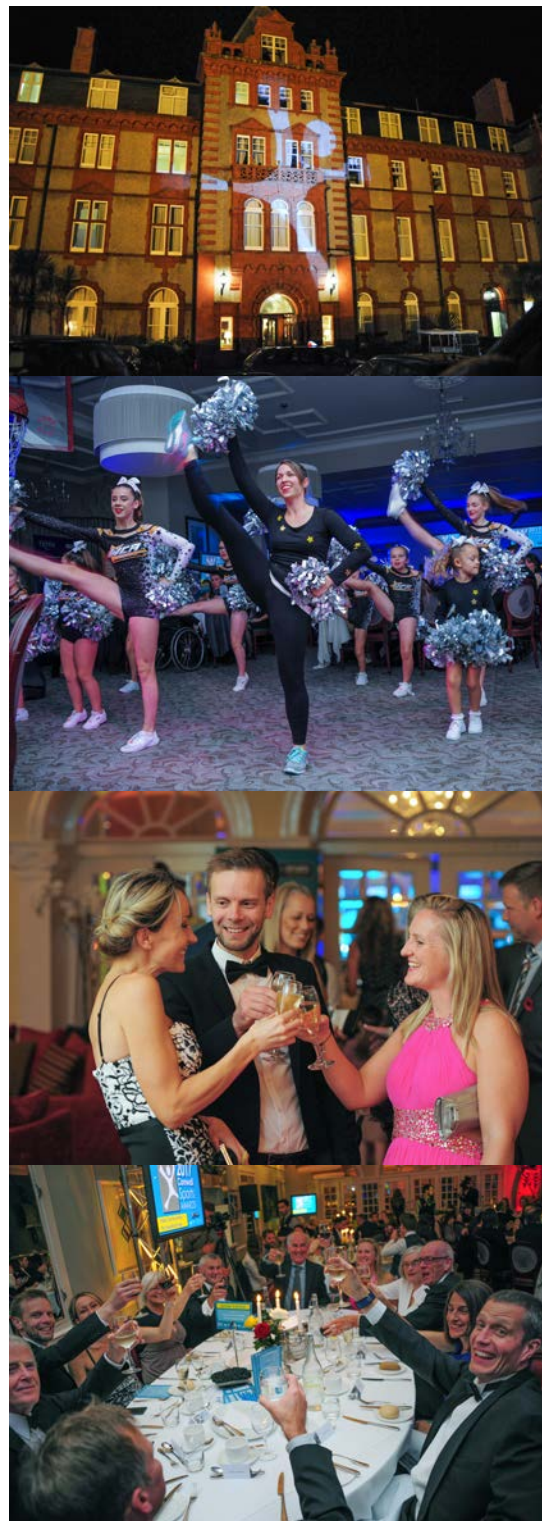


Cornwall Sports Awards organiser, Natasha Howard of the Cornwall Sports Partnership, said: "This event is truly inspirational, the stories we hear throughout the evening are humbling but also motivational and in particular this year understanding the role sport and physical activity can have on improving our mental health as well as our physical health."

A variety of companies and organisations support the event each year, including: University of Exeter, Truro & Penwith College, Better Leisure Ltd, St Austell Printing Company, St Austell Conference Centre, AGAME Sports Ltd, CAPH, Clockwork Audio Systems, Lightbox Inc, Toby Weller Commercial Photographer and The Headland Hotel.

Professor David Hosken from the University of Exeter and one of our main sponsors said: "The University of Exeter is delighted to sponsor the Cornwall Sports Awards, and more specifically to present awards to volunteers within sport, who dedicate so much of their time in coordinating and delivering such a wide range of sporting activities in Cornwall. Recognised for our academic and athletic achievements, we truly value the benefits sport can bring to everyone in terms of health and wellbeing, collaboration, raising aspirations and achieving personal goals. We would like to congratulate all award winners and nominees for their amazing achievements. "

Vicky Pearson from Truro and Penwith College, another of the main sponsors said: "Truro and Penwith College were delighted to sponsor the coaching award category at the Cornwall Sports Awards. It's great to see such outstanding coaching that takes place in Cornwall week in week out. We are proud to be a main sponsor of the Cornwall Sports Awards and congratulations to all the nominees and award winners. "



Want to nominate next year?

Nominations for the 2018 Cornwall Sports Awards will be opening spring 2018!

To see photographs and videos of the winners and event, visit the Cornwall Sports Partnership's website and Facebook page:

- www.cornwallsportspartnership.co.uk
- www.facebook.com/cornwallsportspartnership

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For further information: For further information please contact Sarah Mageean at Cornwall Sports Awards on T: 01872 323344 and E: smageean@cornwall.gov.uk

Editors notes:

Mental Health Charter <https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/policy/the-mental-health-charter>

Winners Information

Disability Activator of the Year – David Painter, Special Olympics Cornwall

Cornwall were not represented at the 2013 Special Olympics GB summer games, so David decided to do something about it! 4 years later there are now multiple clubs across Cornwall with 83 registered athletes and 22 coaches. There are weekly football, boccia, badminton, swimming, tennis, cricket and basketball sessions. David has made this happen working tirelessly to support not only Cornwall but also taking on chair of the SW region.

Young Coach of the Year U25 – Ryan Borley, FXU Dodgeball Club

Ryan single handedly established the club a year ago. He initially delivered taster sessions, progressing to weekly training to over 80 people who have never tried the sport before. He has organised dodgeball tournaments one in aid of Coppafeel Breast Cancer Charity and one for Comic Relief, encouraging a wide variety of people from Falmouth and Exeter University to take part. Coaches have now been trained, so the sport can be expanded across Cornwall.

Ryan said: "This award makes me feel proud of what I have achieved and for the opportunity I have had to encourage more people to participate in Physical Activity.

Coach of the Year – Matthew Gale, Roselyon Fencing Club

Matthew has introduced fencing into the primary school and has established an after school club which now has 25 regular members. His commitment has enabled many of the children to go on to become highly successful at county, regional and national level. He has

gone further by starting an adults club, the lyonhearts, which now has 10 regular members. His passion and competency in coaching fencing is described as truly outstanding.

Community Participation Project of the Year – Plymouth Raiders Foundation

Since 2015 they have delivered the biggest basketball outreach programme in the country with 580 participants engaged aged over 14. They have delivered in 4 areas across Cornwall - Torpoint, Bodmin, St Austell and Truro.

The programme provides an alternative basketball provision outside of the formal club structure where players can just turn up and play. The project has extended its reach further by establishing a central venue league with monthly competitions.

Plymouth Raiders Foundation said: "It's an honour to win the Community Participation Award and a testament to all the hard work our coaches and volunteers put in. A fantastic evening and a pleasure to attend. Thank you to all involved."

Social Impact in the Community – SPARC Sport

SPARC Sport have delivered many projects focused on the development of hard to reach young people who have issues in either social cohesion, physical, mental disabilities or a combination of all three. Last year they worked with over 150 young people who are inactive and have made a positive difference to their lives. Projects involve a wide variety of activities including football, badminton, green gyms in parks and fitness classes.

SPARC Sport said: "It's great to be recognised for the impact we have in the community we work in. Seeing all the amazing work that goes on in Cornwall is truly inspiring."

Club of the Year – Special Olympics Cornwall

The clubs aim is to offer Olympic style sports to people with intellectual disabilities. In 4 years the club has established groups in multiple venues across Cornwall delivering activities including basketball, boccia, tennis, bowls, swimming, badminton and football. Over 80 people take part from ages 10 to 68 years plus 30 volunteer coaches and helpers. This year they fundraised £24,000 to send athletes and volunteers to the national games in Sheffield where they won 10 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze medals.

Special Olympics Cornwall said: "Our success is down to the hard work from our coaches and volunteers. We thank all those who have supported us throughout this amazing year."

CAPH Time 2 Move Primary School of the Year – Treleigh Community Primary School

Treleigh community primary school is situated within one of England's top ten percent of most deprived neighbourhoods. They recognised that the children who weren't engaging in physical activity or sport weren't as emotionally resilient as children who were engaging. The school set about to understand and address individual barriers for these children and to provide to a wide variety of sports and activities from street surfing to funfit throughout the school day in order to appeal to all. The school worked hard to establish community club

links and produced a directory and guide for pupils. Children's perseverance, confidence and resilience have improved as a result.

Treleigh Community Primary School said: "I am delighted that the hard work of our staff, parents, volunteers and most importantly our children has been recognised. An inspiring event which showcased the most dedicated enthusiastic and hardworking members of the sporting community. "

Active Workplace of the Year – Truro & Penwith College

The college delivers a health wellbeing and sport program which sees sixty free physical activity sessions for staff across both sites each week. 300 members of staff have participated in activities in the last year. Sessions are delivered by a team of volunteer activators. They also offer a 'weigh to go' programme to help people achieve a healthy weight. Following a recent survey 98% of people said the sessions improved their physical wellbeing and 94% their mental health.

Truro & Penwith College said: "It's great to be recognised for an award. We really appreciated being shortlisted and winning is a great honour. What an evening!"

Young Volunteer of the Year U25 – Jay Davies, The Wave Project

Jay started as a client with low confidence, alopecia, learning difficulties and is a young carer. He is now a volunteer surf mentor helping others enjoy the water and leave their struggles behind on the shore. He helps out at every Friday, Saturday and Sunday session. He has such a positive effect and is a wonderful role model; many young people now want to become a mentor to be just like Jay. He is described as 'making volunteering look cool to his peers'. Jay has also raised money for the charity by taking part in the tuff enuff challenge.

Jay said: "It means a lot because it means people are noticing the work I am doing. Thank you to everyone who helps me."

Volunteer of the Year – Darren Kirwan, St Blazey CC / AFC St Blazey Youth

Darren recognised that through sport he could enhance the local community of St Blazey by offering youth football alongside cricket. He took a piece of wasteland at the cricket club and transformed it into a youth football pitch. With facilities now being used all year around the new football club has also meant an increase in cricket membership. Darren has galvanised so many people to get involved and support the project, from tradesmen to help with the facilities through to completing grant applications, to dealing with land issues and encouraging parents to get involved.

Darren Kirwan said: "I am very proud to receive an award recognised by experienced peers and it highlights our clubs and the progress they have made in recent years. I am back at two clubs by a fantastic set of committee members who are selfless in their quest to evolve sporting experiences for children – I accept the award this evening on behalf of all of them."

Lifetime Services to Sport – Peter Thorne, Wendron CC / Wendron United FC

Peter has volunteered at the club for 40 years. He has led the clubs committee on a number of projects including purchasing land to ensure the clubs facilities are secure forever, applying for various grants to build a new club house and changing facilities which are used by the whole community. He also runs a men's football team, helps coach the clubs three cricket teams, is chair of the football club and carries out most of the maintenance at the club. Peter is described as having 'total dedication to the club and local community.

Peter Thorne said: "a great privilege for me and my family and also long term support from Wendron CC and AFC. The evening is a credit to all involved."