



Active Devon Press Release

Date: 2 February 2010

Re: DEVON SPORTS AWARDS GO WILD

There will be no monkeying around this year when the Devon Sports Awards change venue to Paignton Zoo in Torbay this year. The Awards will be held on 1st April 2010 at the Zoo and Active Devon, organisers of the event, are urging sports clubs, coaches and volunteers 'not to be fools' and nominate their dedicated members before the closing date on 28th February.

The Devon Sports Awards is an annual celebration and acknowledgement of all those unsung heroes across the county who offer their time and expertise, more often than not for free, for the good of Sport in Devon. This includes volunteers, officials and coaches – the driving force behind the scenes that help develop athletes in the county. Recent success stories such as Tom Daley, Liam Tancock and Heather Fell often dedicate their success to these volunteers without whom they would not have progressed.

Nomination forms are available to complete online, or to download at www.activedevon.org/awards. Nominations have opened this week and will be available until 28th February 2010. Active Devon are hoping the increase in sports participation and success of Devon athletes recently will secure a good cross section of nominations, *as the awards are there to celebrate the people behind the people who make athletes successful*. There are nine categories to nominate against plus a special Outstanding Contribution Award and the nomination process is quick and easy. Full details of the awards can be found by visiting www.activedevon.org/awards.

James Bogue, Event Co-ordinator at Active Devon said “We’ve shaken things up a bit this year with a change in date and venue. This annual event celebrates the tireless work of thousands of volunteers in sport across Devon. The fact we settled on 1st April 2010 at Paignton Zoo was sheer co-incidence and has been cause for many an April Fool related joke! We are hoping that clubs and sports organisations nominate en masse to recognise their valued workforce.”

Helen Pope, Marketing Manager for Active Devon added “We are so excited to secure Paignton Zoo as the venue for this year’s ceremony. How many people can say they accepted their award within walking distance of flamingos and to the sound of roaring lions?”

This year’s event will again be presented by former ITV Westcountry Sports Presenter and Active Devon Board Member Mark Tyler.

Last year over 100 nominations were shortlisted to 30 finalists, all invited to the evening ceremony. Dennis Walls, a canoeing coach in Exeter, stole the show receiving the Services to Sport as a Volunteer award as well as taking home the overall winners prize for Outstanding Services to Sport in Devon.

Dennis said” Winning two categories came as such a great shock. My thanks go to Active Devon for their appreciation of some of the work I have been involved with during my time with the Canoe Club and for organising such a splendid presentation evening. I urge members of clubs throughout Devon to put forward their own dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Active Devon has also encouraged businesses to get involved in the awards through various partnership opportunities including sponsorship and corporate entertaining. They would be pleased to have an informal discussion with companies wanting to find out more.

To nominate a colleague, club member, coach or official please visit www.activedevon.org to complete an online nomination form or to print a copy. For any queries please contact the Active Devon Office on 01392 263674 or email active@devon.gov.uk