



VOLUNTEER



AWARDS 2015

AWARD WINNERS 2014

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Winner Brighton TTC

Runner Up Waterside TTC

YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Winner Shyam Bavalia

ADULT COACH OF THE YEAR

Winner Rachel Kashi

Runner Up Philip Walker

EQUALITY AWARD

Winner Jayantilal Ganatra

YOUNG COACH OF THE YEAR

Winner Nicholas Li

Runner Up Himanshu Ganatra

UNSUNG HERO OF THE YEAR

Winner Leonard Hoffman BEM

Runner Up John Fox

ADULT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Winner Colin French

Runner Up John Quinn

CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

Winner – Brighton Table Tennis Club



Brighton TTC is the driving force behind table tennis in Brighton and Hove. They play a key role in most if not all major table tennis initiatives taking place in the city. They are a community focused club and that is reflected in the sessions they run and their diverse membership. Their contribution to community sport in Brighton was recognised in the city's TAKEAPART awards where they were crowned Club of the Year 2014.

During the past year they have delivered the following:

In2Sport – using table tennis to engage with people on probation in a healthy activity within a safe and social environment giving them the skills to play a positive role in their community.

Grace Ayre – county disability project with table tennis as a key sport to engage participants in club sessions.

Over 50's – starting with weekly over 50s sessions volunteers from the session have gone on to form their own club.

Ping! – the club took over the lead role in running the project when the council were prevented by budget cuts. Club coaches delivered many of the events during the 2 months it ran during the summer.

Satellite Clubs - the club runs 3 satellite clubs at secondary schools

Social Sessions - recognising that for some the traditional table tennis club is not their preferred route this session one night a week is open to all to play with no competitions or coaching.

Coaches – 7 members attended a UKCC Level 1 course and all qualified.

Runner Up – Waterside Table Tennis Club



The club deliver a whole range of offers for social players right the way through to the elite level. This has created a need for more sessions so the club is open 6 days a week with a varied programme. They also host competitions and events including training camps covering the South of England.

The club has strong links with the local authority, county sports partnership, university, schools and colleges and also through the football club they are involved with PL4S.

2 coaches from the club are working almost full time on all the initiatives. They are an Ability club and hosted a one star disability event this year. Using St Anne's school the club deliver girls only sessions through a satellite club. They are involved with the PingPong Care Campaign.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Winner Young Volunteer 2014 – Shyam Bavalia



Shyam is 17 years of age and has just finished his GCSEs. He has been a very active player and volunteer of Wellingborough and District Hindu Association TTC (WDHA) for over 6 years. Helping out with the coaching for younger players, and setting up and packing up the tables every Saturday session.

He has also attended First Aid training and helps

with any needs during the sessions especially with the children. He also assists the other coaches in the club with one session every Saturday. For two years he was part of the Development Squad which was tailored by the club for the advanced players to coach the younger/beginner players.

His ability to introduce the fun element to all the sessions where he is involved makes sure that everyone has an enjoyable experience when they are at WDHA.

Winner Adult Volunteer 2014 – Colin French



Colin is co-founder member of Waterside TTC which started in 1999. Taking on the role of Chair and Development Officer he has enabled the club to move to new premises (twice) in order to cope with the continued increase in membership and playing opportunities. He oversaw the £250,000 move to Testwood 6 years ago to provide a venue with 20 practice tables and facilities of a national standard.

During the past 12 months Colin has taken on even more projects and the club is now open 4 nights a week as well as running weekend events. He is usually there 3 or 4 nights a week as well as playing in the league and helping with the Friday coaching and supporting weekend events.

PL4S SOUTHAMPTON AREA AND SOUTHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOLS – this is the second year of his involvement with the PL4S programme and he has worked at the Saints Foundation to provide weekly coaching in 5 Southampton Secondary Schools as well as establish a Secondary Academy for these players to progress to. Quite a few players have made the transition to joining our club and this season are playing in the National Cadet League and the local STTA league. Colin is also making progress with bringing table tennis to Southampton Primary Schools as before this year there has been no entry into competitions. Meetings with Solent University have found funding for 2 primary Festivals and 6 more coaching/competitive sessions that now involve 6 schools with Colin's support.

NEW FOREST PRIMARY SCHOOLS PROJECT – Colin has worked closely with the New Forest SDO and SGO to enable Waterside coaches to deliver 6 weeks after school sessions to the Primary Schools. This has happened in 4 schools so far, another 3 in progress with more planned. In addition to this a weekly Primary Academy session takes place at Testwood where the pupils from the schools that have had the coaching attend. Some of these players have made the transition to coming to regular club coaching sessions.

SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS – in his role as Chair and Match Secretary of Southampton Schools Association Colin organises the Soton Under 13 and Under 16 leagues. In each league 8 schools come to Testwood on Fridays after school to play their 2 matches over 16 tables. He also organises individual and team competitions for

Southampton Under 13s and under 16s as well as New Forest U11's, U13's and U16's.

He is also Chair and Secretary of Hampshire Schools TTA and as well as attending county meetings, being involved with Southampton and Hampshire Awards ceremonies, he organises the Hants U11, U13 and U16 Individual and Team Tournaments.

OVER 65 AND OVER 75 PING PONGERS – following a number of meetings last October Colin was asked to organise an event for the over 65's and over 75's. He had been involved with setting up coaching groups in the area often using village halls or community centres. On the day almost a 100 people attended the event and somehow Colin managed to make it work.

In addition to all of this he organises the NCL for the club, is working on strategies to recruit more volunteers to the club and is supporting the Southampton and New Forest TT Development Group.

Colin retired a few years ago and like many volunteers wonders how he had the time to go to work!!

Runner Up Adult Volunteer 2014 – John Quinn

John Quinn was nominated by his club who stated that they wanted to endorse a highly suitable individual from the club for this award. John has been part of the club for over 40 years and is acknowledged as being one of the most compassionate people club members have known always going out of his way to help others. John is always the first person at the club when it opens on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays putting up the tables.



He has not missed a club committee meeting in 40 years. John has been instrumental in raising £18,500 to help others and has brought 300 young players through the club's academy with many now playing in the top division of the league.

Not content with all of this he is responsible for restructuring the club's policies to make them fit for purpose. The fact that the club is flourishing is largely due to the amount of time John devotes to both the club and table tennis.

Winner Equality Award – Jayantilal Ganatra

Jay formed the WDHA TTC in 2003. He is a very keen and enthusiastic person who became concerned about the development of children and wanted to give something back to society. He, therefore, decided to form the club which has an ethos of working in partnership with parents to enable children and young people to

develop their skills and abilities in table tennis to fulfill and boost their overall potential. He has created the club to make children and players from all backgrounds, ethnicity and gender welcome and this is one of the strong points of the club today.

He started the club totally on a voluntary basis and devoted his time non-stop to progress the club. Jay was well supported by both his son Himanshu and the club committee.

Starting off with 3 tables and a handful of young people the club has grown from strength to strength. Jay has always encouraged everyone to contribute actively to the life of the club. He has also sought out sponsorship both locally and nationally which has all helped to grow the club to the largest in the county.

The club now has 20 tables, a training robot and over 230 registered players since it was established. He was also keen on getting girls to play and initiated a 'girls only' session at the club which attracts about 25 girls. In addition he is working with people with disabilities to play table tennis.

The setup of the club and its achievements to date is down to Jay. He has worked tirelessly to help children play in the league by transporting them to matches.

Last season the club entered 2 teams into the local league and this season it has grown to 4 teams with 2 unbeaten and one likely to win promotion for the second year running.

Children from the club are dominating the county schools and county closed competitions. Several players have gone on to be selected to represent the county. In addition to his son Jay has identified 5 players at the club who want to go on to do their coaching awards.

Jay likes to concentrate on developing the whole person to prepare them for their future. There is a good discipline at the club and all the children are expected to provide voluntary services to the community (not just those from the Hindu Centre) in serving food, cleaning halls etc. He encourages them to take part in an annual charity walk to raise funds for the club but also in addition to raise funds for local charities e.g. Cancer Research, Air Ambulance and Cleft Surgery.

COACHES OF THE YEAR

Winner Adult Coach 2014 – Rachel Kashi



Rachel is an extremely talented table tennis coach and Greenhouse are delighted that she spends a whole day with the Raines Foundation Table Tennis programme each week. She

became involved through Maria Ingles who had mentored Rachel in other coaching roles and she has not looked back!

Rachel volunteers her time to the programme every Wednesday from 9am to 5pm and in that time she makes a huge difference. She is such a motivated individual and one of Greenhouse's hardest working volunteers. She is always reliable and strives to get the best coaching sessions possible.

All the young people enjoy her sessions. By successfully engaging with them she not only improves their table tennis skills and techniques she also has the opportunity to mentor them. This is where Rachel's reliability, week in week out, is so effective as the young people can always look forward to their sessions with her.

Greenhouse know they are extremely lucky to have Rachel as part of their coaching team for the last 7 months and recognise her outstanding dedication and commitment to volunteering.

Runner Up Adult Coach 2014 – Philip Walker

Greenhouse Sports really values the ongoing support the Philip provides each and every week since joining as a volunteer in January 2014. He is involved with the Raines Foundation TT programme and associated community club. He coaches the young people during session time, after school and holiday camps and assists with the mentoring of them both on and off the table. Part of the ethos of Greenhouse is to develop the whole person and Philip excels at this building good strong relationships with all of the young people he coaches.



In 2014 Greenhouse launched the STEP programme (social, thinking, emotional and physical skills) Philip was an integral part of the launch at Earls Court helping with the set up and the launch itself. Over 100 young people took part in the event. Philip has also shown commitment to his own development attending all Greenhouse training courses and also is in the process of completing his UKCC Level 2 award.

In the year he has been with Greenhouse Philip has become a well respected member of the team and the organisation recognise that without the dedication and commitment of people like Philip Greenhouse Sports would not be the success it is.

Winner Young Coach 2014 – Nicholas Li



Nicholas although still only 18 started his coaching 2 years ago at his school, having a maturity beyond his years, before moving to the Hillingdon TTC where he has gone on to take his UKCC Levels 1 and 2.

The club has a number of after school clubs operating in the borough and Nicholas has been taking 2 of these whilst still studying.

Since September 2014 the club membership has grown by 90% with the sports hall full on both club nights and a major reason for this has been Nicholas taking on a lot of the coaching plus being an excellent role model and a very good junior player in his own right.

In September 2015 he is looking to become a self employed coach working in all the schools in the borough.

Runner Up Young Coach 2014 – Himanshu Ganatra

Himanshu has been playing table tennis since he was 10 years old supported by his father. When he was 17 he became a UKCC Level 1 coach and now aged 22 he has achieved his Level 2.

He is a very good player and enjoys passing on his skills to others. With his friendly nature he has encouraged many children to play and he is the best role model.

His coaching skills have become invaluable at his club and he has developed other players who now play in the league with the result that the 'A' team being promoted from Division 3 to Division 2 and the 'B' team winning the Challenge Cup. With his encouragement more young players want to play in the league so the club have been able to put 4 teams into the local league and, to date, 2 have remained unbeaten.

SPECIAL AWARD



Unsung Hero 2014 Winner – Leonard Hoffman BEM

Len's coaching career began in 1948 after leaving the RAF. He was responsible for identifying and promoting many future international table tennis players including Skylet Andrew and Stuart Gibbs. Len was also involved in the coaching of future notables in the world of soccer, with such names as Frank Lampard Snr, Harry Rednapp and Chris Hughton all going on to greater success thanks to Len's encouragement.

Now in his 91st year he is still a regular helper at Mossford's Premier Club's weekly junior sessions, organising tournaments and fun games for the young people which is much appreciated by the coaches. He provides the prizes and refuses any reimbursement.

He is an example to anyone in any sport with his lifetime having been devoted to helping young people achieve their potential.

Len has now coached and helped continuously at various London clubs for 67 years a record that is not likely to be surpassed any time soon.



Unsung Hero 2014 Runner Up – John Fox

Since Waterside TTC's formation in 1999 John has been one of the driving forces to keep the club moving forward. It is no coincidence that the club's phone number is John's number, because he is always there ready to deal with any problems and greet new members. Whilst the rest of us are often off somewhere the club stays open all year round, weekdays, weekends and holidays because he is there to open and lock up. When the new extension was built it was suggested that a bed be put in there for John to save him having to go home!

As match secretary John deals with all the bookings and works closely with the Testwood Community Officer to work with the table tennis calendar to fit in all the weekend events. He organises county and inter county cadet, junior, senior and veteran events as well as one star tournaments and British League.

He looks after 18 teams in the local league and organises the club's annual summer league of 3 divisions. He orders the equipment and clothing and keeps the kitchen well stocked.

John works tirelessly on everything that he can do to make the club a better place. If he were not there weekend events would simply not happen.

He is the club's Unsung Hero and lives and breathes table tennis and we wouldn't be without him!