



**Trafford Community
Leisure Trust**

Press Release

Sport Trafford recognises its sporting champions

Trafford Sports Awards 2008!

The evening of Thursday the 19th of February saw the 8th annual Trafford Sports Awards, a fantastic evening of recognition for sporting athletes, clubs and volunteers from across the whole of the Trafford Brough.

The evening, hosted for the first time by Trafford Community Leisure Trust's newly named Sport Trafford, formally Trafford Sport Development was led by Club Development Officer Jenny Burton and supported by GB Judo Coach Steve Pullen MBE and Paralympic Athlete Graeme Ballard who presented the awards.

Amongst the many awards presented Trafford Community Leisure Trust continued its annual Roll Of Honour induction by adding,

<u>Name</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Sport</u>
Stephen Ravenscroft	World Masters	Judo

<<Photo Attached>>

Steve is a very experienced Judo Player and Coach and has been a member of Urmston Judo Club for more than 30 years. Steve has been British Champion on five occasions in the past and last year won a Bronze Medal in the 2008 World Masters Judo Championships which were held in Brussels, Belgium. As well as competing, Steve is an excellent Coach and was Assistant Coach to the Great Britain Judo Team at both the Sydney and Athens Paralympics. Steve is a full-time PE Teachers at a Special Needs School and is considered a valuable asset to the Judo world.

Adam Jenkinson

British and World

Superbikes

A first for the Trust!! Superbikes!! Adam is a regular user of Sale Leisure Centre, using the Gym to train when he is not racing all over the UK or World. Last year Adam earned a place in the SMT Honda Racing Team to compete in the British Superbikes Championship. Unfortunately Adam is unavailable to be with us tonight so we will get his award delivered to him

David Barnes

British Champion

Boxing

Another first and another user of Sale Leisure Centre! David won the vacant British Light Welterweight title at one of the Trust's own Leisure Centres - George H Carnal in March earlier this year and later retained the title in another title bout at Everton Sports Centre. David was previously British Welterweight Champion and has a fight record of 26 fights, 24 wins(11 KO)1 loss and 1 draw, with the loss and the draw coming in World and Commonwealth title fights.

Darren Vernon

British Champion

Body Building

<<PHOTO ATTACHED>>

Yet another first – Bodybuilding. 30 year old Darren is a member of Sale Weight Training Club, based at Walton Park Sports Centre. In 2008 Darren claimed the overall Men's title as well as the Middleweight title, at the British Bodybuilding Championships held in Glasgow. He backed this up by travelling all the way to Washington DC where he was crowned the International Fitness and Physique Association men's International Champion. This year Darren is hoping to use last year's successes as a springboard to competing in the Mr Universe Championships.

Rachel Barton

British Champion

Masters Swimming

Rachel had a fantastic 2008 setting World records for 50metres backstroke and 50 metres freestyle, as well as setting a British Record for the 100m backstroke. Rachel was also a member of the Trafford Mets Ladies Swimming Team that set a European record in the relay and a member of the Trafford Mets Mixed Team that also set a European record. Not surprisingly Rachel also picked up a bagful of gold medals at the British

Championships. Unfortunately Rachel is not able to be with us tonight but our final winner is a training partner of hers and will be able to pass on the award.

Jill Jones

British Champion

Masters Swimming

<<PHOTO ATTACHED>>

Last but not least is another Trafford Metro swimmer, Jill Jones. During the past couple of years Jill has broken British, European and World records at freestyle, individual medley and fly at distances ranging from 100m to 400metres. Jill is a current World Masters Champion and was also a member of the Trafford Mets Ladies and Mixed teams who set European records. Both Rachel and Jill train at Sale Leisure Centre

Bernie Jones Trafford Community Leisure Trust Chief Executive said

“All of tonight’s recipients and inductees on the “Roll of Honour Board” show the range of talent, dedication and commitment we have training and using facilities managed by the Trust in Trafford. We hope they inspire many more people to achieve International recognition”.

Trafford for the size of the borough has a huge number of sports clubs and part of the Sports Awards included acknowledgement of clubs achieving Clubmark, which is a national governing body standard that represents a sports clubs quality provision towards providing a safe effective and friendly club. The following clubs achieved this;

Brooklands Hockey Club
Hale Village Tennis Club
Hedges Family Karate
Heyes Grove Tennis Club
Manchester Mets Softball Club
Manchester Phoenix Junior Ice Hockey Club
Old Stretfordians AFC
Phoenix Tang Soo Do
Ski Club of Manchester
Trafford Rowing Club
Trafford Trampoline Club

Other awards and acknowledgements went to the Trafford Leadership Academy, a team of voluntary sport leaders who have delivered over 850 Hours of voluntary sport coaching raising the access and level of sport and physical activity in the borough. The final Part of the evening saw 6 main awards presented Sports Achiever of the Year, Disabled Sports Achiever of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Unsung Hero in Sport, Coach of the Year and Club of the Year

This years Trafford Sports Awards Sports Achiever of the Year 2008 is Jessica Fletcher

- As well as the Junior European and World Championship competitions she also placed in the 2008 British Championships and ASA National Age Groups.
- She has gained her synchro teachers qualification and is involved in teaching synchro to novices and juniors.
- As well as her own training and teaching role she has also organised a taster session at a local pool resulting in a significant uptake to the sport.
- Whilst training with the GB squad she spent months living away from home and on her return then travelled to Aldershot every weekend, all this whilst studying for her A Levels and working a part time job to help pay for training costs.
- Jessica Fletcher Trafford's Sports Achiever of the Year 2008.

The Trafford Sports Awards Disabled Sports Achiever of the Year 2008 is John Stubbs MBE

- John offers his experience and knowledge to his fellow club members at North Cheshire Bowmen and also works with promising juniors to help them progress and succeed in the sport.
- John's disability has never held him back and his next goal is to be selected for the GB able bodied archery team and of course London 2012.
- I am sure you will agree that his achievements in 2008 really do speak for themselves, John Stubbs Trafford's Disabled Sports Achiever of the Year for 2008.

The Trafford Sports Awards Volunteer of the Year 2008 is John Snape

- John's contribution to athletics, school sport and the borough is extremely significant and something that is clearly highlighted by the staggering number of 700 new young people taking part in the recent sports hall athletics competitions.
- He is a key member of the Trafford Athletics Development Group and constantly works for the benefit of others, a true Volunteer of the Year, John Snape.

the Trafford Sports Awards Unsung Hero in Sport 2008 is Glyn Roberts

- Glyn's contributions extend beyond Sale Sports Club as he is also the Vice President and Honorary Treasurer of the Manchester & District Cricket Association.
- In addition he is part of the Umpires panel of the Cheshire County Cricket League, placing him amongst an elite group that officiate top games in the league.
- Glyn is retiring from his role at Sale Sports Club this year so this is a very fitting time for his services to be recognised as the Trafford Unsung Hero in Sport for 2008, Glyn Roberts.

The Trafford Sports Awards Coach of the Year 2008 is Joanne Bean

- 2008 has seen Joanne establish new squads for the North West and North of England, gain unprecedented success at the British National Championships, coach swimmers into the GB Squad and be invited to attend international coaching conferences to further her own development.
- Her coaching methods are innovative, utilising the internet to monitor her athletes performance and feeding back to them via You Tube, which is extremely important for those that live many miles away.
- Joanne is instrumental in developing her sport in so many ways and this has been recognised by her NGB as she has recently been made Head Coach of the National Development Squad.
- Ladies and Gentleman Trafford's Coach of the Year for 2008.

And the Trafford Sports Awards Club of the Year 2008 is Stretford Cricket Club

- 2008 has seen the club continue to develop and be recognised for this by gaining Cricket Clubmark re accreditation, a significant achievement and no mean feat.
- The club is very progressive and even has overseas coaches bringing their experience and knowledge to the players. Suitable juniors are also encouraged to enrol on National Diploma courses in cricket ensuring that they not only develop as a player but as a person.
- The development ethos of the club is second to none and ensures that all members and the local community are extremely well catered for, a fact that has been recognised by the NGB on many occasions.
- Stretford Cricket Club, Trafford Club of the Year 2008.

Bernie Jones finishes by saying “we should be very proud of what the borough of Trafford achieves day in day out through Sport and physical activity. We are blessed to have some great sporting clubs, facilities and coaches that continually deliver great results not just in actual success but in the fantastic levels in overall participation. Its no coincidence that Trafford is the most active borough in Manchester, this fact is down to the hard work the sports clubs, leisure facilities, coaches and organisers do towards promoting physical activity”.

END

For more information and further correspondence please contact

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NOTES:

Guest Presenters

Graeme Ballard

- Graeme is 29 years old and despite not taking up running until he was 20 he has been to and medalled in European, World and Paralympic Games.
- He competes in the cerebral palsy T36 category and is a sprinter, primarily 100 & 200 metres and the occasional 400 thrown in for good measure.
- He is a member of Chorley Athletic Club and is coached by Paula Dunn.
- Athens 2004 was his Paralympic debut and he won a bronze medal in the 200 metres.
- He has also picked up a silver in the 2002 World Championships and a bronze in the 2006 event plus medals at two European Championships.
- An incorrectly diagnosed injury left him struggling at last years Paralympics in Beijing but as a senior athlete, who is also a qualified coach, Graeme shook off his disappointment to help his team mates get the best out of themselves.

Steve Pullen MBE

- Steve Pullen is a 6th Dan Black Belt in judo and has represented Great Britain as a participant, Coach or Team Manager since 1963.
- 2008 was the first year that he had not been involved in the Olympics or Paralympics since 1964.

- He has been National Coach or Team Manager at every Paralympic Games bar 2008.
- Steve was Head of PE at Cheetham's School of Music for nearly 30 years and as well as judo he has represented Great Britain at Wrestling and also had a spell as a stuntman for Granada TV.
- He was awarded the MBE in 1998 for his services to judo for disabled people.
- Steve has coached many athletes to International level with his squad regularly winning medals at International and World events.
- In 1983 he co founded Urmston Judo Club, is also a founder member of the Manchester Judo Society plus a Trustee of Trafford Community Leisure Trust.
- His reputation, passion and commitment to judo are recognised throughout the world.

Roll of Honour & Trafford Community Leisure Trust

Trafford Community Leisure Trust will celebrate its 6th birthday at the end of March 2009 and now manages 12 leisure facilities, which attracts over 2 million visits per annum. Four years ago the Trust launched its own Trafford Community Leisure Trust "Roll of Honour" to recognise sportsmen and sportswomen who use facilities managed by the Trust, who have achieved International recognition i.e. have represented their Country or won international events, in their chosen sport. The "Roll of Honour" is not restricted purely to athletes but also includes Coaches and Team Managers who equally represent Trafford when coaching or managing International Teams.

The "Roll of Honour" board is located in Stretford Leisure Centre, the registered address for the Trust and is similar in format to the Honours Board used by Golf Clubs. Since the "Roll of Honour" Board was launched four years ago, twenty-five athletes and coaches have been inducted.

Each of the new inductees on the "Roll of Honour" receives a glass memento and an Elite Athlete Pass, which will allow him or her access to many training facilities within Trafford and obviously their name, will be included on the "Roll of Honour" Board at Stretford.