

## Trafford Success at Glittering Sports Awards Event

The Midland Hotel played host to the annual Greater Manchester Sports Awards on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

The glittering event saw the six winners of the Trafford Sports Awards contest their categories against winners from the other nine boroughs of Greater Manchester.

Trafford were victorious with Joanne Bean being crowned the Greater Manchester Coach of the Year for 2008.

Her fantastic achievement tops a wonderful year for the Synchronised Swimming Coach who coached her club Trafford Synchronised Swimming Club to victory in the Senior British National Championships in December.

Joanne spends 30 hours a week coaching as well as having a full time job and a young family. Since her club has been crowned British National Champions, something that no club outside the South has achieved before, Joanne has become the Head Coach of the National Development Squad.

Her innovative coaching approach and commitment is second to none with swimmers from all over the country travelling miles to take part in her sessions. She is regularly invited to attend International conferences and events and has established the North of England and North West Development and Competitive Squads.

On being crowned the Greater Manchester Coach of the Year Joanne said,

“Being named Greater Manchester Coach of the Year is absolutely fantastic. I am lucky to be part of Trafford Synchronised Swimming Club, and coach an incredibly dedicated and passionate team, who always do me proud. My family is absolutely brilliant, and support my love of sport every step of the way. They know that being a coach is such a big part of my life, and understand why I put in the hours that I do. Bringing young members into the club and watching them enjoy and love learning is just as rewarding as seeing our seniors win national finals, which makes what I do so fantastic. I can't imagine life without it, and winning tonight means the world to me.”

Daniel Newall, Sport Trafford's Sport Development Manager said, “It is excellent to be able to recognise the hard work and dedication of sports personnel in Trafford at the Trafford Sports Awards and for them to then go on and be recognised on a County level is fantastic. Our six borough representatives have done us proud and I am so pleased that Joanne's efforts have been awarded as the Coach of the Year.”

The other Trafford representatives were John Snape in the Volunteer of the Year category, Jessica Fletcher in the Sports Achiever of the Year category, John Stubbs MBE in the Disabled Sports Achiever of the Year category, Glyn Roberts in the Unsung Hero category and Stretford Cricket Club in the Club of the Year category.