



ANGUS SPORTS AWARDS 2009

presented by Angus Sports Council

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ANGUS SPORTS AWARDS WINNERS

The sporting stars of Angus were in the spotlight for the 14th annual Angus Sports Awards ceremony last night. The Angus Sports Awards 2009 ceremony took place at the Reid Hall, Forfar and again highlighted the sporting talent and achievement that exists in Angus.

Angus Sports Council and Angus Council Sports Development Team again took the opportunity to honour the commitment, achievements and dedication of individuals and teams involved in sport across Angus. Angus Ahead, the area marketing campaign set up to fly the flag for the county at home and abroad, supported the Angus Sports Awards 2009 ceremony.

Louise Helyer of Modern Pentathlon was named Angus Sports Personality of the Year. Louise is a current member of the UK Sport World Class Podium Programme which supports athletes with realistic medal capabilities at the next Olympic Games. Louise is ranked 3rd in Great Britain for modern pentathlon and was a silver medallist in the Hungarian World Cup relay in 2009. Her achievements also included finishing 1st in the Swiss Open International and 2nd in the British Senior Championships. Louise hopes to compete in the London 2012 Olympics after being short listed for the Beijing Games. Fencing is not her first sport but Louise is currently ranked 2nd in Scotland in the women's Epee and is hoping to compete at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Other short listed finalists were cricketer, Calvin Burnett and previous award winner Simon Needham (Archery).

Athlete Michael Downie was named Young Sports Personality of the Year after being selected for the Scottish Athletics Combined Events Team to compete in the Decathlon event as their under 17 male athlete in 2009. Michael has had an outstanding year including first place finishes at several decathlon and pentathlon events on international, national and regional levels. Michael finished 2009 ranked number 1 in the UK at Under 17 level for Decathlon and Octathlon. Michael is the current Arbroath and District Athletics Club Male champion and due to Michael's athletic achievements he was also named Angus Athlete of the Year by the Athletics Tayside Partnership. Over and above Michael's involvement at high profile athletics events he was chosen to be the Carnoustie Young Citizen of the Year. This category attracted an amazing 21 nominations this year which highlights the depth of the county's young sporting talent and the 4 other short listed finalists were Aaron

Towns (Karate), Joe Lipworth (Swimming), Peter Stewart (Swimming) and previous winner Hannah Stewart (Archery).

The 5-a-side A Team of Tayside Special Olympics has gone from strength to strength since their formation in 2007 and were crowned Team of the Year. They competed at the Scottish Disability Sport 5-a-side championships where they achieved the Silver medal in the B band division. The team's highest accolade of 2009 was when they competed at the Special Olympics National Summer Games and returned home as division 1 bronze medallists. This was the highest ability banding where they played against regions from all over the UK. After returning from Leicester the team competed in the Scottish Disability Sport 7-a-side championships. This was the first time the team had played 7-a-side football and they achieved the silver medal in the A band division. Within the team of 10 players, 8 are from Angus and 2 Angus players have been nominated to trial for the Great Britain World Games 2011 team. The other short listed teams were Arbroath High School Senior Boys Basketball Team and the Angus Section of Tayside Special Olympics.

The Coach of the Year award went to Colin Christie of Montrose & District Athletics Club who has coached numerous high level athletes for around 25 years. 2009 saw one of Colin's athletes ranked number 1 in Scotland at shot putt, discus and hammer. 2 of Colin's athletes competed for Scotland at the Schools International in Antrim, Northern Ireland last year. Colin has another athlete ranked the UK number 1 at under 20 pole vault and he hopes to produce future Scottish champions and Commonwealth Games athletes. Colin is fully dedicated and committed to athletics and Montrose & District Athletics Club. This category attracted very high quality nominees and the other short listed finalists were Lana Needham (Archery) and Marion Durham (Swimming).

Peter Mudie of Tayside Special Olympics won the Sports Personality of the Year for People with a Disability award. Peter has competed nationally at the last 3 Special Olympics national games and he has medalled at all these games. Peter won Gold, Silver and Bronze medals at the National Summer Games in Leicester 2009 in his athletics events. Sadly after returning from the Leicester games Peter passed away suddenly. Peter was a true gentleman and all round sportsman which was reflected in the fact, as well as his athletics, he had skied for Great Britain at the European Games in 2004. Peter was fully dedicated to his training and achieving the best possible results he could at local, regional, national or international Special Olympics events in which he competed. The other short listed nominees were Erin Goldstraw (Swimming) and Martin Cassidy (Ten Pin Bowling).

Service to Sport award winner Elinor Phillips of Tayside Special Olympics has coached 5 days a week since 1982 and fulfilled coaching roles with Tayside Special Olympics since 2001. Elinor has seen her riders selected for National and World Games and these riders selected for Special Olympics have all returned with medals. Most recently, Elinor's riders have returned from the National Summer Games in Leicester 2009 with 3 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze medal. Elinor started as a helper at Angus RDA in 1982 and has now progressed to managing Angus RDA. Her hard work and dedication is second to none and from paperwork to coaching and from mucking out to sourcing horses for riders Elinor has done it all!!! The selection panel found this to be a very difficult decision and the other short listed nominees were Eddie Wilmott (Swimming) and Charlie Lewis (Football).

The ceremony was hosted by Radio Tay and included a new addition in partnership with McDonald's Restaurants Ltd. of GB Olympic swimmer Robbie Renwick as guest speaker. Angus Sports Council Secretary Colin Knight said "Angus Sports Council and Angus Council Sports Development Team are delighted to be recognising and rewarding all those involved in sport across Angus. All of the award nominees and eventual winners are proactively representing Angus and we are delighted to be highlighting the positive features that sport and physical activity can bring to Angus. We would like to thank all those who made nominations for the awards and Angus Ahead who helped us stage this fantastic event."

Angus Sports Council and Angus Council Sports Development Team would also like to thank Angus Council, Liz McColgan Health Club & Physiotherapy Centre, SportTayside & Fife, Angus Disability Sport, Merpro Ltd, Angus College, Radio Tay – Cash For Kids and McDonald's Restaurants Ltd who all sponsored different award categories. Other event sponsors included Lang's of St Leonard's, Sweatshop, Strathmore Foods and Strathmore Mineral Water Company