

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

17 March 2007

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts**

Part 1- Public

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken
by the Cabinet Member)**

1 2008 COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

Summary

This report considers nominations for the 2008 Coach of the Year Award and recommends the award be made to Steve Farr for his achievements in the development of rugby within the Borough. The report also brings forward a recommendation from the award panel to award a Lifetime Achievement Award to athletics coach Mike Rowbottom and a special commendation to 17 year old football coach, Joshua Sloane.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware that this Borough has an excellent structure of sports clubs and colleges, which give a high priority to developing sporting talent. Tonbridge & Malling is one of only a small number of local authorities with two Sports Colleges – The Hayesbrook School in Tonbridge and Aylesford School in the north of the Borough. The success of sport in the Borough is assisted by a number of highly dedicated and committed coaches, who give up much of their spare time voluntarily for others.

1.1.2 At the 10 January 2005 meeting of this Board (Decision 050110 CAB009), Members may recall that a Lifetime Achievement Award for athletics coaching was awarded to the late Dave Arnold, and it was agreed that in future a Coach of the Year Award be established and nominations be considered by this Board. A number of criteria for judging nominations were approved by Members and it was agreed that an award panel, including the Chairman of Tonbridge Sports Association, the Council's Sports Development Officer, a sports coach and the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth & Arts should consider the nominations received and make its recommendations to this Board.

1.2 Nominations Received

- 1.2.1 Between November 2007 and January 2008 nomination forms were sent to sports clubs, schools, FANS members and last year's sports revenue grant recipients.
- 1.2.2 Early in the New Year, the award was marketed in the local media and in 'Here & Now'. Details of the award were also posted on the Council's website, together with a nomination form that could be downloaded. A copy of the nomination form is attached at **[Annex 1]**.
- 1.2.3 Nine nominations were received and the award panel met on 7 February to consider the 2008 award winner.

1.3 2008 Coach of the Year

- 1.3.1 Following detailed consideration of the nominations received, the Panel concluded unanimously that the 2008 Coach of the Year should be awarded to Steve Farr.
- 1.3.2 Steve Farr is a rugby coach for Tonbridge Juddians Rugby Club and it was his efforts in not only coaching the players, but also his role in coach development, officiating and club development that helped him stand out as a worthy winner of the award this year. His coaching skills have benefitted senior players, female players and juniors of all abilities over the years, although at the moment he is concentrating on coaching the women's and the mini and junior section. Steve is now retired and uses his extra time to do even more for the Club.
- 1.3.3 Due to the quality of the nominations, the Panel felt that a Lifetime Achievement Award should be made to Mike Rowbottom of Tonbridge Athletics Club and a special commendation to Joshua Sloane of Larkfield Youth Disabled Football Club.
- 1.3.4 Mike Rowbottom has been involved in the sport of athletics for almost sixty years, initially as an athlete himself, but later and for almost fifty years, as a coach at Tonbridge Athletics Club. Mike has coached athletes of all abilities, from beginners to elite performers. His reputation as a coach and his dedication to athletes and the Club is well known around the country.
- 1.3.5 Joshua Sloane is only 17 years of age, but has already been coaching football for four years to young footballers with special needs. With a Level 1 coaching qualification already under his belt he is now working towards obtaining his Level 2 coaching certificate. Despite his age Joshua takes his role as a coach very seriously, taking his team to tournaments, representing the Club at County Football Association meetings and seeking sponsorship where he can.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 None.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 It is the intention for the Mayor to make the awards at the Sports and Arts Revenue Grant presentation evening later in the year (see separate report in these papers).

1.5.2 The engraved glass trophies awarded for Coach of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award cost approximately £100 each, and a specially printed certificate for the special commendation can be produced in-house from the existing Sports Development budget.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 None.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Community, Young People

1.8 Recommendations

1.8.1 Subject to Member comment at the meeting it is **RECOMMENDED** that:

- 1) the 2008 Coach of the Year Award be made to Steve Farr for his achievements in the development of rugby union;
- 2) a Lifetime Achievement Award for coaching be made to Mike Rowbottom for his contribution to the development of athletics;
- 3) a Special Commendation be made to Joshua Sloane for his contribution to the development of junior football; and
- 4) the awards be presented at the Sports and Arts Revenue Grants presentation evening.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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File SD.18

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