

The sixth annual volunteer recognition awards took place on October 27th at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham. The dinner provided an opportunity to recognise all the hard work by the many thousands of Paddlesport volunteers across the country that have made it possible for so many people to participate in our sport, making it the most popular watersport in the UK. There was an extra buzz surrounding the event when the 160 guests were treated to a special surprise with Olympic heroes Etienne Stott, David Florence and Liam Heath in attendance. The three Olympic medallists were also joined by Paracanoe champions Jeanette Chippington and Patrick Mahoney who managed to make the night even more special.



Canoe Foundation Young Volunteer of the Year – presented by Albert Woods OBE and Liam Heath

Matthew Bishop (Herts Young Mariners): Matthew is always on hand to support events run by Herts Young Mariners. He has volunteered at the club's Go Canoeing sessions, supporting staff running the event and his work over the past four years has ensured he has achieved the Canoe England Volunteering certificate.

Runners up: Mark Flynn (Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre) & Sophie Witherford (Wychavon Kayak and Canoe Club)



Canoe Foundation Impact on Disability Canoeing – presented by Albert Woods OBE and Liam Heath

William (Bill) Weir (Banbury & District Canoe Club): Volunteering over 10 hours a week, Bill works with daughter Frances who competes in Division 9 K2 and Paddle-Ability, as well as with single arm amputee Scott Sullivan. Bill has also designed and built a specially adapted kayak for Scott in which to race with. He also provides annual coaching session for a special school in Banbury where he coaches children with multiple disabilities.

Runners up: Martin Davies (Herts Young Marines Base) & Jim Rossiter (Wey Kayak Club)



Ruth Holdway Community Volunteer of the Year – presented by Robert Holdway and Liam Heath

Simon Hensley (West Midlands): Simon is a Neighbourhood Police Sergeant who has utilised an under-used lake in a deprived inner city area of the West Midlands. He has used paddlesports as a way to improve the health and well being of residents. He has secured access, arranged a community day with over 250 attendees, set up charity status and secured 23 boats encouraging 700 people to take to the water so far.

Runners up: Ken Martin (Coquet Canoe Club) & Andrew Keegan (Redbridge)



Paddlepower Award – presented by Pat Mahoney and Jeanette Chippington

Karl O’Keefe (Brighton & Hove Sea Cadets): Karl spends at least 6 hours per week volunteering with young people, many of which come from deprived backgrounds. He has led sea cadet regattas, and taken an active role in the Southern Area Spring and Summer courses. He is the key deliverer of fundamental introductory level courses where Paddlepower is used as the learning pathway.

Runners up: Sharman Jones (Kool Kayakers Club) & Clare Westall (Adventure Dolphin)



Performance Coach of the Year – presented by Pat Mahoney and Jeanette Chippington

Dennis Newton Junior (Yorkshire): Coach to World Champion Claire O’Hara, Dennis is a BCU level 5 coach and also coaches the Swedish Freestyle team. He supports the BCU Yorkshire Region by tutoring level 1 coach courses and has undertaken coaching on Yorkshire Region skill weekends.

Runners up: Tibor Herbent (Royal Lemington Spa CC) & David Howie (Basingstoke Canal CC)



Waterways and Environment Volunteer – presented by Pat Mahoney and Jeanette Chippington

Jamie Austen (Kent). PDO Chris Edge received the award on behalf of Jamie: Jamie spearheaded a cleanup campaign to improve the access and egress of the River Medway. His campaign saw 120 paddlers clean up 18 miles of river. He gained support in this from a range of partners including a company which offered a prize for the most unusual piece of rubbish.

Runners up: David Surman (Southern Region) & Craig Schofield (Cumbria)



Coach of the Year (sponsored by Perkins Slade Insurance) – presented by Richard Doubleday (of Perkins Slade) and David Florence

Irene Hills (Banbury & District Canoe Club): Irene works with the juniors, improver, and transition groups at Banbury and District Canoe Club. Her junior paddlers regularly win medals at national championships and there are six junior international paddlers.

Runners up: Daniel Gusterson (Adur Canoe Club) & Adam Hall (Wychavon Kayak and Canoe Club)



Education Award – presented by David Florence

Adam Williams (City College Norfolk): Adam is the driving force behind the outdoor education department at City College. He is particularly skilled at sourcing alternative funding for projects and has acquired 2 Yurts to expand resources for classrooms and stores for equipment. Many sports professionals in Norwich have Adam to thank for their training and development.

Runners up: Tom Keogh (Southampton University) & Dave Bullock (Somerset Sport Partnership)



Event Volunteer – presented by David Florence

Alan Adams (Central). PDO Ben Seal received the award on behalf of Alan: Alan was nominated for his work on the annual Nene White Water Slalom event. He supervises entries including the development of software for on-line forms and manages the volunteers for the event itself. He undertakes setting up timing gear, communications, computers, course design, and gate erection.

Runners up: Martin Gammage (South) & Rob Evered (Globe 360)



Club of the Year (sponsored by Towergate Insurance) – presented by Nigel Mills (of Towergate Insurance) and Etienne Stott

Tandridge Canoe Club: A Top Club Gold Club, Tandridge offers a broad range of activities and training programmes to develop skills and participation plus fitness, refereeing, first aid, and life skills. Opportunities are offered to schools to train pupils for their Duke of Edinburgh Award and university volunteer placements are often retained as coaches.

Runners up: Addlestone Canoe Club & Shropshire Paddlesport Club



Centre of the Year – presented by Etienne Stott

Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre: The centre supports Leicester City Council in all aspects of river management and cleaning and runs water based sessions highlighting environmental issues. Schools work involves an LOPC Duke of Edinburgh Award group and reduced rates sessions while the Innovative 'Closing the Gap' project delivers outdoor adventurous activities to increase attainment in literacy and numeracy. Funding has been obtained to deliver outdoor Learning Card courses to local primary school teachers.

Runners up: Adventure Sunderland Marine Activity Centre & Westminster Boating Base



Outstanding Contribution – presented by Etienne Stott and David Gent

John Dean (Tyne Valley Canoe Club): John's work for the past 13 years has seen his involvement as a committee member, coach, event organiser, and fundraiser. He leads around 16 river trips annually, as well as organising club trips and summer activities. He has supported other club coaches to achieve their qualifications and has successfully applied for £10,000 of Sport England funding as well as supporting many other successful bids for coaching and participation related projects.



Outstanding Contribution – presented by Etienne Stott and David Gent

Anne Hounslow (East Midlands): Anne began her volunteering career as part of the English timing team, providing help and support at events across the country. After 5 years she joined the BCU Slalom Committee where she took over the chair – a role which she has undertaken for the past seven years. Working an average of 10 hours per week, she is an essential contributor to organising and planning a range of major national and international events.



Outstanding Contribution – presented by Etienne Stott and David Gent

Jane Evans (Exeter Canoe Club): Jane has worked her way through paddling, and coaching awards and as she took an interest in club matters, took on the role of club secretary. She has taken the club through Clubmark; adopting policies and procedures within this, produces a regular newsletter, and has established a coach education programme. She is also treasurer of the Exe Watersports Association and is responsible for several successful grant applications.

Outstanding contribution winners unable to receive their award were **Andy Oughton** from Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre and **Mark Campbell** from Longridge Activity Centre.

Runners up for the Outstanding Contribution: Diane Bates (Elmbridge Canoe Club), Diana Fisher (Hastings Canoe Club), David Deacon (Addlestone Canoe Club), Derek Cox (Midland Canoe Club), Malcolm Clark (Adventure Dolphin), Tibor Herbent (Royal Leamington Spa) and John May (Truro Canoe Club)