



## HASSRA YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER AWARD WINNERS 2008

### Best Publication – HASSRA Leeds Newsletter



Pictured is Jackie Tolan of the HASSRA Leeds Communications Committee with John Harrison (HASSRA Y&H Life Vice –President).

This trophy is awarded for the best publication produced by a HASSRA club.

The winning publication gave its members a good balance of sporting and non-sporting features and articles. It attracted contributions from members and a balance of retrospective and forward looking features.

The Awards Committee were especially impressed by the end of year magazine review of this particularly club.

The majority of the magazine is also available to view on the Clubs Website thereby widening the communications of the club.

The Best for 2008 is the **HASSRA Leeds Newsletter**.

### Best Sportsman & Woman

Every year, the best sportsman and best sportswoman awards highlight significant achievements by individual members in their chosen fields.

#### Sportswoman – Natalie Rhodes

This member has been nominated for her outstanding achievement in a number of sports including Football, Rugby, Rounders and Cricket



Pictured with Natalie (right) is Pat Ferguson, Chair of HASSRA Y&H (left) and Len Riley (HASSRA Y&H Life Vice-President).

She was a key player in the Regional Rounders Team that won the National Finals last year. She also was on the winning team at the Regional Finals as well.

She represented the Region at the HASSRA Indoor Cricket 6's when the team narrowly missed out on a place in the Finals.

She was part of the School Sports Day Team at Special Event. Despite her being unable to un-tie herself to Dawn McDonald in the 3 legged races the team finished runners up and adding valuable points towards the Directors Trophy.

She was on the winning Regional Hockey team that won the National CSSC Hockey 7's tournament. She also competes for HASSRA at the CSSC Swimming Championships.

She is always willing to give her services to HASSRA (even she scored for the Regional Cricket team) and will try any new sport. It is disappointing this year that there was no women's football, CSSC Games or Mixed Touch Rugby as Natalie has played a major part in HASSRA successes in these events in the past.

She also serves on the CSSC committee and is always willing to help organise for example with trials for HASSRA events and in finding other 'willing' volunteers.

She also plays Rugby Union for Sheffield Ladies. The team are currently top of the 3rd Division in England. Natalie also plays in a 5 a side football league, which the team have won for the last 3 seasons.

### **Sportsman – Paul Collingwood**

This member has had a great year representing the region, National HASSRA and National Civil Service teams in his chosen sport.

In January he represented the CSAA Cross Country National Team in a representative match against the RAF, Police, Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the Fire Service

In April at the CSAA National 10km Road Race. He was the third HASSRA counter ensuring that the HASSRA Team secured a Bronze medal.

In August in the CSAA Track & Field Championships Paul ran the 3,000m Steeplechase and 400 metres hurdles despite these not being his events, showing and proving his worth to the HASSRA Team by scoring vital points towards the annually presented Queenborough Trophy.



Paul (left) is pictured below with Pat Ferguson (Chair of HASSRA Y&H, Centre) and Len Riley (HASSRA Life Vice-President, right)

He also ran in the CSAA National Cross Country Championships in November finishing a creditable 16<sup>th</sup>. He also ran for HASSRA in various other events throughout the year.

His dedication, enthusiasm and services to the HASSRA National Athletics Team have been reflected in him being named National HASSRA Athlete of the Year 2008.

He was also an integral part of the Y & H Volunteer Team at this year's Special Event, helping to coordinate the School Sports Day.

This year finally achieved a lifelong ambition to break 3 hours at the London Marathon. Once again he was responsible for raising another sum in the region of £1,000 for his chosen charities – British Heart Foundation and Macmillan nurses.

He is also an active member of his local office club in Doncaster and is at the forefront when delivering HASSRA information to newcomers and in assisting locally with raffles, charity events and office socials.

In summary this has been his best year so far and it's hard to keep improving when you've been in a sport as long as he has.

## **Best Clubs**

The trophies are awarded to clubs who provide services to members and recognises clubs with the best record in sports, social and cultural activities.

### **Small Club**

The small club award is for clubs with a membership of less than 150.

The Awards Committee wanted to recognise the achievements of Sheffield CSA Club who have completely resurrected the club in the latter half of 2008.

The Committee also wanted to recognise a club who have been struggling with a fall in membership due to the migration of staff to other offices. They valiant continued on with their HASSRA Activity and organised various outings, charity events and club fundraising events.

The Awards Committee wish to give **Wakefield Club a Commended Award** for the best Small Club. Pictured with John Harrison (far right) is Andrew Ashton (Chair of Wakefield Club) and Sam Bailey (Deputy Secretary)



## Winning Club – Pontefract

The club has continued to grow this year and the committee has worked extremely hard throughout the year to provide an extensive list of events and activities to cover all tastes, including a trip to Edinburgh, a fancy dress party, trips to the theatre, ice-skating, bowling, charity events, free members only draws and the children's Christmas party.



They have built an excellent rapport with the Jobcentre Manager to allow more events within the office as this proved popular with our members. The games room which HASSRA help kit out has proved extremely popular and fits in well with the Department's Well Being Agenda!

It is for these reasons that the Awards Committee gave **Pontefract** the best small club award. Pictured receiving the Award are Jane Carr (Treasurer) (left) and Sarah Dudley (Chairman) (right) along with John Harrison.

## Large Club

In a difficult category to judge because of the high calibre of nominations, the Awards Committee decided to present two Commended Awards in addition to the overall winner.

The first Commended Awards goes to our largest club. Approximately 70% of staff is members of this club. They send representatives to the majority of regional competitions. Their members have been very successful at Regional and National HASSRA & CSSC Competitions.



They produce a lively monthly newsletter and have their own dedicated website to inform members of the latest offers. They run an immense amount of trips, events and offers.

The club of course is in **Leeds** and pictured receiving the commendation from John Harrison is (left to right) Jackie Tolan, Julie Chapman and Catriona Patterson.

The next Commended goes to a club that has been reinvigorated and has responded so well that the club increased membership by 23%. They raised an amazing £2100 for Charity last year. They produce a lively and informative newsletter that keeps all members abreast of the latest HASSRA offerings. Club members took an active part in Special Event and members have entered in to many Regional Competitions.



The club is **Bradford District** and pictured receiving the Award from John Harrison is (left to right) is Charlie Sloan, Helen McGuire and Irena Gorbun.

### **Winning Club – Debt Centre Dearne Valley**

This office has over 60% of its staff as members. They have a very lively and enthusiastic committee, which met every six weeks.

They raised a staggering £4000+ for charity in 2008, organised local events like a fancy dress car treasure hunt along with ticket offers to local theatres.

They send representatives to a number of the regional competitions and had some members who represented the region at both National HASSRA Championships as well as Special Event.

They have an excellent relationship with their office manager / club sponsor. They worked closely with a neighbouring HASSRA Club and supported them as this office / club shut down.

There is a great spirit within the office which is enhanced tremendously by the clubs engagement with staff.



All this led the Awards Committee in deciding that this years Best Large Club should go to **Debt Centre Dearne Valley**. Pictured collecting the Award from John Harrison is (left to right) Karl Rollinson, Maxine Balmforth, Michael Adey and Julie Speight.

## **Volunteer of the Year - Trish Lamswood**



Pictured with Trish (centre) are Pat Ferguson (left) and Len Riley (right)

Our Volunteer of the Year in 2008 is another excellent ambassador and representative for HASSRA.

In 2008 she organised over 12 events including a number to London. She also assisted colleagues in other events and is always willing to lend a hand or give a friendly word of encouragement to fellow committee members.

She organises many of the ever popular theatre ticket offers for the club.

The member operates the clubs 200 club which provides valuable income to the club, which in turn can be used for putting on activity for members.

In 2008 she took it on herself to organise the Annual Christmas Children's Party which I'm sure you appreciate takes up a tremendous amount of time and energy to arrange. Nearly 100 children attended and the club received lots of positive feedback.

Amongst all this she even managed to play in two CSSC Hockey tournaments for HASSRA including the 7's competition that the region won!

HASSRA will always be in safe hands if we have people like her supporting us, and the Awards Committee believes she is a deserving recipient of the award.

## **Best Business Sponsor – Christina Sweeney (Bradford Debt Centre)**

This is awarded in recognition of a Managers significant contribution to supporting staff and members in achieving HASSRA's Goals.

This Sponsor has actively encouraged HASSRA membership within the unit to grow, by providing support & encouragement to all staff it, especially committee members.

Over the year she has ensured staff have the opportunity for time out to attend HASSRA events. Her Command Managers were all given a steer and a recognised process for the consideration of special leave for staff to attend events, which enabled 8 of her staff to have leave to support Special Event.

She has encouraged HASSRA to be an active part of the Well Being at work Committee, which appears to be working well, with several ongoing benefits for staff, all fully supported by HASSRA.



Pictured with Christina is Dave White (HASSRA National Vice Chairman and JCP Head of Fraud Investigation Service)

She regularly encourages the club to have charity fun days with Dress down fines raising a significant amount for various charities over the year. She didn't even object when we had a Donkey in the car park for a day whilst we negotiated with its Travelling Owners for a change of ownership.

She has taken forward the DWP policy of encouragement & participating in HASSRA ensuring all new staff to the Debt Centre are given an introduction to HASSRA on Induction.

She is not only the sponsor of this Club but an active participant on several of its events, although the rugby trip did cost her quite a few drinks.

She is what we would want from all of our sponsors; she acknowledges the good HASSRA does for staff & how this in turn can benefit the business.

### **Merit Award John Douglas Longstaff MBE**

This essential ingredient for this award is outstanding service to HASSRA as an organisation, normally over a long period of years.

This member has been involved with HASSRA in various locations and incarnations over the past 40 years. He has been a Club Secretary for 9 years and then a Chairman for 31!

Took part in 5 Regional 11, & 5-a-side football finals, losing every one, but scored a goal in every final. Won winners trophy aged 47 but only sitting on the subs bench.

In his own words he is rubbish at cricket, but won Regional Cricket winners medal in the 70s.

Also represented office at Mixed Hockey , Mixed Rounders , Mixed Football , 10 pin bowling , Darts , Table Tennis , Badminton , It's a knockout , [on land and water] , General Knowledge Quiz , Give Us A Clue , Pub Games Nights. - Winning absolutely nothing in anything, but always taking part.



Pictured with John (left) is Dave White (HASSRA National Vice Chairman)

He says his highlight was winning the Sports and Social Club of the year back in 1974 and he's done' nowt 'since. Not so, without his boundless enthusiasm and commitment, the clubs he has participated in would undoubtedly have fared less well or faltered. In equal measure, he has begged, cajoled, nagged, sweet-talked and even on occasion 'bullied' people, eruditely of course, to ensure that the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Club still runs as effectively as it does today.

He is known throughout Region HASSRA circles. Many members in and around the Yorkshire area will have come into contact with him and will know him as a tireless champion of the HASSRA movement in his own inimitable friendly, supportive and understated way.

Many Charities have profited from his unstinting support to monthly 'dress down 'days to the tune of £1K a year for the past 11 years.

He stepped down as the Chairperson recently but remained on the clubs committee.

He believes his best achievement is his most recent one. He has instigated and continues to support closer working between the Sheffield Club, other clubs in South Yorkshire and with the Sheffield Head Office (SHOP) Club. An exciting new chapter has opened up for all these Clubs to share ideas, activities and costs for the benefit of all.

The committee of Sheffield Sports & Social club is nominating him for a merit award as a gesture of thanks for all the years of hard work, enthusiasm and dedication he has given to the club.

His personal contribution to HASSRA has been outstanding in terms of its duration, its quality and its scope. I am sure he will continue to be active within HASSRA and a role model for all .Sheffield and South Yorkshire District Sports and Social Club is proud that he has served us so well and for so long.

**Congratulations to all our Award Winners – look out for details on how to nominate clubs and individuals towards the end of the year or contact the HASSRA Y&H Office direct**

**Footnote:**

**Great News –**

- **Christina Sweeney has been awarded the Lesley Strathie Award for Best Business Sponsor for 2008.**
- **HASSRA Leeds has been awarded the Bentliff Trophy for the Best HASSARA Publication in 2008**