



**SPORT  
GIVES  
BACK**  
"Changing Lives"

The **co-operative** bank  
Ethical then, now and **always**



# SPORT GIVES BACK AWARDS 2024

CADOGAN HALL, LONDON  
FEBRUARY 28, 2024

# A warm welcome from Connie Henry MBE, founder of the Sport Gives Back Awards



I created the Sport Gives Back Awards as a way to recognise and say thank you to the individuals and organisations who use sport to change lives all over the UK.

Sport is more than an open top bus parade. It is an indispensable necessity that binds communities, supercharges educational attainment, and is the foundation of good mental health.

It is my hope that the Sport Gives Back Awards start to change people's thinking on how they view sport. It is equally important for the beginner as it is for the elite. It is not for some. It is for all.

Tonight's award ceremony is a shining example of the incredible things that can be achieved when people who believe in the power of sport come together.

So many people have worked so hard on this

award ceremony, and the evening of February 28 will be a great testament to all that hard work.

I'd like to say thank you to the Sport Gives Back sponsorship guru Caroline Reik who has supported the event from the first second it was brought to her attention. Thank you also to our sponsors The Co-operative Bank, who truly believe in the power of what all the charities in this sector do.

And a special mention to Niall Sloane, director of sport at ITV, and everybody at ITV who has worked on this project. They have wholeheartedly supported the development of this awards show and understood the importance of its existence.

I hope you have a wonderful evening.

Connie Henry MBE  
Founder and director of [Track Academy](#)

# The **co-operative** bank

Ethical then, now and **always**

**As the original ethical bank, we've always put local communities at the heart of what we do.**

It's one of the reasons we became the first UK high street bank with a customer-led Ethical Policy. That means we listen, and stand up for the things our customers feel most passionately about.

So when they tell us to do our bit for good causes, or invest more in their communities, we do.

It's the reason we support the not-for-profit sector with their banking needs and why we started our Customer Donation Fund.

Community is more than just a group of people living in the same place. It is a sense of belonging, of sharing and supporting each other. It's the power of collective action, where we achieve more than we could alone. Every day, we're out there standing up for communities, and ensuring that everyone benefits. That's why we refuse to bank businesses that profit from others' losses.



Since 2003, our Customer Donation Fund has donated over £1.1 million to support over 1,200 community projects all over the UK, from local football clubs to community food banks.

That's why we're proud to sponsor Sport Gives Back, and to celebrate those who are using sport to change lives in our communities.

Find out more about our [Customer Donation Fund here.](#)



***“We’re so proud to sponsor the Sport Gives Back awards. We’re here tonight to celebrate the invaluable work of people all over the country who are changing lives, and making a difference through sport. By working co-operatively, we can build stronger communities and make a positive difference together.”***



*Nick Slape*

**Chief Executive Officer**  
The Co-operative Bank



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# Dallaglio RugbyWorks

## Transforming Lives: Empowering Excluded Youth Award presented to Dan Ley

Dan was excluded from school a number of times, and at one point there was concern for his life prospects. His resilience and the support that was provided to him put him back on the right path.

Today, he uses this life experience to support young people who have been excluded from school to transform their lives too.

Dan skillfully marries his own journey with the ability to foster skills development and a sense of raised aspirations in these young people, improving their physical and mental health.

He has even mentored two young people who attended his sessions to become fully fledged members of staff within his team, truly evidencing how sport can give back.

He is an inspiration to the young people, to the young team he manages, and to Dallaglio RugbyWorks as a whole.



### About Dallaglio RugbyWorks

160 young people are excluded from school each week, significantly reducing their chances of employment. Dallaglio RugbyWorks exists to change this. We use rugby as a hook and mentorship as an anchor to develop the young people's life skills, as well as improve their physical and mental wellbeing. We shine a light on career opportunities to help them build brighter futures.



# Dame Kelly Holmes Trust Community Partnership Impact Award presented to Team Sheffield

Team Sheffield is our incredible network of support in Sheffield, including the athlete mentors, teachers and schools who work so hard to make it happen, and our funding partners, local organisations who want to make a difference in their area.

Our award recognises the wide-reaching and sustainable impact our team of athlete mentors has been having in Sheffield, thanks to a partnership we launched with Westfield Health in 2021 and the incredible support from schools and teachers to facilitate the programme.

It is also thanks to our other local funding partners who have joined the movement to make a positive difference in local young lives.



## About Dame Kelly Holmes Trust

Dame Kelly Holmes Trust puts world class athletes shoulder to shoulder with young people, equipping them with a winning mindset and shaping their futures - it's a teammate like no other. Whether that's building relationship skills, improving self-esteem or learning to stay focused, our sporting champions help the next generation move forward with confidence.



# Greenhouse Sports Team for Life Award presented to Sarah Bonnell School

Sarah Bonnell School started its tennis programme in the middle of the pandemic, supporting children returning to school under Covid rules and helping with adjusting to the difficulties of restricted in-class teaching.

It was also created in response to the mental and emotional strain students had been under during lockdown.

Under head teacher Rae Potter, the school serves a community in one of the most socio-economically deprived areas of London.

Indeed, when the programme started under Greenhouse tennis coach Tom Sippy, there wasn't a single student in the school who thought tennis was accessible to them or was a sport for them to participate in.

Tom's programme follows the Greenhouse model, with him present full-time in the school to lead a schedule of breakfast, lunch and after-school clubs and one-to-one mentoring.

Three years on and the school sees tennis thriving across every year group. Since starting with just five girls, there are now more than 100 pupils regularly playing tennis.

The students participate in all weathers, attend clubs all year round and have grown so much in their confidence, teamwork and resilience.

In the last year, previously introverted students have welcomed donors to the school, acted in school productions and assisted students in younger year groups.



## About Greenhouse Sports

Greenhouse Sports believes every child deserves a fair chance to succeed in life. We help young people succeed through sport and team spirit. We use sport to engage young people and improve their life chances. We partner with schools to provide inspirational sports coaching and mentoring for children who may be disengaged, helping them develop key life skills to thrive in the future.



# Invictus Games Foundation Unconquered Award presented to Josh Boggi

Following an improvised explosive device explosion on his third tour of Afghanistan, Josh lost both his legs and his right arm, suffering nerve and spinal damage.

Developing a love for cycling in his recovery, Josh took part in the Big Battlefield Ride 2013 and went on to compete in the inaugural Invictus Games in London 2014 and then the games in Orlando 2016 bringing home medals in cycling and indoor rowing.

Josh's role at the Invictus Games Foundation is to develop opportunities for international fellow wounded injured and sick service personnel and veterans to access in their recovery.



## About Invictus Games Foundation

Through sport and adventure, the Invictus Games Foundation inspires, improves, and influences the recovery and rehabilitation of a global community of wounded, injured, and sick service personnel. The foundation provides opportunities for post-traumatic growth through opportunities to take part in sport, esports and adventurous challenges to improve long-term physical and mental health.





# Lord's Taverners Inspire Award presented to Connor Hyde

Connor, who lives with cerebral palsy and epilepsy, attends the Yeovil hub of the Lord's Taverners Somerset Super 1s disability cricket project.

His parents were told he wasn't going to be able to walk when he was a child. Now, he's a fully-fledged member of the Yeovil Super 1s, runs some of the sessions, coaches at his local cricket club and is also a personal trainer.

Connor demonstrates how the programme has changed his life and how he is now an inspiring role model to other young people on the programme about what you can achieve.



## About Lord's Taverners

Lord's Taverners positively impacts the lives of young people facing the challenges of inequality. We provide inclusive and impactful cricket programmes, empowering young people with disabilities and from disadvantaged communities to develop the skills and confidence required to overcome the challenges of inequality, raise their aspirations and reach their potential.



# Sported Community Sport Social Impact Award presented to Joe Donnelly, TAHMI

Joe established Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues (TAHMI) in 2011 to offer support and guidance to young people and those who can strengthen their resilience.

Using sport as the conduit, Joe and his team work with clubs, schools and youth groups throughout Northern Ireland to make mental health fun and engaging via workshops, training and activity sessions.

Most significantly, their endeavours have saved lives by encouraging learning and growth while tackling the root causes of mental health problems.



## About Sported

Sported delivers expertise, resources and free support to clubs and groups that use sport and physical activity to make a positive impact on communities throughout the UK. It works with almost 3,000 organisations nationally, all transforming the lives of young people by helping them to overcome barriers so that they can reach their full potential.



# SportWorks

## Community Group of the Year Award presented to The Elfrida Society

The Elfrida Society has been at the heart of Islington for over 100 years and has a long history of supporting people with learning disabilities/difficulties and/or autism.

The group helps them to lead independent and fulfilling lives and to become contributing members of society. It does this by offering a range of different services including sports sessions, advocacy and speaking up groups.

Everything it does is rooted in co-production values and it ensures the voices of people with lived experience of learning disabilities and autism are heard. It also ensures that those supported by Elfrida are influential in the development of their community.

An important part of the group's remit is to ensure the health and wellbeing of their client group. To this end, they have developed a suite of activities which includes, among others, tennis, studio fitness sessions and football.



### About SportWorks

At SportWorks, we address health inequalities and strive to create healthier, more prosperous communities. Through the power of sport, education and well-being, we make a positive impact on the nation's health. Our initiative programmes tackle a range of societal issues including crime, anti-social behaviour, mental/physical health and social mobility.



# Youth Sport Trust Building Brighter Futures Award presented to Jill Newbolt

Jill Newbolt has worked with the Youth Sport Trust for over 12 years through the Lead Inclusion School programme which has, to date, helped 28,000 practitioners to improve the quality of PE and school sport provision for around 150,000 pupils.

Jill has been a remarkable force of change in the world of inclusive sports education. Her unwavering passion, inspiring leadership, boundless compassion, and exceptional ability to connect have revolutionised the lives of countless young people, their families, and her colleagues.

She has dedicated her career to breaking down the barriers that society places on children with disabilities in sports and physical education, particularly those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).

Jill refuses to accept limitations for children in this space, championing and raising the ambitions of every child she encounters.



Her work, supported by and with the Youth Sport Trust, has been nothing short of transformative, and her commitment to the cause is nothing less than extraordinary. Jill is a catalyst for inclusion, and a beacon of hope for a brighter future for all children.

## About Youth Sport Trust

The Youth Sport Trust is the UK's leading charity improving every young person's education and development through sport and play. Working together, we empower young people to achieve their own personal best and equip educators to build brighter futures.



