

# SCHOOLS SPORT AWARDS

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**A celebration of excellence: award winners and presenters at Stamford Bridge yesterday**

# Stars line up to salute

By Gareth A Davies

THERE were sporting stars up front, at the back and through the middle at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea Football Club, yesterday afternoon. Yet no Carlo Ancelotti. No Didier Drogba, no Joe Cole.

Instead, a host of British sporting legends from an array of sports celebrated young prospects for the future and the stalwarts of schools sport at a gala luncheon at the fifth annual *Daily Telegraph*-Aviva School Sport Matters Awards.

Luminaries from British sport were there in force to present the awards: Olympic gold medallists Dame Kelly Holmes, James Cracknell, Sally Gunnell, Marlon Devonish and Paralympic

gold medallist David Weir as well as England and British Lions legends Brian Moore and Roger Uttley, who also received a Highly Commended award for his service at Harrow School.

Also present were record-breaking world champion canoeist Anna Hemmings, athletes Jenny Meadows, Tyrone Edgar and Alan Pascoe, and, from the cricket world, Dr David English and Kent cricketer Sam Northeast.

School Sport Matters was a campaign initiated five years ago to celebrate all that is good and exemplary in school sport and physical education.

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The level and quantity of entries in 2009 was astounding – we received hundreds of entries.

Honourable mentions must go to those just outside the shortlists in three categories: School Team of The Year, and Male and Female Pupil of the Year. Our team winners in 2009

were Wright Robinson Year 11 football, who completed a treble, yet Filton College's first XV rugby union team and Repton girls' hockey XI were equally deserving. Moreover, Victoria College first XI football team, Jersey, unbeaten in 41 matches since

midway through 2006, winning back-to-back Channel Islands titles, and undefeated on tour for three years, fell just outside the shortlist.

The male and female pupil awards in 2009 were particularly strong categories. Olympic diver Tom Daley, a 15-year-old pupil at Plymouth College, who became 10m world champion this summer, took the winner's award, but sprinter David Bolarinwa and cricketer Nick Gubbins are stars for the future. Again, in this category, record-breaking teenage javelin thrower Oliver Bradfield fell just outside the shortlist.

Rebecca James, a track cyclist and double junior world champion in 2009, received the Female Pupil of the Year award. Jade Williams,

the 800m runner from Llanelli, Commended same category, charmed entire audience at Stamford Bridge with her admission that she could not be meeting her sports heroine in Holmes.

There were also a number of Paralympic medallists Eleanor Simmonds, 14, and for two future Paralympic stars, Marlon Devonish, selected, this year for the Great Britain senior women's wheelchair basketball team, and wheelchair racer Dan Lucker, a multiple junior world champion and holder.

Teacher of the Year awarded to the inspiring Darren John Mitchell, member of the PE department at Bradfield College,



From left beh

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### The panel of judges

- » **Rob Jones**  
(Wales and the Lions)
- » **Claire Taylor**  
(England women's cricket, Wisden Cricketer of the Year)
- » **David English**  
(Bunbury CC founder)
- » **Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson**  
(11 times Paralympic gold medalist)
- » **Roger Uttley**  
(England and the Lions)
- » **Brian Moore**  
(England and the Lions)
- » **Anna Hemmings**  
(Olympian and six-times world champion marathon canoeist)
- » **Tim Brabants**  
(Olympic gold medalist sprint kayak)
- » **Dame Kelly Holmes**  
(Double Olympic gold medalist)
- » **Alistair Brownlee**  
(ITU World Series triathlon champion)

### Contribution to School

**Winner:** Colin Holman, Woodcote House School, Surrey.  
Arrived in 1959 to coach sport for a term; he is still coaching sport and continues to inspire. Introduced rugby to the school in 1962, has run the Surrey Schools Sevens for 40 years and the West Surrey Prep Schools Athletics Finals for more than 30 years.  
**Highly commended:** Roger Uttley, Harrow School, Middlesex.

### State School of the Year

**Winner:** Norlington Boys School, Leyton, London.  
Norlington is a small multi-ethnic boys' school in an area of high social deprivation, with no playing fields, a small gym and extremely limited playground space. Yet, it is a highly successful supportive school and hub site for a school sport partnership. It is an extended family that uses sport to raise standards and build self-esteem.

### Independent School of the Year

**Winner:** Oakham School, Rutland.  
Sport plays a key role at the heart of the school. With 50 matches played in any week in over 15 sports, Oakham has a culture of developing active, healthy lifestyles. In the last year, Oakham teams reached the final national stages in 11 different sports. All pupils benefit from a holistic approach to sport which supports and nurtures talent.

### Female Pupil of the Year

**Winner:** Rebecca James, King Henry VIII, Abergavenny.  
A double World Junior Champion this year in track cycling, and setting a new world record, Becky is following impressively in the footsteps of compatriot and Olympic champion, Nicole Cooke. Becky personifies the necessary balanced approach of a modern junior elite athlete in combining training and competition with her studies.

### Male Pupil of the Year

**Winner:** Tom Daley, Plymouth College.  
Tom started diving in 2001, aged seven, and has gained a plethora of medals and titles in his rapid rise to stardom, including gold medals in FINA Grand Prix meetings. Competed at the Olympic Games in Beijing last year. This year, aged 15, he became 10m senior World Champion in Rome. A model pupil at Plymouth College, he trains hard every day yet keeps up with his

# award winners

Berkshire, who broke his neck while on holiday in Spain in the summer of 2008. His accident rendered him tetraplegic, requiring the use of a wheelchair for the rest of his life, yet it did not stop him from returning to his job, continuing to coach and being fast-tracked into the elite GB wheelchair rugby squad for a tournament in Brazil.

There were accolades, too, for long-serving sports teachers Colin Holman, now in his seventies, a sports legend at Woodcote House School in Surrey, and East London stalwart Jim Howell. Between them, they have given 90 years' service to school sport.

Likewise Brenda Graham and Jill Bullock, who between them have served almost 60

years at Greenwood Dale, in Sneinton, Nottingham.

The ceremony began with a minute's silence for the late Sandy Ross, Commended for his work with cricket at Caterham School, Surrey, and with the Chance to Shine programme.

Five 'On Camp with Kelly' athletes and their coaches were also recognised with Outstanding Achievement Awards yesterday.

Dame Kelly, the double Olympic gold medalist, set up OCWK five years ago to help talented young female middle distance athletes to achieve their dreams.

Yesterday's recipients were Kate Avery (3,000m), Rowena Cole (800m), Charlotte Purdue (5,000m), Louise Small (3,000m) and, as OCWK now extends to male athletes,

Simon Horsfield (1,500m). All five have enjoyed medal-winning performances at international age group championships in 2009.

Mick Woods received the On Camp with Kelly Coach of the Year Award in recognition of his work with Horsfield, Purdue and Small.

Dame Kelly said: "All the athletes receiving awards have had excellent seasons but would not have been able to achieve what they have without the support of their coaches, families and the investment of Aviva into the On Camp with Kelly initiative."

Aviva and The Daily Telegraph, recognising tomorrow's champions today. The 2010 School Sport Matters Awards will be launched next month.