



**Embargoed Until 00.01hrs on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**‘Pride of Sport’ celebrates Unsung Heroes of Grassroots Sport**

- **The Mirror's Pride of Sport Awards, in partnership with TSB, is back for the sixth year to celebrate grassroots sport and the phenomenal people who have contributed to sport at all levels, across all walks of life.**

Nominations are now open to find people who have gone the extra mile, whether that's to achieve their own personal goals, or for helping others achieve theirs. They could be young or old, a selfless volunteer or someone who's triumphed against adversity.

We want to hear your heart-warming and inspiring stories, so if you know someone that deserves to be recognised then nominate them for a Pride of Sport Award!

Go to [www.prideofsportawards.co.uk/nominate](http://www.prideofsportawards.co.uk/nominate)

Nominations for the awards, which are backed by Sport England, will close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Famous faces from across the world of sport will be in attendance for a star-studded ceremony hosted by Ben Shephard in London on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Past attendees have included Trent Alexander Arnold, Lawrence Dallaglio, David Weir, Baroness Tanni Grey Thompson, Dame Kelly Holmes, Rebecca Adlington, Mark Cavendish, Jermaine Jenas, Louis Smith, Sally Gunnell and Sam Quek.

2018's winners included a football team of men who have lost children to miscarriage or stillbirth, wounded war heroes who raised over £1 million by running seven marathons on seven continents in seven days, a gang member who turned his back on gang and prison life to start a football club now at the heart of the community and a ten year old schoolboy who ran 3 miles every day throughout 2018 to raise over £20,000 for Macmillan.

A video of all the highlights from the 2018 Pride of Sport Awards can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/Kv1Fr48shF8>

Host Ben Shephard said, "One of the things I love about sport is the way it can bring the whole nation together. This summer we all celebrated the amazing achievements of England's Lionesses and then that incredible Cricket World Cup victory. But their achievements are about so much more than winning matches or lifting a trophy. They have inspired the next generation and ignited a passion for sport in boys and girls all over Britain. And that is what Pride of Sport is all about - celebrating the love of sport and the grassroots heroes who make it all possible. I'm delighted to be hosting these Awards once again and I can't wait to meet the inspirational winners."

Pete Markey, TSB's Chief Marketing Officer, added "We're very proud of and passionate about our longstanding relationship with Pride of Sport. Pride of Sport presents an opportunity to celebrate people who have contributed to sport at a local or national level, across all walks of life. Sport has the incredible ability to bring people together, and supporting our local communities is at the heart of everything we do."

Sport England's CEO Tim Hollingsworth said: "Sport England's mission is to help the nation get, and stay, more active. We give thousands of grassroots community sports projects National Lottery funding each year and share insight and expertise into how to create enjoyable experiences and provide opportunities for people to make being active a part of their lives."

"We simply could not do our job without the volunteers who selflessly give up their time to help others enjoy all the benefits of sport – which go far beyond the physical. Sport helps bring communities together, builds personal skills such as confidence and resilience and creates lasting friendships."

"Sport England is therefore incredibly proud to support the Mirror's Pride of Sport awards for another year. I cannot wait to celebrate the unsung heroes around the country who have contributed to making lives better through sport and are all genuinely inspirational through what they have achieved."

Full list of categories to enter:

**Team or Club of the Year**

To honour a grassroots team or club in any sport who have worked together to succeed beyond expectations or had an impact outside the boundaries of sport.

**TSB Community Partner**

For an individual or a group of people who have worked in partnership together as a force for good in their local community, improving the lives of people around them through sport. This could be anything from supporting young people and helping them thrive, to bringing communities together to make a difference.

**Disabled Sports Person Award**

For a disabled sports person who has achieved notable success in grassroots sport or performed above and beyond expectations.

**Young Achiever**

To recognise a young person aged 16 or under who has overcome significant obstacles to take part in sport, inspiring others with their spirit and dedication.

**Young Fundraiser of the Year**

To recognise an individual or group under the age of 16 that has undertaken an outstanding charity challenge. Judges will consider the scale and ingenuity of the challenge as well as the amount raised.

**Sporting Fundraiser**

To recognise an individual or a group that have undertaken an outstanding charity challenge. Judges will consider the scale and ingenuity of the challenge as well as the amount raised.

**Young Sportsperson of the year**

To recognise an outstanding individual who has performed beyond their years or proved their potential to become a world class sports star Britain can be proud of.

**Special Recognition**

For inspirational people and groups that deserve recognition but may not fit into any other category.

Find out more about the Pride of Sport Awards 2018: [www.prideofsportawards.co.uk](http://www.prideofsportawards.co.uk)

For press opportunities and enquiries please contact:

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