

SLG Smash Sportsperson's Dinner!

This week, a huge buzz has been passing through the school after the 2014 Sportsperson's Dinner celebrated the huge sporting achievements of the past year. The awards evening catered for the hub of sporting success at Roundwood Park, and featured special guests Saracens and alumni Sarah Mckenna as guest speakers.

The evening took place on Wednesday 10th December in the school hall, which had been transformed by the help of the PE department in to a venue fit for sporting royalty. Festooned with balloons, tinsel and tablecloths, the evening was set to make an impact from the start.

Sports and Participation captains Hayley Everett and Jake Collins, organisers and hosts of the evening, kicked off proceedings with a brief welcome, handing over to head of department, Mr Hunter, to give his take on the past year. Ex-student and member of our Alumni, Sarah Mckenna, then got the evening underway with an inspirational speech detailing her journey 'from Roundwood to Rio'. Sarah started playing rugby from childhood progressing through the player pathway, and is now one of the first 18 female recipients of a professional contract. She has played rugby sevens for England, and is set to make the Rio 2016 squad, in which women's seven's is making its debut. The students listened in rapt attention to her story, which aptly set the tone of success for the evening.



Ex-student Sarah Mckenna returns to her roots to inspire students

The next part of the evening saw the Awards of Recognition given out. Each member of the PE department chose a student who they felt deserved recognition for outstanding achievement, attitude and conduct. Noah Hume,

Hollie Dyke, Ellie Faulkner, Lou Nielson, Claire Burrell and Matt Hubbard were the deserved recipients for these awards.



Noah Hume Hollie Dyke Ellie Hume



Lou Nielson Claire Burrell Matt Hubbard

The next award up for grabs was the Rising Star Award, given to a sportsman and woman who have shown great potential, endeavour and achievement in their sport over the past year. The nominations for the first Rising Star Award were; Lottie Nicholls, for her commitment towards Hertfordshire basketball, RPS football and netball. Izzie Slade, for commitment and excellence in trampolining and netball while balancing other areas of school life. Grace Kouset, for her diving successes at the national championships, 5th in 3m springboard and 10th in 1m springboard in the 12-14 age group. The ultimate winner was Grace Kouset, thoroughly-deserving of the award. The nominations for the second Rising Star award were; Saleem Fishosy for his huge endurance running talent with the 3rd fastest time in the country last year over 800m. Sasha Brown, for his outstanding rating, commitment and skill shown in tennis, with huge promise moving forward. Glen Armstrong, who has shown excellence and enormous improvement as part of the trampolining and rugby squads. The worthy winner of this award was Saleem Fishosy, whose talent is sure to increase as the years move forward.



Rising Star Award: Grace Kouset and Saleem Fishosy

A short interval concluded the first set of awards, and dinner was served by members of the SLG who were dressed down waiter-style in black shirt and trouser combinations. Guest speakers Rory Teague and Titi Lamositele, of Saracens Academy, kicked off the second half of the evening with speeches detailing their careers in sport thus far. Rory Teague, now full-time coach for Saracens academy, was a professional rugby player for 10 years, spending time at Gloucester before moving to France to play professionally for 5 years. Rory's underlining message to the students was fundamentally to believe in yourself, and to back yourself at school in case your aspirations in sport become blocked. Titi graduated from High School in America last year, signing a contract with Saracens after being named the youngest player to ever play for the USA Eagles, at 18 years old. A question-answer session then followed, in which many of the students directed their questions, thoughts and opinions towards the three guest speakers. Questions proposing the impacts of gender stereotyping, the motivations to succeed, and the future potential of our very own Saracen Ralph Adams-Hale were posed to the trio, amongst others, making the session incredibly potent for the students.

The next set of awards were then presented, with the first being Captain of the Year. The nominations for best female captain were; Claudia Brown in rounders, for her abundant talent to motivate and coach through the summer, coupled with the ability to get the best out of those around her. Daisy Higginbotham, for her dedication and planning as netball captain, showing effort on and off the coach with a superb, mature attitude throughout the year. Kathryn Canham, netball, for setting the standard that a captain should and being an important role model for younger years. The commendable winner of this award was Kathryn Canham.

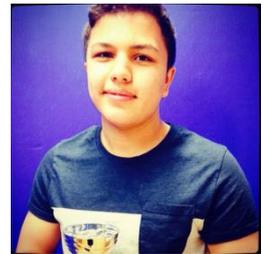
The nominations for the best male captain were; Alex Birch, rugby, for excellent enthusiasm and passion for the game alongside excellent organisation. Tom Short, for organising the boys' junior tennis team and acting as a role model to younger years in a polite, humorous way. Sam Bowden, for his superb



Captain of the Year: Sam Bowden and Kathryn Canham

organisational and team work skills shown throughout the tennis season. The worthy winner of the award was Sam Bowden.

The following award to be presented was titled Services to Sport, which rewards the efforts put in by individuals outside of their own participation, such as refereeing, volunteering, leading and coaching. The nominations for this award were; Lawrence Gupta, for an outstanding contribution in aiding and assisting in coaching sessions within the local primary schools. Leo Gupta, for excellent leadership skills demonstrated whilst assisting at girls' rugby, year 7 rugby and working with the local



Services to Sport: Leo Gupta

primary schools. India Adejumo, Molly Dockeree and Louise Nelson, for helping others with GCSE dance choreography, running KS3 elite dance club and passing on their passion for performance. The justified winner of this award was Leo Gupta.

The final awards of the evening were Team of the Year, with one award given out per year group. The nominations for Year 8 Team of the Year were; Boys Rugby, for superb performances through last year and this with progressive improvement and genuine potential moving forward. Boys athletics, for their



Team of the Year (yr 9): Boys athletics

commitment towards training, support of older year groups and exceptional showing at District Athletic championships. Girls rounders, for dedication of numbers at training, collaboration and effort at every game, coming District runners-up. The best year 8 team of the year was Boys Athletics.

The nominations for Year 9's Team of the Year were as follows; Girls Athletics, for showing a strong, positive attitude at every meet, with availability and commitment each week by planning ahead and working as a team with mutual support and encouragement. Boys football, with an excellent run in the county cup this year off the back of a very good 2014, playing great football and putting in strong performances. Trampolining, for finishing 3rd at nationals as under 13's showing progression, dedication and excellence. Girls rugby, for dedication, effort and enthusiasm at training in large numbers, as well as an amazing willingness to get stuck in. Boys tennis, becoming district champions, Hertfordshire runners up with an amazing team ethic at every game. The winner for this award was Girls under 14 trampolining.



Team of the Year (yr 9): Trampolining squad

And the Final award of the night was Year 10 Team of the Year. The nominations for this award were; Netball squad, for four years of outstanding dedication and continual improvement in the league, ending up PGL and plate runners up. Girls rounders, for being the standout team of the summer through winning the district tournament and league competition with perseverance and intelligence as a unit. Girls badminton, school games level 2 winners and representatives at level 3 Hertfordshire competition, with outstanding players away from school. The winners of this award were the netball squad, deemed 'good players, greats friends, and ambassadors for sport at RPS'.



Team of the year (yr 10): netball squad

The last of the awards concluded a brilliant and memorable event, and it was left to Jake and Hayley to round up the evening with a video made by Miss Rooney, reflecting on the past year of sporting success at Roundwood Park School.



Sports Captains Hayley and Jake pose for a photo with guest speakers Rory, Titi and Sarah.