

The winners of the 7th Get Berkshire Active Awards are announced

The annual Get Berkshire Active Awards ceremony took place on the 15th February at the Hilton Reading to celebrate sporting excellence across the county as well as applauding the unseen work that goes on behind the scenes to make sport and physical activity happen. Awards were also made to the schools, community groups and workplaces who put physical activity and wellbeing at the forefront of their objectives.

Paralympic swimmer and Paracanoeist Jeanette Chippington MBE joined the event as the Guest of Honour. Her inspirational speech and fantastic video highlighting the UK's achievements at the Rio Paralympics got huge applause from the 300 guests attending the Awards ceremony this year.

The previous year's winner of the Sport Personality of the Year, Rachel Elliot, also joined the 7th GBA Awards this year sharing her plans to proceed with her sport career. She couldn't attend last year as she had suffered a stroke just two days before the event.

A raffle on the night raised more than £1,000 with proceeds split equally and donated to CLIC Sargent (Children's Cancer Charity) and the Stroke Association.

Commenting on the awards ceremony this year, Get Berkshire Active's CEO, Brett Nicholls, said: 'it is such a joyous and inspirational evening and our opportunity to thank all those who make sport and physical activity possible in Berkshire.'

The list of the winners in 12 categories are [here](#). Three award categories were decided by public vote this year: Active Primary School Award, Active Secondary School Award and Community Club of the Year. The others were determined by an expert panel.

The 7th GBA Awards' Sports Personality of the Year is the netball player Francesca Williams. Fran was part of the Wasps squad that lifted the 2018 Netball Superleague trophy. She captained the England U21 squad that won bronze at the World Youth Championships in Botswana, and went on to dominate the Netball Europe championships, winning the gold medal.

This year four remarkable personalities were presented a prestigious Lifetime Achievement award. These are Colin Fox (gymnastics), Gina MacGregor (netball), Margaret Deighan (netball) and Doug Cook (a coach, a referee and a school PE teacher).

The 7th GBA Awards are supported by a range of sponsors including Technogym UK Ltd, Reading Football Club Community Foundation, Field Seymour Parkes LLP, Hilton Hotel Reading, Phoenix Sporting Goods, Everyone Active, Michael Burbridge Ltd, Places Leisure, Novo-K Consulting and Berkshire Unitary Authorities.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 8th GBA Awards in 2019 please contact nick.west-oram@getberkshireactive.org.

Notes to Editors

About Get Berkshire Active

Get Berkshire Active is the County Sports Partnership for Berkshire promoting the benefits of sport and physical activity.

Get Berkshire Active is a Charity and works with sporting and non-sporting partners across the County to increase the number of people of all ages and abilities taking part in sport and physical activity.

Find out more at www.getberkshireactive.org 'like' us on Facebook @GetBerkshireActive; or follow us on Twitter @GetBerksActive.

Get Berkshire Active Awards

The Get Berkshire Active Awards celebrate sport and physical activity achievements over the last year. The awards go to people who have excelled in sporting achievement over the previous year, however more importantly to people who have made sport possible for others.

This could be a coach, volunteer, employer, teacher/school or any other organisation that makes sport and physical activity accessible and enjoyable.

[Click here](#) to see all the 7th GBA Awards photos.

The 8th GBA Awards ceremony will take place on the 28th February 2020 to celebrate Berkshire's achievements for the year 2019 with the nomination process open in September 2019.