



England
Rugby



Volunteer
Recognition
Programme

MITSUBISHI MOTORS
**VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**
2020





ALEX PAYNE

Host

Alex Payne is a television presenter and event host. In 13 years with Sky Sports, he has spent six years presenting on Sky Sports News as well as fronting Sky's live tennis and poker. He is now the lead presenter on their rugby union coverage and has covered three Lions tours, England internationals and the domestic and European game.

Alongside his television work he has been involved with podcasts for Sky, The Times and O2 including his most recent podcast The Good, The Bad & The Rugby. He has hosted events for Guinness, Société Générale, HSBC, QBE, Heineken, Help for Heroes and the NSPCC among others.

He is happy to admit he is living his dream.



Welcome to the fourth Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards. Tonight is an opportunity to celebrate the heart of grassroots rugby - the volunteers - without whom the game simply couldn't function. Their dedication and passion for the sport is not only vital to the running of the game at a local level, it is fundamental in the development of the sport as a whole - generating passion and pride in the local community, nurturing future players and embodying the spirit of the game through their actions.

Rob Lindley

Managing Director, Mitsubishi Motors in the UK



Jeff played most of his rugby for US Portsmouth and represented London University, the Royal Navy and Hampshire. He is a past president of US Portsmouth and a life member of the Royal Navy Rugby Union.

Jeff was elected as RFU President in 2020 and is a retired Senior Circuit Judge, Deputy High Court Judge and Judge Advocate General of Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

I am delighted that these Mitsubishi Motors Volunteer of the Year Awards allow us to show our appreciation of the amazing men and women who ensure that rugby is played and enjoyed across the nation. Every player, team and club, and every match played, depends on the 100,000 volunteers working selflessly behind the scenes. Today we can recognise this particular group who so deserve our praise and represent all of our amazing volunteers. Thank you all.

HH Jeff Blakett

RFU President





THE NOMINEES
2020



JADE ADKINS

Falmouth RFC

Jade has managed the youth section at Falmouth RFC for five years with enthusiasm and dedication prioritising welfare and ensuring the club is compliant in vital policies. Through her initiatives, she has transformed the clubhouse into a thriving and diverse hub for the community. With her husband, Mark, they embody all that is best in a volunteer.



ALAN AINSLEY

Seaton Carew RUFC

Alan took the position of 1st Team Manager with great commitment and enthusiasm after being forced to step down through injury as first team captain where he led the team to their second league win in a decade! His dedication and engagement, ranging from the collection of match fees to successfully utilising social media, has been outstanding. Alan has now moved on to being Vice Treasurer and applies the same commitment and enthusiasm as well as continuing to maximise the social media aspect for the club.



ALAN BARNETT

Oxford RFC

Alan has established a highly successful SEN team at Oxford RFC whilst continuing his kit management duties at the club. Having secured sponsorship from Asda for the team's kit, he has promoted team training sessions as well as keeping spectators happy by buying the mums a cup of tea each week. Furthermore, Alan helped with the club's fence repairs, and funding for the materials and had a hand in building dug outs.



HUGH BLACKBURN

Egham Hollowegians RFC

Hugh has been a much-valued member of Egham Hollowegians RFC for over 20 years and has carried out many and various roles at the club during this time. Recently he has dedicated a significant amount of time preparing the new pitch as well as helping to secure much needed sponsorship and contributing as an active member of the London Society of Referees.



MATT BOWDEN & NEIL CLARK

Macclesfield RUFC & Knutsford RFC

Having both identified a shortage of players, Neil and Matt decided to join forces creating the mighty 'MK Blues' team to continue playing opportunities for players from both clubs. This has been a fantastic initiative and great example of clubs working together to keep players in the game.



RICHARD BYROM

Newark RUFC

Richard has been instrumental in developing the schools programme at Newark RFC across all age groups. His extensive knowledge of the local schools has been invaluable to ensure there is a strong link with the club and a successful partnership.



DANIEL CANE

Wymondham RFC

Daniel is a key volunteer at Wymondham RFC, not only being a 2nd player / manager but the current social chair. His meticulous planning and ability to engage with both senior and junior members have been instrumental in the success of many club events and generating much needed income.



MICHAEL CLOONAN

Yardley and District RFC

Michael, AKA Zoom has successfully developed touch rugby and is rightly recognised as one of the key club coaches, playing a pivotal role in growing both player and coaching numbers. Alongside his coaching role, he is also the lead for first aid and should be commended for his organisational skills and huge contribution to growing the game.



JACKIE CLUNE

Eton Manor RFC

A hardworking volunteer, Jackie started the girls' section to empower girls who were left with nowhere to play once they turned 12. Since then, it has continued to develop and flourish, now having the county's only all girls U11 team as well as huge squads at U13, U15 and U18. She has been instrumental in encouraging more black girls to take up the game to ensure Eton Manor is truly representative of the local community. She recently formed the club's first senior women's team in twenty years, which has been a huge success.



JACKIE COLES

Torquay RFC

Jackie has played a huge role to get Torquay RFC back on track after a difficult period. Having worked tirelessly with the committee, she has helped to rebuild and bring the club back to life.



HARRY COLLINS

Hadleigh RFC

Harry has achieved a huge amount at only 19 years old. Having acquired numerous RFU qualifications he has also been heavily involved with Hadleigh's All Schools Programme. His enthusiasm and commitment to the game has been exceptional and he is a huge asset to the club.



BARBARA CRELLIN

Oakham RFC

Barbara supports the whole club and has worked tirelessly to get girls rugby back on the map at Oakham. She works across the county of Rutland and the CB currently as President. With her valiant efforts she has provided opportunities for young people to get involved, including an annual Tag to Twickenham tour. Barbara organises training and coaching opportunities, while also coordinating fundraising efforts.



DEBORAH CROSSAN

Hampstead RFC

As Whole Club Secretary, Debbie has worked exceptionally hard on a number of club areas, including improving club processes, providing some coaching support to the girls' team and always looking for solutions to club challenges. Debbie embodies the RFU Core Values in everything she does and always with a smile!



REBECCA DAVIES

Windsor RFC

Rebecca has proven to be a real asset to Windsor RFC having joined the club in 2012 and is a true inspiration to young players. Her dedication as a player, coach and first aider has been invaluable and she has tirelessly worked to help nurture and develop the next generation of players. Always going above and beyond, Rebecca is the unsung hero of the club. She is also a coach for Berkshire and is an active member of the Berkshire disciplinary panel.



DIEGO DOMINGUEZ DOMENECH

Coventry Corsairs RFC

Diego has been instrumental in the creation of the new Inclusive Rugby section playing out of Coventrians RFC. As Chairman he has grown the club to a point where it now has 30 male and 10 female players. His drive, enthusiasm and experience has created an environment which will foster future growth.



CHRIS EDMONDS

Knutsford RFC

Chris is a real 'Jack of all trades' at Knutsford RFC and has been the driving force behind the clubs' newly converted clubhouse. The new facility has provided a much-welcomed social space and has been groundbreaking in securing a bright future for the club. His passion for the game and the time he has put into the club is unwavering and long may it last.



HENRY GAYLER

Risborough RFC

Henry joined RRFC as a young player and after injury, got involved with the running of the club. Fixtures Secretary, Coach, Chef and committee member, Henry has worked tirelessly in every area of the club and brings an outstanding level of enthusiasm to everything he does.



KAREN GRAY

Sheppey RFC

Along with a team comprising of old and new committee members, Karen has had the privilege to Chair Sheppey RFC through difficult times . With sweeping changes, the club has recruited new players, regained old members and made sure safeguarding protocols have high standards. Karen knew there was a big job to do, but with a proactive team who are determined to do their best by a club they love, they have kept Sheppey RFC at the heart of the community, where it belongs.



JOHN HEAVER

Ashford RFC

John has managed to save Ashford Ladies team who were at risk of folding last season. His determination and perseverance has led to increased player numbers and an enjoyable yet challenging season. With John's strong leadership there is no doubt the team will continue to grow and flourish.



JACK HUGHES

St Leonards RUFC

As a young member of the club, Jack has really stepped up to the mark by becoming club captain at 24 years old. He has always made himself available for various club activities and is a dedicated volunteer, who goes above and beyond his duties. Jack plays an integral part in making the club the warm and welcoming place it is.



KIM JOHNSON

Camberley RFC

Kim led the establishment of Camberley RFC women's team through recruiting and supporting new players and coaches, planning training sessions and securing regular fixtures. Her support and passion for all things girls' and women's rugby continues off the pitch, as she proactively connects the local community to the rugby club continuing recruitment of new players, and supporting the sustainability of the club.



DUNCAN KINGSCOTT

Weston-super-Mare RFC

Duncan has singlehandedly transformed the club's pitch from a muddy swamp to a rich and lush playing field. From weeding the pitch to filling holes in the car park, his hard work and continuous dedication to the smooth running of the club has been exemplary.



KATIE LASHBROOK

Ruislip RFC

Katie has singlehandedly set up a ladies rugby team at Ruislip RFC which has proven to be a huge success. She has battled and persevered to get the ladies team up and running which is now thriving with some players being completely new to rugby. Katie is an inspirational leader who has helped to improve women's physical and mental wellbeing through rugby.



HELEN MCQUILLIN

Barnet Elizabethans RFC

Helen has strived to bring new initiatives to the club and mobilise volunteers to organise events that bring much needed income to the club. She carries out these tasks with little thanks despite the huge amount of work behind the scenes. Always with a smile, the club would simply not function without her.



JIM MOFFAT

Northallerton RUFC

Jim has been a huge part of Northallerton RUFC for many years and is a well-known face with club members. Having recovered from a bout of ill health, Jim's love and commitment to the game has continued and he is back running lines for club fixtures in all weathers. He is a true inspiration to everyone at the club and to rugby.



EMMA NEBEL

Crewkerne RFC

Emma is one of the driving forces behind the newly formed Crewkerne ladies' team. She began by organising taster sessions, engaging the support of the club and RFU coaches. She has since sought out suitable playing opportunities as the team goes from strength to strength.



LEWIS NUNN & NICK STAFFORD

Warrington RUFC

As Chairman and Club Secretary, both Lewis and Nick have worked tirelessly to help rebuild Warrington RFC and source a new facility whilst putting existing members at the forefront. They have gone above and beyond to create a sustainable future for the club and have strived to find solutions during a challenging time.



MICHAEL O'CONNOR

Stamford Rugby

Michael has proactively managed all PR & Marketing for the club which has hugely increased the club's exposure. He is also fully involved in coaching age grade rugby where he has influenced and inspired players to develop both on and off the field.



STEPHEN PARK

Pewsey Vale RFC

Steve has played a pivotal role as President of the club and has been the driving force behind a huge fundraising and volunteering effort to enable the club to self-build a magnificent clubhouse. Together with a magnificent team of volunteers they have successfully kept the club running whilst overseeing this project, vital for the clubs continued development.



ZACHERY PEARCE

North Dorset RFC

Zac is a valued volunteer who has put a considerable amount of time into growing the social adult male team and developing the adult ladies' team. Always helping others before himself, he goes above and beyond to make it a club to be proud of.



LOUISA PEARSON

Ross-On-Wye RFC

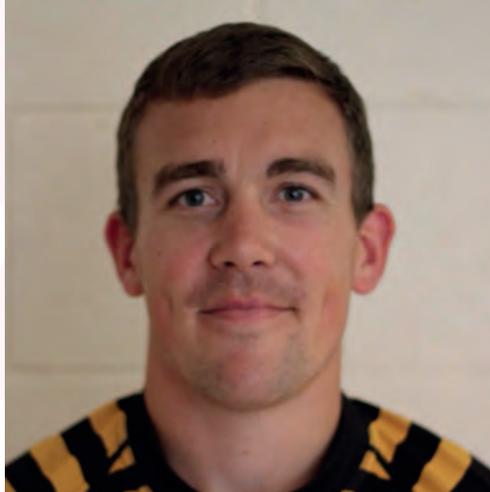
Louisa has played a pivotal role in growing the junior section of Ross-On-Wye RFC alongside her many roles at the club. She carries out all her duties with a cheery smile, from organising GMS data to opening the clubhouse. Her dedication as a volunteer has been outstanding.



DEN PLAISTOW

Wortley RUFC

Den embodies Wortley's 'Everybody Plays' Ethos. His enthusiasm and drive for the game has seen tangible outcomes including 6 additional coaches as well as a flourishing juniors' section. He has managed to generate over £1,000 using the Wortley 'Hill Billy Chuck Waggon', much needed income for the club. His commitment to the club has been invaluable.



SIMON QUICK

North Tawton RFC

Alongside his full-time teaching job, Simon is also player coach in the first team. Over the past few years, he has been the driving force in reintroducing a junior section at the club, which has been missing for over a decade. The club now has over 100 juniors regularly participating from tots rugby with 3-5-year olds, all the way through to under 10s.



KAREN RADLEY

Ampthill & District Community RUFC

Since being appointed Clinical Governance Lead, Karen has made huge efforts to ensure all medical requirements are in place including recruiting doctors, organising medical personnel on match days, and completing all the necessary paperwork. Her commitment to the role has been exceptional and greatly appreciated.



JOE RIDDLE

Schools Union

Joe has successfully worked with local schools to help promote the Young Match Officials (YMO) programme, identifying opportunities for YMOs to referee games and develop their skills set. He has played a key role in increasing the number of YMOs in the county, which has had a big impact on students getting involved in rugby.



NIKKI SHOUESMITH

Kingsclere RFC

As Club Secretary, Nikki has also taken on and successfully run the mini and juniors section for the last two seasons which has been going from strength to strength. She has always carried out her duties with huge amounts of positivity and enthusiasm and has recently completed the Hampshire RFU leadership academy course.



GRAHAM STAIT

Chipping Sodbury RFC

Graham has managed a thriving girls' section, providing a positive and enthusiastic environment at the club. He has also managed to obtain funding for new floodlights and a shower system to ensure the club continues to be sustainable and fit for purpose. Creating new playing opportunities has been at the heart of Graham's brilliant work.



ANN TAYLOR

Malton & Norton RUFC

As captain for the women's team, Ann is an inspirational leader for women's rugby. Despite having a busy schedule at home, Ann finds the time to coach the U15s girls' team as well as promote women's rugby through social media channels. Her hard work and commitment deserve full recognition.



HELEN TURNER

Hucclecote RFC Girls

Helen has played a key role in promoting girls' rugby and bringing it to the forefront at the club. Proactively organising rugby events, match fixtures, securing sponsorship and using social media channels to promote activities to the wider community, Hucclecote RFC Girls is now the fastest growing section of the club. She has been hugely inspirational for the players and without her dedication, there would be no girls' rugby.



ALAN WEIGHTMAN

Keswick RUFC

Alan has been instrumental in creating opportunities for girls' rugby at Keswick RUFC. Having recruited coaches and ensuring they gained relevant coaching qualifications, Alan also went on to host the largest girls' event to happen in Cumbria. This has been critical for developing the girls' section in the club.



KARLA WEISZ

Seaford RFC

As the first female club board member, Karla has worked tirelessly with the youth section to develop its presence in the Sussex region. She has been a key mentor for club members and through her organisational skills has brought Seaford RFC into the 21st Century by utilising RFU online systems.



ANDREW WILKINSON

Percy Park RFC

Andy has successfully developed a Coach and Player Development Pathway for U15 girls' and Coaches for the women's and girls' game in Northumberland, which has provided learning and development opportunities for women's coaches within the county.



JACKIE WILKINSON

Liverpool St. Helens FC

Jackie has played a pivotal role at Liverpool St. Helens FC having held various positions to help promote the club, the mini and juniors' section. She has been instrumental in recruiting new junior players and is a valued and active member of the club executive.





**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE EVENING,
AND THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING
THAT YOU DO TO SUPPORT OUR GAME.**



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