

MERSEYSIDE RUNNING COMMUNITY AWARDS 2015 WINNERS ANNOUNCED.

November 20th 2015

Second annual event celebrates sporting champions

A fundraiser who set up a charity in memory of his baby daughter; a London Marathoner with Parkinson's Disease who ran with a broken femur; and a running club set up just 10 months ago were amongst the winners of the Merseyside Running Community Awards 2015.

A total of 10 winners were announced during a celebratory awards dinner held at The Richmond Hotel Liverpool, on Hatton Garden.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Roz Gladden, presented the winners and finalists with their awards and certificates. The evening was hosted by Radio City's Claire Simmo and Graeme White, with entertainment from Liverpool soul band, The A Team.

This was the second annual awards, and the event sold out with 150 guests gathering to celebrate all that is positive and inspiring about Merseyside's running community.

The awards were open to the public to nominate individuals and groups who they would like to see recognised for their achievements across 10 categories and a shortlist was announced. The number of nominations doubled from the inaugural awards in 2014, and more than 1,800 votes were cast by the public to choose this year's winners.

This year saw the introduction of three new categories – Club of the Year; Charity Fundraiser of the Year; and Newcomer of the Year – which all proved extremely popular.

The Merseyside Running Community Awards 2015 were sponsored by Running Imp, Run ABC North, The Richmond Hotel Liverpool, and headline sponsor BTR Liverpool.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Liverpool, Councillor Roz Gladden, commented:

"It was a real pleasure to meet the very deserving winners and finalists of the Merseyside Running Community Awards 2015, what a fantastic event.

"It was wonderful to hear so many incredible stories about such inspirational people and groups, some of whom face real adversity in their day-to-day lives – undeterred and remaining extremely positive, they continue to strive to achieve their dreams.

"It felt like everyone in the room was a winner. The atmosphere was absolutely electric. Congratulations to the winners and finalists – and I wish everyone involved in the Merseyside running community a fantastic 12 months ahead."

The winners of the Merseyside Running Community Awards 2015 are:

Inspirational Individual Award Ann Green (Kirkby)

Services To The Running Community Award Eamonn Brady (Woolton)

Best Running Moment Award Liz Dennett – Liz Smashes London Marathon (Halewood)

Volunteer Team Award Croxteth Hall parkrun Team (Liverpool)

Running Personality Award Matt Helme (Liverpool)

Charity Fundraiser Award Dom Gilvarry (Liverpool)

Club Award Kirkby Milers (Kirkby)

Newcomer Award Annmarie Williams (Speke)

Running Image Award Red and Blue Stand Side by Side for The 96

Lifetime Achievement Award Stan Cottier (Fazakerley)

Merseyside Running Community Awards are the brainchild of RUN (Running Unites Network), a group of like-minded keen volunteer runners from across Merseyside who regularly meet to discuss all things running with RUN hosts, race organisers BTR Liverpool. The RUN group is open to all to get involved.

Collectively, RUN and BTR Liverpool created the Merseyside Running Community Awards, the first of which took place in October 2014.

BTR Liverpool is the leading independent organisation for creating, managing and delivering headline race events in Liverpool City Region. Its growing portfolio includes the Mersey Tunnel 10K; Port Sunlight 10K/5K/1K; Vitality Liverpool Half Marathon; Wirral Half Marathon/10K; and Medicash Santa Dash Liverpool.

During the evening, generous guests also supported a fundraising raffle in aid of the five official BTR Footsteps Fundraisers charities raising £826. The funds will be split equally between Radio City's Cash For Kids; Claire House Children's Hospice; Everton in the Community; Jospice; and Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

Prizes were donated by Bill Elms Associates; BTR Liverpool; Central Perk; Creation PT; Everton Football Club; Knowsley MOT Repair & Service Centre; Olympus Health Club & Spa; Radio City; The Powder Room Liverpool; and The Richmond Hotel Liverpool.

Merseyside Running Community Awards 2015 Official Event Video:
<https://youtu.be/5cwZh80jPQ8>

Winners' Summaries

Individual images are available of all winners upon request.

Inspirational Individual Award – Ann Green (Kirkby)

Ann took up running two years ago after being diagnosed with breast cancer. She completed the Race For Life while still undergoing extensive treatment. It's been a tough journey for Ann, who is described as a real fighter. Ann has won her battle. She completed three half marathons in 2015.

Services To The Running Community Award – Eamonn Brady (Woolton)

Eamonn inspires and encourages, giving his all to make the running community a better place. His constant encouragement helps runners across all race distances. Always there to 'drive' the Happy Bus, regardless of what he has run himself that weekend, including ultras. He is a true gent, selfless and kind.

Best Running Moment Award – Liz Dennett Liz Smashes London Marathon (Halewood)

Liz completed the London Marathon 2015 having been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, raising £2,500 for the Parkinson's charity. She later found out that she'd actually ran with a fractured femur. Liz continues to remain positive and determined. The times Liz is unable to run, she's always on the sidelines supporting.

Volunteer Team Award – Croxteth Hall Parkrun Team (Liverpool)

The Croxteth team have created another Parkrun in the city. It's inspired lots of new runners to give it a try, including a lot of youngsters. The team's desire to provide a top-class community event is infectious. Their dedication and enthusiasm is unbelievable, making the weekly event a 'must do'.

Running Personality Award – Matt Helme (Liverpool)

Never one to shy away from a challenge, it's been an eventful year for Matt. During the Summer, he ran from the London Eye back to Liverpool – on his own, with no sleep, posting live updates on social media. He covered a staggering 200 miles in 49 hours without stopping.

Charity Fundraiser Award – Dom Gilvarry (Liverpool)

Dom created charity Team Ella in memory of his daughter who was stillborn. He works tirelessly to fundraise and raise awareness of stillbirth. Dom continues to recruit dedicated supporters who run to raise funds while wearing the instantly recognisable yellow sunflower T-shirts. He continues to embark on testing challenges all in Ella's memory. Dom won the award the day after what would have been Ella's 5th Birthday.

Club Award – Kirkby Milers (Kirkby)

The hard work and determination to make the Kirkby Milers a success since starting in January is commendable. Mini Milers train alongside their parents, which encourages newcomers to the family orientated, open door environment. Weekly track sessions attract over 100 club and guest runners. Young club with a massive heart. Already achieving great things in its first 10 months.

Newcomer Award – Annmarie Williams (Speke)

Annmarie joined Penny Lane Striders in January 2015 and has since gone from strength to strength. Within a year, she has gone on to complete a marathon in under four hours. This has stood her in good stead, earning her a 'good for age' place in the London Marathon 2016.

Running Image Award – Red and Blue Stand Side by Side for The 96

Red and blue football fans came together to take part in the inaugural Run For The 96 5K in Stanley Park on 19 April 2015. Dom Williams created a community fun run to remember the 96 Liverpool fans who lost their lives in the Hillsborough tragedy, their families and survivors.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Stan Cottier (Fazakerley)

Described as a running legend, Stan has been a key part of the running community for some years. He runs, helps, encourages, inspires and supports everyone who has the pleasure of meeting him. A real character who is always happy, chatty and a genuinely nice man. Popular wherever he goes.