



ACTIVE WESTMINSTER AWARDS 2020



#ActiveAwards2020

ACTIVE
WESTMINSTER



City of Westminster

Thank you for joining the ActiveWestminster Awards 2020!

In this digital programme, you can find a full agenda for this evening's event, as well as information about our wonderful sponsors EcoWorld and ETC, who make this year's ActiveWestminster Awards possible. You can also find an overview of the awards categories and shortlisted finalists.

We hope you enjoy the first ever virtual ActiveWestminster Awards.

[Watch the awards >](#)



Welcome

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the virtual ActiveWestminster Awards this evening. Now in its eleventh year the awards are a mainstay of the ActiveWestminster calendar, bringing our community together to recognise and celebrate the people and organisations who help us create an Active City for All.

This year's Awards are particularly needed, as it is important to recognise and celebrate the tremendous efforts of our residents, athletes, volunteers, clubs and ActiveWestminster partners, who have continued to provide their high quality services and provision to those that have required them the most throughout the pandemic.

The nominees range from residents, local clubs and schools through to ActiveWestminster partners and Westminster-based elite athletes. The standard of nominations has again, been exceptional this year and we're extremely proud of all those who were nominated. Therefore, we've had to make some tough decisions in short-listing the finalists, all of whom have been recognised for the vital role they play in physical activity, leisure and/or sport by getting and keeping our residents and communities active. The hard work and dedication of all the nominees is extremely appreciated by the council, our residents and communities that we all serve.

I'm proud to say that physical activity, leisure and sport across Westminster continues to go from strength to strength. In 2018 we launched our bold and ambitious ActiveWestminster strategy – Activate your City, Lives and Neighbourhoods. Our strategy has been developed to facilitate meaningful impact, not simply to sit on a shelf. It sets out clearly our ambitions for physical activity, leisure and sport and how we will work together via our underpinning principles to achieve these ambitions.

We continue to make important progress on our strategy commitments, including the implementation of our innovative ActiveStreets programme, which enables physical activity opportunities on the doorstep in our neighbourhoods for our children, young people and families. And; we continue our digital ambitions by purposefully implementing OpenActive. In doing so, we will open to the benefits of digital innovation in the physical activity, leisure and sport sector for our residents and communities by embracing and learning from new technology.

Earlier this year we held the inaugural and hugely successful inclusive event Dance Westminster, an innovative new project that encouraged more disabled people in our communities to get and stay active through dance. In 2021 Dance Westminster workshops and auditions will take place in partnership with local inclusive dance company Step Change Studios. It is open to disabled people aged 11 and over who live, work or study in Westminster. Participants will experience an inclusive, engaging dance class and learn a dance routine.

These achievements, amongst many others serve as a strong reminder as to how dedicated our residents, communities and our ActiveWestminster partners have been in continuing to activate our city, lives and neighbourhoods.

However, more progress on getting and keeping our residents and communities active needs to be made and we cannot achieve these changes alone. We recognise that no single department or organisation can, on its own, significantly increase and sustain the physical activity levels of our population. It will require the involvement and commitment of many partners and stakeholders to achieve this common goal.

Reaching that goal will require persistence, patience and resolution, therefore it is not just about doing the same things more efficiently – at times more innovative, radical and bold change will be required and we want to ensure that there is an openness to explore new options. We want to continue to work collaboratively to encourage innovation and share best practice. Through creating supportive and permissive environments that encourages people to be physically active, where, when and how they choose, we can better engage those who are currently inactive.

We need to encourage, facilitate and enable our children, young people, families and communities to lead active lives by undertaking changes to their lifestyles that are tailored to them and suits their needs. With you, our partners we want to create a genuine Active City for All.

I invite everyone to have a fantastic evening celebrating our collective achievements, your inspiring work and dedication to physical activity, leisure and/or sport in Westminster. Whether you win an award this evening or not, I'd like to thank you all for everything that you have done, and continue to do, for the City of Westminster and the ActiveWestminster Partnership, particularly in what has been a very challenging year. Thank You!



Councillor Paul Swaddle OBE
Cabinet Member for Community
Services and Digital

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Swaddle". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the portrait.

Agenda

7pm

Welcome

Introduction by Sky Sports Presenter David Garrido

Welcome by Cllr Paul Swaddle OBE,
Cabinet Member for Community Services and Digital

7.05pm

Awards presentations

7.20pm

Half-time interlude

VIBERCISE with Cory Wharton-Malcolm

7.25pm

Awards presentations

7.45pm

Closing remarks

The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster,
Councillor Jonathan Glanz

7.50pm

Thank you and close of event

Awards headline sponsors



EcoWorld

A new community leisure centre at the previous site of Jubilee Sports Centre, will consist of new a three-court sports hall and community suite. Changing areas will meet the changing places standard, making this centre accessible for the whole community. The community suite will be flexible and provide space both for physical activities and for community events. This community leisure centre is currently under construction and is forecast to open in Winter 2022. The opening of this new community leisure centre is an integral part of the ActiveWestminster Strategy and the council's City for All priorities.



ETC

ETC have had the privilege in recent years of installing various facilities across the city to meet the forward-thinking ethic of the Westminster. Last year, ETC installed two FA standard 3G pitches at Paddington Recreation Ground, and this year they have added an international standard artificial grass Hockey pitch and a state-of-the-art polymeric surfaced 60m athletics sprint straight and calisthenics fitness zones.

ETC were also delighted this year to have transformed the Lisson Green football pitch into an FA compliant 3G pitch with a roof net. ETC are very proud to the company to be providing top class facilities for the community in Westminster.

Our partners



Everyone Active

Everyone Active is proud to work with in partnership with Westminster City Council, helping to provide health, fitness and leisure services to local communities.

The company and its employees are passionate about the role we believe we can play in improving the health and wellbeing of the city and are committed to providing the highest standard of facilities at Westminster leisure centres.

All the company's staff shares the same passion for being active and our commitment to providing members with the highest quality health and fitness advice and training.

As well as managing leisure centres on behalf of Westminster City Council and delivering health and fitness services, Everyone Active also supports the council to find and secure funding to improve and/or create new facilities and activities locally in the community.

Awards prize's sponsors



Also, thank you to Charles and Tin-Tin Ho.

Award shortlisted finalists

Inclusive Award

This award recognises an individual, club or facility that create and deliver inclusive activities for disabled people.

Deb Bullen and Sport for Confidence

Sport for Confidence CIC is a unique organisation that places occupational therapists working alongside sports coaches to deliver person-centred physical activity sessions for individuals who face barriers to participation.

Before the impact of COVID-19, Sport for Confidence was operating its programme in three Leisure Centres in Westminster, delivering 10 inclusive sessions every week. Participants, many of whom live with learning disabilities, mental health conditions and other long-term health conditions, enjoy a range of activities including boccia, multisport, table tennis, polybat and supported gym sessions. During COVID-19 the programme continued online and thereafter a hybrid approach has been implemented with sessions in Leisure Centres and online to support accessibility.

Pro Touch Soccer Academy (PTSA) – SEN Football & Fitness Project

PTSA former member Paul Davis, whom had learning disabilities and experienced mental health challenges reached out to PTSA about wanting to establish a football and physical activity programme to help others just like him, with socialisation, physical health and mental health development.

By making the sessions inclusive and welcoming to all, the words spread quickly, and numbers had increased.

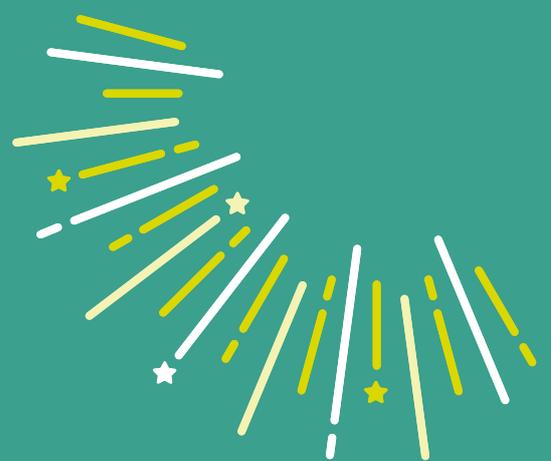
Rashmi Becker and Step Change Studios

Despite the obvious challenges, 2020 has been a very productive year for Rashmi and Step Change Studios. It started with them conceiving and delivering 'Dance Westminster' – the first inclusive dance competition in Westminster for disabled people of all ages and abilities, featuring 100 hours of free dance classes.

Step Change now provides regular inclusive dance classes in the borough which are currently on-line but will become in-person when it is safe to do so. They also helped the London Youth Games in their efforts to be more inclusive and worked with Open Age to create a fun, online dance challenge. And Step Change Studios also created a paid intern opportunity for unemployed disabled people this year.



Award shortlisted finalists



Change4Life Award

This award recognises projects which have made a difference to children, young people and/or families' health and wellbeing through physical activity.

Christopher Sweeney

Christopher Sweeney and Thomas Harper have been running a program of fitness for young people and their families in St George's square to support low-socio economic families where a gym membership is not accessible for them, support healthy living following COVID-19 lockdown. This has led to families attending sessions to build on their self-esteem, fitness, mental wellbeing and increased socialisation during difficult months.

City of London Gymnastics Club

City of London Gymnastics Club grew from a small one day a week class in a sports centre in 2000 and is now an established gymnastic club located in Westminster with qualified coaches. Having started with fewer than 20 gymnasts, it now has hundreds. The club run classes for girls and boys from beginners at grass roots all the way through to national competitive level and their elite squad even compete at international events.

City of London Gymnastics Club's aim is to provide the best developmental training for children and to encourage and challenge each child to reach their full potential.

Renegades Netball Club

Renegades encourage young people and children to make long-term improvements to their lifestyle, offering fun environments to engage in team sports and play, with emotional and mental health the top priority.

Throughout lockdown, they reached out to members and other young people to offer virtual netball activities and challenges to help maintain motivation and keep spirits lifted. They also provided links for mindfulness to help with emotional health and well-being.

Renegades netball club sessions include team-building exercises, netball skills and training, they also support senior schoolgirls taking on voluntary roles within the club as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Award shortlisted finalists

OneYou Westminster Award



This award recognises projects which made a difference to adults' health and wellbeing through physical activity.

Christopher Sweeney

During the first lockdown, Chris created a community group to support people to get and stay active in and around Westminster, which started off as an online Zoom class due to social restrictions. Over the weeks the class grew from three to four people to 30 approximately. Once lockdown restrictions eased, Chris started to deliver the classes in the local park, whilst keeping the Zoom class going six days a week. The class began to develop a community vibe where friendships were formed and strengthened. The group became known as the 'Virtual Ninjas' and is still going strong.

Open Age

As the country went into lockdown in Spring, Open Age prioritised check-in calls to ensure that its members were safe and had access to essential or emergency supplies such as food, electricity, gas and medication.

They then developed a remotely accessible programme which provided more than 100 hours of activities in just over a month, with almost 250 Westminster residents being physically active, allowing them to make healthy improvements to their lifestyle.

The classes offer a range of disciplines throughout the week, providing a wide variety of activities to help with mental, physical, social, emotional health and well-being, and keeping the group connected in a social way by a short chat in every group session.

In a recent survey, 88% of members found Open Age's classes have helped maintain or improve their physical wellbeing during this period, and a further 80% of members are interested in online activities continuing after the social distancing measures are lifted.

Renegades Netball Club

Renegades Netball Club encourage women of all ages to participate and enjoy Netball. Renegades provides a very friendly and enjoyable environment for women to compete in training and matches, regardless of age or ability. Renegades participants use the sessions as a great way to keep fit, meet new people, make new friends and release stresses that come with day to day life.

Awards shortlisted finalists

The Active Place and Space Awards



These awards recognise a formal place indoors or outdoors and an informal space indoors or outdoors that offers or enables physical activity, leisure and sport opportunities.

The Porchester Centre

Thanks to the commitment of its staff, the Porchester Centre plays a very pro-active part in encouraging the local community to lead healthier lives, supporting initiatives ranging from subsidised tea dance, to partnering with local pharmacies, supporting a smoking cessation programme, to working with other Westminster organisations as well as running open days and connecting with local businesses to promote a healthy workforce.

And lockdown also couldn't stop the centre being proactive, as it used the opportunity to bring forward several major refurbishments and improvements, including works to make the whole facility much more accessible for users going forward.

Queen Mother Leisure Centre

The feedback on The Queen Mother Leisure Centre was extremely positive, highlighting how staff provided targeted support for hard-to-reach groups and vulnerable individuals, including homeless people, carers and volunteers.

The virtual options made available during lockdown to members were described as a "life-saver" by users. It's clear the centre's management team act on feedback, and users described the venue as being weeks ahead of other local gyms in re-opening facilities and being supportive of the local community, by offering a wide volume and variety of classes almost immediately post-lockdown. The friendliness and professionalism of staff was also a common feedback theme.

St Augustine's Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden was created during the pandemic, making it an even more special place. Previously unused and littered with rubbish, it has become an attractive green spot, allowing students the opportunity to develop their horticultural skills, as well as get a bit of peace and tranquillity.

Gardening improves motor skills, enhances creativity, increases social skills and improves self-confidence. It also reduces stress, helps children cope with anxiety and frustration, and improves mental wellbeing.

While students are learning a lifelong love of growing things, teachers are learning more about them. They are building bonds and creating memories. In future, local schools will be able to deliver science lessons at the Sensory Garden, and it will also be a space for further training and development for staff.

Award shortlisted finalists

Active Digital



This recognises the creation and/or use of technology such as OpenActive, which supports the leisure sector to help more people get and stay active.

Ash Rahman – Pro Touch Soccer Academy (PTSA)

Since April 2020, Ash has taken the Lead Role to deliver weekly Football & Fitness sessions across Zoom and Facebook to ensure continued community grassroots engagement in providing physical health and wellbeing activities to our members and the wider community. These sessions helped existing as well as new members to help keep active and improve their health and wellbeing as well as mental health as many would have experienced during these difficult times faced by society. Sessions were promoted via Pro Touch Facebook Page, as social media accounts including Instagram and Twitter.

There are 200+ Westminster members from aged 5+ from a wide range of diverse cultural and faith backgrounds registered. Some football and fitness video sessions were viewed over 1,000 times within 24 hours, and with an average of 30–40 participants joining in the online digital sessions. Days with multiple sessions had close to 70–80 participants joining per day. Sessions focused on improving fitness and exercise, in addition to facilitating discussion around various key topic such as “what is affecting everyone during lockdown” or “how is everyone friends and family”.

LEGS (Local Exercise Groups for Stroke & other Neurological Conditions)

As soon as lockdown commenced in Spring, LEGS’ physiotherapists developed a programme for delivering high-quality, tailored exercise and support sessions by Zoom. With a new website designed specifically for people with neurological conditions and new WhatsApp support groups, they have utilised technology in a user-friendly way to encourage participants to keep moving.

Daily messages are sent to participants with links to video resources, online exercise programmes and advice, as well as a range of other activities encouraging members to be active, with the priority on removing barriers that prevent people from exercising.

The LEGS physiotherapist-led rehabilitation programme was so impactful, it has been singled out by the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists as a blueprint for how to deliver innovative exercise programmes online to people with neurological conditions.

Leila Hanouni – Zumba Family

Throughout lockdown, Dance fitness instructor Leila Hanouni offered her free time to deliver free Zumba classes to the Westminster community. Leila recruited her friends Tissy Janfali and Edyta Federowicz to help keep their communities fit, well and connected. The team mobilised to ensure that those shielding at home had a chance to exercise. Leila helped the community stay informed of class times and offered classes to help people understand how to use zoom.

During lockdown, Zumba classes would often reach up to 45 people and resulted in Leila increasing the number of classes per week. Approximately 360 Westminster residents a week can stay fit and healthy as a result of Leila’s classes. Leila’s classes provided an opportunity to connect with family and friends improving mental, physical, social and emotional well-being.

With schools closed, many people were having difficulty keeping their small children fit, well and happy, as a result, Leila introduced a free Wednesday daytime dance class for children with her 11-year old daughter Hanna.

Award shortlisted finalists

PE and School Sport



This award recognises the commitment by primary, secondary and/or special schools to PESS.

Queen's College Prep School

Thanks to outstanding planning, the PE department at Queen's College Prep School were able to follow their curriculum throughout lockdown, providing on-line lessons and creating videos so that students were inspired to make their own sports equipment allowing them to be able to continue with their PE lessons.

All students were able to take part and send amazing videos and photos of the equipment they made, and they were also able to access PE staff and other classmates throughout their lessons and this in particular encouraged students to keep motivated and practice mindfulness whilst staying at home.

Post-lockdown, the school now offers a very popular early-morning breakfast club, as well after school-clubs providing a very wide range of activities. The school has an excellent reputation for developing the sporting potential of its students, creating pathways into external clubs such as Westminster and Hampstead Hockey Club, Renegades Netball club, Serpentine Athletics club, Semmie Martial Arts Club, Chelsea and Westminster Swimming club as well as Queens Park Rangers who also provide an after-school club.

St Edward's Primary

St Edwards has been creative and innovative by providing the students with new opportunities to be more active through school. They been delivering the Daily Mile and used this as a session to promote the Westminster Mile by using it as a training session where possible.

St Edwards have been using the local Greenhouse Charity facilities and in partnership have been delivering table tennis sessions which has been an added bonus to St Edwards children. The school have worked with QPR FC and have entered their football competitions where they have finished 3rd place and earned a prize of getting to play at QPR's home ground. St Edwards have worked with Middlesex Cricket and have benefited from free coaching from the club

The school provides 1.5 hours per week for PE and have Extra Curricular activities before and after school offering regular sports which is available for all student to take part in. The school has also taken part in all available competitions over the last year.

This school also received a Bronze Award for their School Games Mark

The Grey Coat Hospital

Throughout the summer Grey Coat was one of the schools who took part in the virtual online challenges which gained them a recognition award for going above and beyond in keeping their students physically active.

This school does provide Extra Curricular sports and activities for their students and through external partnerships they create pathways for their students to access clubs either within school or outside of school.

Grey Coat Hospital have competed in all competitions throughout the last year and also received a Bronze award for School Games and were the only secondary school to achieve this award this year.

Award shortlisted finalists



Young Sports Personality

This award recognises outstanding achievements in their chosen sport or activity by a young person under the age of 19.

Farah Ceric

Farrah is an exceptional athlete and hockey player who has achieved great success over the past year thanks to her hard work, commitment and positive mental attitude.

Since September 2019, Farrah has played a year above her school age at Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club and has held her own in an extremely competitive and talented age group, cementing her place in the U12 Girls 1st team as a top goal scorer. In March, Farrah was selected to compete at the annual Middlesex U12 Cup competition, where her team won the tournament and in September, she moved up to the U13 Girls Performance team.

During lockdown, Farrah created her own hockey skills circuits in the park to recreate those demonstrated by GB hockey athletes online and started her own daily HIIT class on Instagram, which she presented live every day at 5pm, encouraging and inspiring peers across the world.

Farrah has now secured a hockey scholarship at school, supported by her achievements at HWHC and she has also been nominated a year early to trial for Middlesex on the England Hockey Player Pathway.

Sophie Waller

Sophie Waller is a member of the City of London Gymnastics Club and is a Team Captain who is an inspiration many of the younger gymnasts who look up to her and follow her example as they can see how she trains and uses the time in the gym wisely. Sophie is a true indication of what consistent hard work and dedication can achieve and her goal is to compete at college level in the US. This is a high level of gymnastics and Sophie is training to achieve all the necessary requirements.

Sophie manages balances her home life, schoolwork and gymnastics training with grace and a steadfast determination, showing determination to remain focussed on her own path and not be deterred by outside influences and is an inspiration to the whole club.

Teagan Khazal

In February this year, Teagan and three other team-mates became the Under-11s English Schools Table-Tennis National Team Champions, and he now stands at No.1 in England and National Champion for his age category.

When Teagan first started playing he couldn't even hold a bat, but training with the coaches at the Greenhouse Centre five times per week, his total commitment to the sport has seen him move rapidly through the Greenhouse Centre's talent pathway.

Award shortlisted finalists

Sports Personality

This award recognises outstanding achievements in their chosen sport or activity by a person over the age of 19.

Antonio Infantino

As for all elite athletes, 2020 has been a very challenging season, and in addition to having to deal with the pandemic, Antonio has had to overcome family tragedy this year, as well as having to deal with back and tendon injuries.

Still, he bounced back to achieve personal bests for both the 100m and 200m! Antonio has also driven himself forwards to win National titles and be ranked 4th in Europe at 200m in 2020, and he has his sights set firmly on next year's Olympics

Apostolos Fournaris

Apostolos only took up competitive swimming four years ago whilst being a postgraduate student and working full time, with the goal of competing on the International masters' circuit.

With the help of his coach and the support of his fiancé, Apostolos fit his very demanding training around all his other also very demanding personal, educational and professional commitments. This includes waking up at 5am every day, going to work or University after that, and then training again in the evening before going back home and helping to care for their son who was born in February.

At the 2020 Welsh National Championships, he won an amazing five medals which has granted him qualification in five events for the European Championships which due to COVID-19, have been re-scheduled for next year. Apostolos continues to be fully committed to his training as he focuses on his 2021 goals which are to compete in the Greek National and European Championships and take his son up the podium with him.

Melita Emanuel-Carr

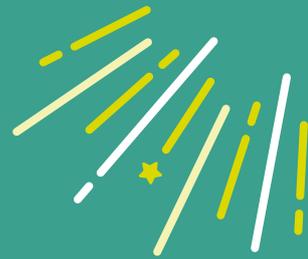
Melita is an international Basketball player for England, who after winning a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and playing in Spain last year, was due to return home to London this year and play in the WBBL for the BA London Lions.

Unfortunately, after only playing three games with the team she tore her ACL during practice, and she had to await until August for surgery due COVID-19 pandemic circumstances. Throughout this time, Melita has been using her presence on social media to share inspirational and motivational messages for athletes that have gone or are going through similar things, empowering people and showing them that no matter what obstacles life throws at you, the sky's the limit. Her perseverance is a key message for athletes struggling with mental and/or physical health.

In addition, Melita is also the founder of the Stop the Violence basketball campaign which aims to decrease the rising number of knife crime in London and despite her injury has played a major role in the community, raising issues and carrying out speeches.



Award shortlisted finalists



The Lord Mayor of Westminster's Unsung Hero Award

In memory of Mariam Sabir

This award recognises special people who have contributed to Physical Activity, Leisure & Sport in Westminster over a number of years.

Chrissie Mullings-Lewis

Chrissie is an inspirational trainer who has been serving the local community for over 30 years. During lockdown she provided free online classes to support physical and mental wellbeing, along with imaginative fundraisers which raised money for more than 20 charities, including an amazing challenge that saw participants virtually travel 17-thousand kilometres to Australia, raising over £3,000! And post-lockdown, these free classes have continued in order to encourage her regulars back into physical activity.

Even before lockdown was announced in March, Chrissie organised Zoom circuits classes to keep people energised and connected, and she has been absolutely instrumental in keeping a bunch of fitness devotees motivated and active in these depressing times. What shines through in the feedback from her regulars is the sheer positive impact that she has made on so many peoples' lives, comments such as "she makes the world a better place" and is "one of the most inspirational people I have ever met" were common. Chrissie is an outstanding example of someone who cares about those less fortunate, who brings people together, promoting fitness and wellbeing for health and longevity.

Elizabeth Ayres

Elizabeth devotes a large amount of her time leading the Serpentine Running Club juniors' section doing her best to ensure that no child has barriers to stop them accessing running and training.

Many of the juniors come from low income families and others who were impacted by COVID-19 through job losses and pay cuts. Liz not only sourced free running shoes and training kit for the children but she ran the virtual London Marathon in the pouring rain to raise funds for the section and did so whilst recovering from COVID-19 which has affected her for five months.

Liz also provides an online Facebook community called 'Girls That Run' that aims to support and encourage female runners of all sizes, ages and speeds to ensure that none ever feel like that they are an imposter and should not be running. The group is at 3.1k members and rising weekly.

There is nothing Liz won't do for another runner or the junior athletes' section and she is absolutely an 'unsung hero' and everyone at the club would love to see her rewarded for everything she does.

Nominees continued on next page

Award shortlisted finalists

The Lord Mayor of Westminster's **Unsung Hero Award**

(In memory of Mariam Sabir)

Mohamed Elnaiem

Mohammed Elnaiem has devoted over 25 years to doing voluntary work for the benefit of communities across London and particularly in Westminster.

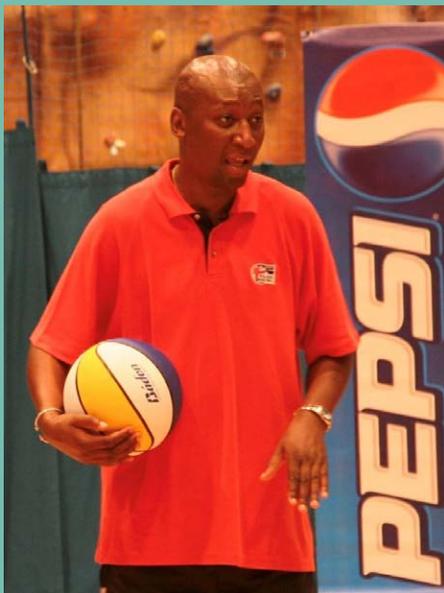
What started as a small weekly gathering for children to have fun in one of the borough's most deprived areas, has expanded into a programme giving young people of different ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to integrate. Mohamed is vice chair of the Children-and-Young-People-Network in Westminster.

There are numerous stories of how young peoples' lives have been positively impacted by Mohamed, helping them rehabilitate into society and find jobs, as well as how highly he is regarded by all sectors of the community, where he is seen as a strong leader with a reputation as a mediator, whilst also being a role model for young people using his knowledge of youth culture and current issues.



Lifetime Achievement

The award is designed to commend any individual, group or organisation who, through their outstanding commitment, has gone above and beyond expectation and made a lifetime's impact in physical activity, leisure and/or sport in Westminster.



Steve Alexander

Steve is as local as they come – he studied at Paddington College (now City of Westminster College), then worked at Westminster Play Association, which is now the Little Venice Sports Centre, and later worked for Civic Leisure in Westminster as a Recreation Officer in a distinguished career. He was asked to coach a basketball team for the London Youth Games in 1987, and as a result, helped the Westminster Warriors Basketball Club go from strength to strength.

Steve then worked at Quintin Kinaston School for three years as a PE teacher. Whilst there, Westminster Warriors became well-known for developing young talent from some of the poorer communities across Westminster. And the club had now grown from a junior girls team to a club that trained and competed across junior and senior leagues, with all teams coached by Steve himself and Josh Cole.

In 1995 Steve steered the men to win the National League Division 2 title, playing the final at Wembley Arena.

He was the Chairman/Founder of the biggest basketball local league in London, Central Venue League London, with more than 60 teams in four leagues. Steve went on to work for Basketball England and also Walking Basketball UK, and he really has had a remarkable impact on basketball development across Westminster, the London region and England combining youth engagement and development with nurturing raw sporting talent through to performance and elite levels.

Closing remarks

Due to the current pandemic, we made the exciting decision to move this year's ActiveWestminster Awards online. As you have seen over the course of this evening, the standard of nominations has been exceptional and truly inspiring. There were tough decisions in short-listing tonight's finalists, all of whom have been rightly recognised for the vital role they play in getting and keeping our residents active through physical activity, leisure and/or sport.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to convey our collective thanks and gratitude everyone who was nominated for an award this year. And, congratulations to all the finalists and particularly the winners of this year's ActiveWestminster Awards.

This year's awards included the inaugural 'The Lord Mayor of Westminster's – Unsung Hero Award'. This award is in memory of Mariam Sabir who was passionate and dedicated volunteer. She worked with disabled children and dedicated all her spare time helping others. Mariam inspired everyone who met her and made a tremendous difference to those she supported.

These achievements we have seen over the course of this evening, amongst many others serve as a strong reminder as to how dedicated our residents, communities and our ActiveWestminster partners have been in continuing to activate our city, lives and neighbourhoods.

Additionally, our physical activity, leisure and sport service are continuing to work hard with our very valued ActiveWestminster partners across the city to ensure we offer the very best support in these times of need.

We need to encourage, facilitate and enable our children, young people, families and communities to lead active lives, by undertaking changes to their lifestyles that are tailored to them and suits their needs. With you, our partners, we want to create a thriving Active City for All.

To finish I would like to thank all the nominees and especially the winners, all our ActiveWestminster partners and our Awards headline sponsors EcoWorld and ETC. Your inspiring work and dedication to physical activity, leisure and/or sport in Westminster is amazing and so very much appreciated by us all at Westminster City Council.

I'd personally like to thank you all for everything that you have done, and continue to do, for the residents and communities of the Westminster and the ActiveWestminster Partnership.



The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Westminster Councillor Jonathan Glanz

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Glanz'.



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