

**CONGRATULATIONS TO HEAD COACH
JO HEWAT – COMMUNITY SPORTS COACH OF THE
YEAR 2008**



**Winning weekend for sporting community at Surrey's
Sporting Oscars!**

Surrey's sporting community was in a jubilant mood last night when over 150 players, coaches, volunteers and dignitaries gathered at the Surrey Sports Awards 2008.

The Star Diving Club committee nominated Jo Hewat for all her hard work with the club, and the achievements she has made since taking the position of Community Sports Coach in September 2007. She has shown dedication and commitment to the club, and the committee felt this needed to be recognised by nominating her for this award. Jo Hewat was short listed against Josie Sovegjarto (Guildford) (Movement & Dance) and Rita Wright (Boccia/New Age Kurling) (Reigate & Banstead), back in August.

When Jo was asked to comment on the evening she said she felt very proud to receive the award, although she very was nervous going up on the stage to collect the award.

The event was hosted by the ever-popular sports presenter John Inverdale, and celebrated the wealth of sporting talent within the county. The Oscar-style awards, now in their second year, recognised and rewarded those who make an outstanding contribution to sport, as well as providing a direct pathway for Surrey sports people to be nominated for regional and national sports awards.

Also joining John on stage was guest speaker Jo Sarjant, former Great Britain basketball player. Jo gave an insight into her life in sport and how she had

been inspired by great athletes who had encouraged her along the way. The ceremony also acknowledged and recognised athletes from Surrey who had attended the 2008 Beijing Olympic and Paralympic Games, and acknowledged the hard work and commitment of potential London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

As Sarah Williams, Chair of the Organising Committee, acknowledged: "It was a fantastic evening! All of the award winners for the second Surrey Sports Awards have contributed in one way or another to making Surrey one of the most active and successful sporting counties in England. They should be very proud of their achievements and efforts. It's just a shame we cannot have more winners for each of the awards, as they all deserve recognition.

The event has received enthusiastic support from the local sporting community as well as great assistance from a range of generous sponsors, and a big thank must go to Cobham Sports Association for providing their wonderful new venue for the Awards. We look forward to building on the success of the event in the future and to celebrating county winners who go on to gain further recognition at a regional and national level.

Star Diving Club is very proud of Jo Hewat, and wish her the very best at the regional awards.