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**Capital’s community sport successes celebrated in London Sport Awards shortlists**

Heroes of grassroots physical activity and sport recognised across eight Award categories.

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Groups and individuals working to strengthen physical activity and sport in all parts of the nation’s capital have been recognised this evening as the shortlists for the 2019 London Sport Awards are announced.

Covering the full breadth of grassroots physical activity and sport, this year’s shortlist includes projects delivering physical and mental health benefits, volunteers dedicated to the growth of community sport, and initiatives that champion closer social integration across London.

The Awards, which take place at Twickenham Stadium on the evening of 14 March, are the capital’s biggest annual celebration of grassroots sport. Over the past three years, the London Sport event has shone a light on the incredible impact of community sport across the capital, and entering their fourth year, the event promises to be bigger and better than ever before.

**Michelle Weltman, London Sport Awards Judge and Athletes with a Disability Lead, London Marathon, said:**

*“These Awards recognise real grassroots sport: the communities, individuals, organisations and clubs that are doing great things right at the heart of sport in London.*

*“Every year I’m blown away by the amazing work that these groups are doing all across London, and the incredible things that get people active and involved in sport. This year’s nominations were probably our strongest ever, and I’m delighted we can share the full shortlists today.”*

**Tove Okunniwa, Chief Executive of London Sport, said:**

“*There are lots of Awards that focus on the elite and commercial areas of sport, but the fact that the London Sport Awards showcases to the world the fantastic work going on at a grassroots level is something we take great pride in.*

*“Our 24 shortlisted nominees represent the real diversity of community physical activity and sport in London. We can’t wait to announce the winners on 14 March!”*

**The full shortlist for the London Sport Awards 2019 is:**

**The Physical Activity for Health Award**

* GLL – Healthier Together Hackney (Hackney)
* London Fire Brigade Community Safety Health Team – Safe and Well Project (Multi-Borough)
* Single Homeless Project (Camden)

*Highly commended:* Boxing Futures; West Ham United Football Club and Foundation

**The Technology for Participation Award**

* Better Points (Lambeth)
* Street Tag (Barking)
* Walk With Path (London-wide)

*Highly commended:* My Local Pitch

**The Children and Young People Award in association with PlayInnovation**

* Badu Community CIC (Hackney)
* Panathlon Challenge (London-wide)
* The Running Charity (Greenwich)

*Highly commended:* James Watson and Fairholme Primary School

**Volunteer of the Year in association with Davies Sports**

* Franck Batimba – Haringey Hawks (Haringey)
* Nahimul Islam – Founder of Wapping Youth FC (Tower Hamlets)
* Simon Lloyd – Everyone Active (Westminster)

*Highly commended:* Pat Aiyenuro

**The Sport Unites Award in association with the Mayor of London**

* Salaam Peace (Waltham Forest)
* The St Matthew’s Project (Lambeth)
* UK Wallball (Kensington & Chelsea)

*Highly commended:* Core Sports; Our Parks

**The Harnessing the Power of Elite Sport Award**

* BIGKID Foundation (Lambeth)
* Palace for Life Foundation – PlayMakers (Croydon)
* Saracens Sport Foundation (Barnet)

**The Workforce Award in association with Lumina Energy**

* Disability Sports Coach (London-wide)
* London Youth (London-wide)
* Newham Volunteer Team (Newham)

**Club of the Year**

* Hornbeam Joy Riders (Waltham Forest)
* Kew Park Rangers – Football for All (Richmond)
* Uxbridge Amblers (Hillingdon)

*Highly commended:* Badu Community; Disability Sports Coach

**-- ENDS –**

**Notes to Editors**

**About the London Sport Awards**

The London Sport Awards is the showpiece event for community sport in London, recognising the best of the capital’s grassroots physical activity and sport. The first London Sport Awards was held in January 2016 at Lord’s Cricket Ground and has since been hosted at prestigious locations including indigo at the O2 and Wembley Stadium.

The London Sport Awards 2019 takes place at Twickenham Stadium on the evening of 14 March. Tickets are on sale now via: <https://londonsport.org/event/london-sport-awards-2019/>

**About London Sport**

London Sport aims to make London the most physically active city in the world. Supported by the Mayor of London and Sport England, our target is to get 1,000,000 Londoners more physically active by 2020.

For more information on London Sport, visit [www.londonsport.org](http://www.londonsport.org)

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