

Sport

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Countdown begins after judges whittle down Sports Awards nominees to finalists

ONCE A YEAR we recognise sporting achievement in Torbay with a glittering awards ceremony at the Riviera International Conference Centre – and 2015's evening is shaping up to be the best ever.

The Torbay Sports Awards judging panel met last week and whittled down the nominees to 10 shortlists – and these fine sporting representatives of our area have now been invited to join us on November 26 to celebrate everything good about Torbay Sport.

The strength of the nominations in the 10 categories made it hard work to

TORBAY SPORTS AWARDS 2015

RICHARD HUGHES

select the finalists and you just need to look at the four finalists who make up the Senior Sports Personality category – to see quality of this year's field.

Pictured below (top left and clockwise) are Chris Wheeler, a UK rallying champion from Torquay, Adam Thomas, Brixham Rugby Club's Devon Senior Cup winning captain, Torbay Taekwondo Club's Amanda Barge, a

multiple gold medal winner for England in her sport, and Ryan Stevenson, the Torquay cricketer who has now signed a two-year contract with Hampshire.

The judging panel was Councillor Robert Excell (executive lead for community services and sport), Robert Loxton (chairman of the Torbay Sports Council), John Julyan (Paignton Community & Sports Academy), Alan Hart (chairman of Friends of South Devon College), Lauren Hutchings (Active Devon) and myself (head of sport content for the *Herald Express*).

"The standard this year was remarkable," said Hart. "I really want to congratulate every entrant because everybody who were entered are a real winner."

Cllr Excell added: "They are all a real beacon for sport in this area."

Over the next month I will be getting out to meet everyone who has made the shortlist and talking to them, recording their thoughts, and we will be having new photos taken for the pre-awards ceremony supplement which will appear in the paper on November 18. There will also be a

post-supplement which will feature all our winners and their stories. That will be out on December 2.

Jim Parker, the editor of the *Herald Express*, will be hosting the awards alongside myself, and he is excited by the quality of this year's finalists.

"It just goes to show how much talent and sporting prowess there is in Torbay," he said.

"It will be a wonderful evening of celebrations on November 26."

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TORBAY SPORTS AWARDS SHORTLIST

HEALTH CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Danny Brown Curbridge Street Primary School

Paul Harrison ROC Active

Gail Marie Shapter Fitness

Lynn Squire South Devon College

PRODIGE YOUNG ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Chloe Brook Ho. Ho.

Brooke Coldwell Athletics

Jack Cox Boxing

Gracie Mitchell Gymnastics

PARASPORT PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Dam Barlow Gymnastics & swimming

Andrew Keeler Swimming

Luca Wickens Football

YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Brianna Berry Christian Fevers

Pheobe McCaig Allington

James Ripley Paignton Sailing Club

Charlie Thorpe Paignton Community

CA Sports Academy

DISCOUNT HERO OF THE YEAR

Beryl D'Alessandro Football

Bobby Singh HSE, Active

Michele Radant Cycling

Nick Walker Torbay Hockey Club

COACH OF THE YEAR

Malcolm Grant Brixham Archers

Charlie Haigh Dart Netball Club

Louise Lewis Paignton Rugby Club

Kyle Perkins Parkour free running

Jon Pressing Torbay Tri Club

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Brixham Rugby Club

Chris Wheeler Rallying

Destiny Twirl Team

Paignton Community & Sports

Academy Netball team

South Devon School of Gymnastics

CLUBS OF THE YEAR

Brixham Archers

Brixham Rugby Club

Torbay Athletic Club

Paignton Community & Sports

Academy Netball team

South Devon School of Gymnastics

JUNIOR SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Natasha Bradley Mountain biking

Tom Fannon Swimming

Lillian Goddard Athletics

Jaimee Luscombe Transplant Games

Craig Passmore Golf

SENIOR SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Amanda Barge Torbay Taekwondo Club

Ryan Stevenson Torquay Cricket Club

Adam Thomas Brixham Rugby Club

Chris Wheeler Rally driver

