

The Nottingham Sports Awards 2015

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 01 November 2015 19:35 -

The Nottingham Sports Awards 2015, a joint venture between Nottingham Post and Nottingham City Council, took place at the East Midlands Conference Centre on the 29th of October. The evening was hosted by TV weather presenter Emma Jesson and sports reporter Gary Newbon. The headline sponsor was NET (Nottingham Express Transit).

Nottingham Rowing Club's Junior Girls and their President Keith Atkinson, were shortlisted finalists. The girls were entered in the Under 19 Team of the Year category sponsored by Nottingham Panthers.

"The squad is recruited mainly from local schools in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. They are aged 14-18 and train a minimum of 15 hours per week. Many are involved in GCSE or A level courses. Over the 2014-15 winter they won 18 trophies and two of the girls rowed with the High Performance Women to win the prestigious Head of the Trent and Provincial Pennant on the London Tideway. During the summer the squad won an outstanding 33 trophies. Highlights were :-Under 23 gold in Ghent; silver and bronze at Munich Junior International; victory in the Junior 16 Quads at Henley Women's Regatta, and gold in the Anglo- French Match. This was followed by silver in the Junior World Championships in Rio. An outstanding set of achievements which included several course records. Two of the girls are now at American Universities with sports scholarships based on their rowing records."

Lucy Holgate and Hannah Stocks collected the finalist trophy on behalf of the club. This category was won by Nottingham Corsairs U17s.

Keith Atkinson was a finalist in the 'Impact on Life Award' sponsored by De Vere Venues.

"Keith has been president of Nottingham Boat Club/later Rowing Club since 1977. The 77 year old has a long and distinguished association with the club since he joined in 1954 as a pupil of Nottingham Bluecoat School. He was elected captain in 1962 and coached from 1966 having achieved the ARA Gold Award and his crew from South Wolds School, Keyworth, won twice at the National Schools Regatta. In 1977 he was elected president of the Boat Club and became an international umpire. In 1996 he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and retired after 18 years as Head of Tuxford School. In 2006 Nottingham Boat Club and Nottingham Britannia amalgamated to form Nottingham Rowing Club and he was elected President and Chairman. From then there has been a marked expansion of activity with over 300 active participants.

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Members of all ages from 12-85 both men and women from the local community have enjoyed an outstanding season which has established Nottingham Rowing Club as one of the most successful in the country."

This category was won by the Nottingham Forest European Cup Winners in 1979. Keith collected his finalist trophy.