

New honour for remarkable

WIN of the year is a new category in Warrington Sports Personality for the 2006 event.

And here are the finalists in the running to win some wonderful prizes in a category sponsored by Gymophobics.

Win of the year is aimed at recognising a special one-off performance rather than consistency throughout a year and nominations were invited from teams and individuals in all sports at senior level.

Warrington Sports Personality of 2006, which is sponsored by World of Beds, organised by Warrington Guardian and supported by Warring-

ton Sports Forum, will reveal the winners at its awards night taking place at The Halliwell Jones Stadium on February 2.

The winners of the six senior awards will receive some wonderful prizes donated by the sponsors whose logos are shown on the adjacent page.

Tickets are priced £30 for awards night and are still available from 434017.

Next week, the Warrington Sports Personality of 2006 nominees will be featured, while the nominees in all 11 categories can now be seen online at warringtonguardian.co.uk/sport.



Warrington Rowing Club

FIVE members of Warrington Rowing Club became possibly the last crew to win an annual race between Jersey and France in August.

David Holmes, Graeme Maclean, Sian Henrys, Wally Bury and Mark Erlam rowed the 19 miles from Gorey to Carteret to clinch victory in a race that could be scrapped in future years.

The popular event is Carteret's biggest weekend of the rowing season and the crew were welcomed to the finishing line in the town's harbour by a flotilla of French boats and around 1,000

supporters on the shore.

The quintet completed the course despite tough conditions and three of the crew - Holmes, Bury and Erlam - had only started their rowing careers in January.

They raised more than £4,000 for charity in the process and could be the last to win the race after a ban on rowing boats entering French waters was brought in.

The ban, which is being challenged with help from the French ambassador to the UK, threatened to stop the crew's efforts this year but they were allowed to complete their crossing because of their fund-raising attempts.

Warrington Wolves

WARRINGTON Wolves won a play-off match for the first time in the Super League era in September.

Wolves were the unfancied underdogs for their elimination play-off against Leeds Rhinos at Headingley, having finished the league season in sixth position.

Leeds had reached the Grand Final 12 months previously but a stirring display from the visitors handed them a last-gasp 18-17 victory.

Wolves' chances seemed to have taken a blow before the game had even kicked off, with heavy traffic on the M62 meaning that the team only arrived at the ground 30 minutes before kick-off.

They fell behind to an early Rob Burrow try but Henry Fa'afili crossed to put Wolves back in the game.

Leeds led 12-4 when Danny McGuire touched down but talismanic stand off Lee Briers crucially reduced the gap to six points with a penalty.

And Briers began to take hold of the game in the second half as Michael Sullivan and Ben Westwood crossed for tries.

Kevin Sinfield's drop goal edged the home side in front but Briers responded with a field goal.

Both sides frantically searched for a winning point but it was Paul Cullen's side who got it, with Briers heroically landing a 79th-minute drop goal from 40 metres.



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wins achieved during 2006



Callands FC celebrate their Umbro International Cup success.

Callands FC

CALLANDS FC defeated Manchester side De La Salle to win the Calypso Sport Drink Trophy at the Umbro International Cup in August.

Callands, who were playing their last game under their old name before being renamed Moorfield Callands as they moved to play at Moorfield Sports Club, came out on top 1-0 against De La Salle in the final in Manchester to claim the first trophy in their 24-year history.

De La Salle had a selection of European nationals in their talented side but Callands, who had already played six matches during the 11-a-side tournament including a penalty shoot-out win against Lancashire side Charlestown in the semi finals, put in a courageous performance to clinch victory.

The Warrington Touchline Sports Sunday Soccer League Premier Division side had a number of players carrying injuries by the time the final came around and some had to battle on through the pain in the final 15 minutes after their three substitutes had been used.

Callands took the lead with 12 minutes to go when Adam Rhodes struck and then produced an outstanding defensive effort to hang on for the win, with keeper Matt Dando outstanding throughout the tournament.

Colin Clayton, Dave Roberts and Pete Partington coached the side to victory, with captain Phil Marsden lifting the trophy.

Warrington Town soccer team

WARRINGTON Town's penalty shoot-out cup defeat of Waterloo Dock in November will long live in the memory of the 89 people who watched it.

The second-round win in the Liverpool Senior Cup was quite extraordinary considering the circumstances leading up to the match on November 23.

But the reward was special, with Town drawing Liverpool FC at home in the third round.

For Town, it was their third game in six days and only two players that started the previous match against Woodley Sports were selected.

Waterloo Dock, on the other hand, arrived at Cantilever Park with an unbeaten 11-match record in the top flight of the new Liverpool County Premier League.

Town battled well throughout but, with five minutes remaining and after two disallowed goals, they were trailing 1-0.

Substitute Phil Mitchell levelled the tie from the penalty spot in the 85th minute to force extra time.

Waterloo Dock went ahead from the penalty spot in the first period of extra time but Mitchell equalised after a weaving run to set up the penalty shoot-out.

Town converted all their spot kicks in the shoot-out but Dock hit the bar with their sixth, leaving Town to go through 6-5.



Phil Mitchell's penalty strike kept Warrington Town in the Liverpool Senior Cup.

John Nicholls

JOHN Nicholls won the shot put title at the Cheshire Athletics Championships for a 20th successive year.

The 41-year-old from Stockton Heath had been the county's dominant force since his first win back in 1987 and had his sights set on 20 in a row for some time.

To remain on top form and injury free for so long is a remarkable feat and Nicholls achieved his dream by clinching victory again at Victoria Park in May.

Nicholls had made a slow start to the competition though, with Culcheth's Roger Bate leading in the early stages with a throw of 13.29m.

But Nicholls, who admitted he had taken his focus off the championships to concentrate on masters events during the spring months, eventually took control.

To his relief, his throw of 14.87m was easily enough to win and give him his 20th title.

Nicholls moved into semi-retirement at the end of the season, having competed for City of Manchester Athletics Club - formerly known as Sale Harriers - for several years.

But he still intends to compete in some masters events and it is not yet known if he will go for a 21st Cheshire title next year.



John Nicholls at the Cheshire Championships in May.



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