

# Clubs who lead by example

HERE are the eight clubs who are in contention to win the Warrington Sports Personality Club of 2006 award, sponsored by Carphone Warehouse.

The Warrington Sports Personality judges will be selecting the winner, who will be revealed at a glitzy awards dinner, sponsored by Unilever, taking place at The Halliwell Jones Stadium on Friday, February 2.

The winner will receive some wonderful prizes donated by businesses in the area whose logos are shown on page 101, where you will also find the nominees



**Warrington Guardian**

for the Warrington Sports Personality Team of 2006.

Tickets for the awards night are on sale and cost £30 each.

They are available from Gill Ormston on 434017.

Warrington Sports Personality of 2006 is sponsored by World of Beds, organised by Warrington Guardian and supported by Warrington Sports Forum.

The event can be followed online at [warringtonguardian.co.uk](http://warringtonguardian.co.uk), while next week the contenders in the win of the year category will be featured in Warrington Guardian.



## Warrington Wolves Rugby League Club

IF success is measured in international selections, then it was a superb year for Warrington Wolves.

Stuart Reardon, Henry Fa'afili, Martin Gleeson, Lee Briers, Paul Wood, Ben Westwood and Chris Bridge represented their country, while there were Academy call-ups for Danny Colquhitt, Ben Harrison, Kevin Penny, Matty Blythe, Anthony Rourke, Chris Riley, Lee Mitchell and Mike Cooper, who also captained a Lancashire side featuring Blythe, Mitchell, Joe Gandy and Jake Emmitt.

Jack Reid and Joe Mellor gained honours at under 16s level and Josh Crowley, Gareth O'Brien, Jordan Burke and Liam Hulme got the nod at under 15s level, while there were international coaching roles for Paul Cullen, Gary Chambers and Dave Elliott.

Wolves won their first ever Super League play-off game and an under 16s tour of Australia took place.

And Wolves won the Super League Club of the Year award, recognising the efforts in developing The Halliwell Jones Stadium to be a template for stadia with sport/health/education and community facilities all working in partnership for the benefit of all sections of the community.



## Rylands Sharks Amateur Rugby League Club

RYLANDS Sharks Amateur Rugby League Club enjoyed one of its most productive years in 2006.

Success has arrived on the back of many years of hard work behind the scenes.

The rugby club, with teams from under sevens to open age, was the first in Warrington to receive the clubmark award for its high standards four years ago.

A credit to their youth system is six players gaining representative honours with Great Britain at under 18s level.

Those players helped Rylands under 18s reach the Lancashire Cup Final last month, while some played a part in the first team winning the North West Counties Cup for the first time last season.

Sharks also lifted the North West Counties Division One title, gaining promotion to the top flight, while the club's under 12s team won the North West Counties Development Plate and the under 16s won the first Warrington youth cup competition.

But perhaps the most impressive success was the under 14s winning the BARLA National Cup.



## Eagle Rugby Union Club

TWO teams from Eagle RUFC have enjoyed success this season.

The first team have made a strong start to their first season back in the RFU structure.

The Great Sankey side are plying their trade in Powergen RFU Northern Division South Lancashire/Cheshire Four this season after previously playing in North West Intermediate League Miller Homes Division Three.

Eagle, who play at Thornton Road, remain unbeaten during 2006/07 and lead the division comfortably.

They have also reached the last eight of the Lancashire Plate, with the result of their quarter-final tie not known at the time of nomination, and have not lost at home for two years.

That unbeaten home sequence has been emulated by Eagle's second team, who are currently joint second in Miller Homes Division Five West.

The second string have also reached the third round of the Miller Homes Cup and the success of both of Eagle's senior sides continues to boost the club's reputation.

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# in the running for honours



Some of Warrington Gymnastics Club's competitors.



Representatives of Warrington Rowing Club and Warrington Brookhead Riding Club.



Members of North West Karate Academy and Warrington Swimming Club's water polo section.



## Brookhead Riding Club

BROOKHEAD Warrington Riding Club have achieved top 10 rankings in two of the major Inter-Riding club championships in the North West.

At the UK Interclub Supreme Championships, held at Myerscough College in September, BWRC finished sixth out of the 33 clubs taking part. Along the way, the riders held off competition from many older and larger clubs.

A month later, at the prestigious Festival of Champions in the Valliant's Equestrian Centre, BWRC finished ninth in a competition of 73 riding clubs - even beating the overall winners of the UK Showing Interclub Championships, who finished one position behind them.

Although Brookhead have achieved great things since forming six years ago, the team spirit among the riders and helpers means the most to the club.

Team members often borrow clothing and equipment from each other, provide much-needed transport to and from competitions for each other, and give fantastic support to each other at events.

## Warrington Gymnastics Club

WARRINGTON Gymnastics Club is proud to have been put forward for the 2006 club of the year category.

The club, based in Evans House, has had a momentous year most noticeably because of its amalgamation with Padgate Gymnastics Club.

This has seen a vast improvement in coaching thanks to cooperation between the two clubs and a soar in membership to more than 400 people.

Coach Sandi Gore said: "We've put aside our differences and we're now working together to put Warrington on the map."

The club won numerous medals in artistic gymnastics championships and the European championships for tumbling and many of Warrington's finest compete and train at the club up to six days a week.

At this year's national league for tumbling at Gloucester, the club won every medal bar one and at this year's artistic championships they scooped more than 50 per cent of the prizes.

## Warrington Rowing Club

WARRINGTON Rowing Club is flourishing thanks to a partnership with Lymm High School.

The club is one of the fastest growing in the country, doubling from 70 to 140 - 75 juniors and 65 seniors - in the last three years.

Its emphasis on youth is paying dividends with eight juniors selected for the Great Britain development scheme during 2006 and Olivia Oakes becoming only the second rower from the club to represent her country at junior level.

Warrington Rowing Club also won six medals at the British Indoor Rowing Championships,

four at the National Schools Regatta, three at the National Inter-Regional Regatta and one at the National Championships.

Eight coaches have completed their coaching qualifications and the club has restructured their committee to aid their administration process.

In addition, they have a long-term facilities development plan in place and have invested £10,000 in equipment.

## North West Karate Academy

NORTH West Karate Academy has produced numerous medal winners in a plethora of events during 2006.

The club currently hold a total of 70 titles and had individual and team success in international, national and regional competitions.

Natalie Charlton, Nicole Halsall and Amy Cook won team gold in the female over 45kg junior kumite at the International Karate Open, with Natalie, Nicole and Lydia Coleman winning individual golds.

The club, whose chief instructor is Steve Scott, won 66 other gold medals throughout the year as well as 45 silvers and 77 bronzes.

Natalie and Paul Charlton also represented Northern England at the Regional Team Championships with several other students gaining black belts during 2006.

North West Karate Academy has a dedicated band of instructors and parents, helping to create the feel of a family club.

They have also raised money for charity and for squad activities during fun nights and an annual inter-club competition open.

## Warrington Swimming Club's water polo section

WARRINGTON Swimming Club's water polo section has flourished during 2006.

The under 14s and the under 16s - both mixed sex teams - enjoyed considerable success in the 2005/06 season, winning four trophies.

The under 14s emerged as the winners of the Manchester Tournament in April, defeating Tyldesley, Failsworth and Royton in the second group stage to take the trophy.

They also reached the final of the Cheshire Championship but were edged out by Chester. But the club did beat Chester to clinch the Cheshire Championship at under 16s level.

The under 16s then won the Manchester League a week later with a 100 per cent record and remain unbeaten and on course to retain the title this season.

Warrington finished top of the Liverpool League and were runners up in the Northern Counties League.

A number of players from the club have been selected to represent the north west in the past 12 months with some invited to link up with Great Britain's youth team.

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