



VILLAGE GAMES

Derbyshire

Press Release

VILLAGE GAMES PROJECT MANAGER WINS HIGH PEAK SERVICE TO SPORT AWARD

For immediate release

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For more info please contact: Lissa Cook 07818 411791 / lissa@communitysportstrust.co.uk

The [Community Sports Trust](#) are delighted our board member Hayley Lever last night won the High Peak 'Service to Sport' Award for her work with [Chinley Community Association](#) which inspired her to develop the [Derbyshire Village Games](#) project. [High Peak Village Games](#) volunteer coach Zakh Poots was awarded the runner-up trophy in the Young Sports Leader/Coach category. High Peak Mayor David Lomax presented their trophies at a packed awards ceremony at Glossop Rugby Club.

The judges said **Hayley Lever** won the award for her "outstanding voluntary contribution to sport as a key volunteer for Chinley Community Association making it into a hub for a variety of village activities and for her fund-raising efforts for the development of facilities including the refurbishment of the multi-use games area and draining of the village football pitches and much more, ensuring Chinley residents have access to high quality facilities to support their regular participation in sport and physical activity." She will now be short-listed for the Derbyshire Sports Awards in November.

16 year old **Zakh Poots** has completed more than 100 hours volunteering for the High Peak Village Games Team. The judges said: "At 16 years old Zakh is an excellent role model for participants and other young leaders. He helps coach at football sessions, holiday courses

Community Sports Trust PO Box 43, High Peak, SK23 6ZU. Tel 01663 751608, 07947 897015. Email: info@communitysportstrust.co.uk Website: www.communitysportstrust.co.uk



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and mixed family sessions and works hard to ensure that every session is fun and safe for all. He has been highlighted as a 'brilliant leader' and was also successful in achieving a Derbyshire Young Achiever Award in December 2010."

Derbyshire Village Games Project Manager Hayley Lever said: *"It's great to see everyone enjoying activities right on their doorstep like swimming, zumba, pilates, over 35s football, netball and kids' sports. People in Chinley and all over the county are making friends, getting fit, losing weight and finding things they like which didn't realise they'd enjoy. And it's also great for the kids to have activities to take part in without having to be driven around and to be able to play sport and have fun."*

High Peak Village Games Officer Emma Beswick who nominated Hayley said: *"Hayley does such hard work in the High Peak. Chinley people have benefitted so much from what she's done and you can see all the children all the adults taking part in various activities and it's all thanks to Hayley and it needs to be recognised. Hayley was so inspired by how people in Chinley responded to activities provided by the Community Association that she developed the Village Games project. We now have 7 officers throughout Derbyshire so the whole county is benefitting from what Chinley's got as a community."*

16 year old Zakh Poots from Dove Holes said: *"I'm dead happy. It didn't seem like work because I enjoy it. I've coached football, helped at the Whitehall activity centre and at Village Games sessions. I just thought I should just give something back. I'm not one of those people who can sit at home and do nothing and I saw coaching as a way to give something back. I love learning skills and giving that to other people."*

Awards ceremony organiser Emma Champion who is Glossop Community Sports Development Officer said: *"It was great to see the best of High Peak Sports performers, clubs and coaches being recognised for their achievements at the pinnacle event of the year in the district."*

Chris Nightingale from High Peak Borough Council's sports development team which provided the trophies said: *"The High Peak has a strong infrastructure for sport and this is reflected through the achievements of athletes, coaches, and clubs recognised at this years sports awards. The awards always present an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work put in by young people, parents, and volunteers and High Peak Borough Council are pleased support the awards. would like to thank St Philip Howard Sports College, The High Peak Village Games team, and Glossop Rugby Club for there hard work in making the awards a success this year and look forwards to recognising sporting achievement in an Olympic Year during 2012."*

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Photographs:

- 1 Hayley Lever with Mayor David Lomax
- 2 Zakh Poots with High Peak Village Games Officer Emma Beswick
- 3 Zakh Poots with Mayor David Lomax

High resolution versions can be downloaded here:

<https://www.yousendit.com/download/T2dkTXRhV3JRWUpBSXNUQw>

Audio interviews with Hayley, Zakh and Emma are also available on request.

Notes to Editors

The Community Sports Trust is a not for profit Community Interest Company. Our vision is of communities where people of all ages and interests take part and compete in sport and recreation opportunities. Communities will have strong sustainable sports infrastructure with high quality volunteers, coaches and leaders.

The Community Sports Trust manages community-based sports development projects. Our flagship initiative is the **Derbyshire Village Games**. Inspired by the 2012 Olympics, this innovative three year project's aim is simple - we want people of all ages and abilities in villages across the county to get active. Our network of **Village Games Officers** work at grassroots level delivering sport on the doorstep.

The three year project is run by the Community Sports Trust in partnership with Derbyshire Dales District Council, Sport England, Derbyshire County PCT and Derbyshire County Council.

In its first year alone the Village Games' team has developed clubs, activities, events and festivals with 50 communities across Derbyshire with 36,000 attendances. 175 coaches and nearly 200 volunteers have supported activities. In the High Peak these include Flash, Flagg, Chelmorton, Taddington, Sterndale Moor, Chinley, Longnor, Wardslow and Tintwistle. The project will be expanding over the next year to other villages and in the Hope Valley.

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