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Hillman honoured at national awards

CORNWALL multi-sports coach and sports inclusion officer for the Cornwall Sports Partnership, Steve Hillman, has been named as the National Disability Coach of the Year - supported by Sainsbury's Active Kids for

The UK Coaching Awards, supported by Gillette, honour sports coaches and coaching organisations who have demonstrated outstanding success over the previous 12

Hosted by Sports Coach UK, the showpiece event is seen as one of the most prestigious within the industry and a glittering evening event took place at the Montcalm, Marble Arch in London on Tuesday, December 3 where Steve was presented with the award. It raises the profile of coaches and the role they play in encouraging participation, performance and excellence.

Awards are made following public nominations and a decision by an expert judging panel and aim to raise the profile of coaching

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Steve's work has increased opportunities for disabled people in the county to participate and compete in sport. In the last 12 months alone he has set up three wheelchair basketball clubs in Cornwall, leading to the county having a wheelchair basketball side; established Boccia clubs at Truro College; and started wheelchair track sessions at a local leisure centre. Steve also trains other coaches to work with disabled participants and ath-

His work in the Newquay area has included a popular disability tennis programme at Heron Tennis Centre and helping people with disabilities to surf at Fistral Beach.

Steve said: "I am so over the moon to win the Sports Coach UK Disability Coach of the Year Award. I was completely shocked to win as the other finalists were so strong and were

"I would like to thank the Cornwall Sports. Partnership who I have been employed by now for seven years, the last three years as

their inclusion officer, they have been massively influential in supporting me to achieve the development, coaching and sustainability of inclusive sports clubs in Cornwall.'

Two other Cornwall coaches were recognised at the awards and these were Brian Smallworth, for the work he has done with Shialworld, for the work he has done with the Cornish Sharks (based at Newquay's Mount Wise ground) american football team and Melissa Reid for being the driving force behind Gllyngvase Surf Life Saving and Triathlon club.

Rob Harrison, coach development manager for the Cornwall Sports Partnership said: "It's amazing to have three coaches in Cornwall recognised at these national awards.

"When Steve Hillman was announced as a winner it was a tremendous achievement and goes to show how much good work goes on in Cornwall. Coaching is integral to the fu-ture success of Cornish sporting talent and the Cornwall Sports Awards and UK Coaching Awards is part of the Cornwall Sports
Partnership's ongoing commitment to coaching and the development of coaches."



NATIONAL Disability Coach of the Year: Steve Hillman

