



Source: Surrey Advertiser (Cranleigh) {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Friday 20, December 2013
Page: 23
Area: 318 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 2776 Weekly
Ad data: page rate £5,238.00, scc rate £9.70
Phone: 01483 508700
Keyword: The Montcalm

Cycling Gunn fires his way to award

BISLEY'S John Gunn scooped a prestigious prize in front of Warren Gatland and Sir Ben Ainslie at the UK Coaching Awards in Marble Arch - and he doesn't want the recognition to stop there.

Gunn's work with Hillingdon Slipstreamers, a cycling club for five to 16-year-olds, was celebrated at a glittering ceremony at the Montcalm as he claimed the children's coach-of-the-year award.

There he rubbed shoulders

with the likes of Wales and British & Irish Lions head coach Gatland, four-time Olympic champion Ainslie and Vancouver 2010 skeleton gold medallist Amy Williams.

Gunn accepted the award on behalf of the club, praising the team effort of the 70 volunteers who work there to support the 342 members, and he admitted he could get used to doing so.

"This award is up there in my career highlights and it's

an award for the club - hopefully there'll be many more," said Gunn.

"It's not just the coaching - there are lots of people needed to run the club and I'm just one of the many but British Cycling put me forward for it and it's wonderful to win it.

"I would have felt really upset if I hadn't made the top three after they put me up, so to take the award is really

pleasing - but it's staying at the club.

"It won't come home with me, it's a team effort.

"It's a wonderful place for kids to come, they're safe and away from traffic which attracts them to it but obviously what we're doing has an effect too.

"Some of them turn up and can't ride at all while others are at a national level so it's a real range."

Gunn was a nominee for one of 12 categories at the UK Coaching Awards, supported by Gillette, as achievements in developing sport in a wide community over the past year were recognised.

The 49-year-old has been involved with Hillingdon Slipstreamers for the past 12 years and said the most rewarding part of his job is seeing the development of the children, whatever their ability.

"We have kids turning up who either don't like or can't ride a bike so turning them around and seeing them out on the track is amazing," he added.

"We had one young lady with cerebral palsy who came to us and couldn't ride a bike but she kept trying and came back week after week.

"We got her riding and when we give her a certificate and medal saying she'd passed the cycling development, she and her mum were crying tears of joy.

"Coaching doesn't get better than that."

■ The 2013 Gillette Great Starts' campaign celebrates community coaches and inspires the next generation of coaches by providing them with grants to fund their next level qualifications.

Applications for coaching grants available through the scheme will reopen in 2014, visit www.facebook.com/GilletteUK for more details.



Alistair Wilson
SA137726_2

Top Gunn: John Gunn of Bisley, with son Joel and daughter Hannah, celebrates being made the children's coach-of-the-year at the UK Coaching Awards.