



Lifetime Achievement Award

Name of individual nominated

Steve Johnson, England Amputee International (1988–2009), Paralympian & Disability Ambassador

1. What organisations/programmes/communities have you impacted during your working life?

Everton in the Community & the English Federation of Disability Sport / Disability Development Programmes - "Tackling Inequality, Empowering Ability" @ Everton in the Community

2. What were you trying to change? Help us understand the vision, aims and objectives. Please include aspects from the entire span of your working life. (maximum 200 words)

Everton In The Community operate one of the largest and most successful disability sports programmes in the world, largely due to the passion and commitment of one man, Steve Johnson. Since joining Everton from EFDS in 2003 Steve has spearheaded the charities disability programme, making it one of the most influential and iconic in world sport. After losing his leg in a freak accident whilst playing football in 1985 Steve went on to represent his country over 130 times as an amputee footballer and Paralympian. For more than 20 years Steve has used his own experiences to inspire thousands of disabled people to pursue ambitious life goals and achieve their full potential. He has established pioneering projects, both in the UK and abroad, to give disabled people the best possible opportunities to succeed in sport, education and employment. He has used the wide audience of Premier League football to challenge social stereotypes of disabled people and worked to celebrate the achievements of his participants. Steve also takes time out to visit young people posed with particular challenges, like those facing the prospect of losing limbs due to cancer, or those who are newly disabled due to accident or illness.

3. What positive change did you achieve? Please make sure to include aspects from the span of your working life (maximum 200 words)

- Steve founded the North West Ability Counts Football League in 2003, now the oldest and largest football league in the country for disabled adults. - 26 teams and more than 320 players, both male and female, from the all over the North West and North Wales now compete each month in four ability bands. - Due to its success the FA have now rolled out the league across nine other regions nationwide; the national structure now supports more than 100 teams and over 1,000

players. - At Everton Steve and his team visit more than 50 special schools each year in the North West, making regular contact with more than 3,000 young people and their families. - Steve has also provided hundreds of disabled people with pathways to accredited qualifications, training, volunteering experiences and employment via Everton in the Community and the charities wide network of multi-sector partners. - Steve has worked tirelessly to help challenge the negative stigma that exists towards disabled people and to celebrate the successes of the clubs disabled players. - He has now established a unique project in Shanghai, China, in 2008 alongside the Chinese Government, replicating all our disability activities throughout the province.

Additional Nomination Comments from others

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