

SPORT ENGLAND REGIONAL CHAMPIONS FOR COMMUNITY SPORT

Gerry Sutcliffe, Minister for Sport has announced the appointment of a Sport England Regional Champions for Community Sport in five English regions. The Regional Champions are:

Stephen Castle in the East, Shaun Dawson in London, Peter Rowley in the North East, John Cove in the South East and Tim Coventry in the South West;

Biographical Details

Stephen Castle - East

Stephen Castle is the Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education and the 2012 Games. He is Chair of Nations and Regions East (East of England Development Agency), Conservative Lead on the LGA Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, Deputy Chairman of the Thames Gateway South Essex Partnership, Board Member of The Thames Gateway Strategic Partnership representing the East of England Regional Assembly, Member of the Regional Economic Forum and Board Member of the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority. Stephen was also a former President and Board Member of the national Conservative Party and Chair of the East Regional Board of Sport England. A lifelong resident of South Essex, he is Director of Castle Opticians, the largest independent chain of optometrists in Essex, and a qualified ski instructor.

Shaun Dawson - London

Shaun joined the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority as Chief Executive in 1997. Shaun leads the Authority's remit as a central legacy owner/operator organisation for a number of Olympic venues and parkland. Shaun has spent his career in the leisure industry both in the public and private sector. Before moving to the Authority he was Assistant Director of Education and Leisure at the London Borough of Hackney. Shaun's particular areas of experience cover, sports venues design, facilities management and parks management/activation. Shaun graduated from the University of East Anglia with a BSc in Ecology and went on to Loughborough University where he gained an MSc in Recreation Management

Peter Rowley - North East

Peter Rowley retired as a director and the chief executive of Darlington Building Society in April 2009 after 17 years in post following a long career in retail finance in banking and building societies at senior levels. Peter has developed strong associations with grassroots sports through his role at Darlington Building Society, including longstanding sponsorships of a broad range of sporting leagues, organisations and initiatives. Now an adviser to the

third sector and social enterprises, he is Head of Business Support at The Social Investment Business, the UK's largest social investor and holds a portfolio of non-executive appointments in community, public and private organisations. An enthusiastic, sportsman, he is a passionate runner, competing weekly, domestically and overseas at club level at all distances from 5k up to, and including marathons.

John Cove - South East

John Cove is Chief Executive of the Milton Keynes Dons Sport and Education Trust. He was previously a Group Director (Sure Start and Community Learning) at Milton Keynes Council. John is also Vice Chair of the national charity 4Children, and a non executive director of MK Dons Football Club. He was previously a member of the South East Regional Board of Sport England.

Tim Coventry - South West

From 1981 until retirement in 2004, Tim Coventry was Chief Executive and Chairman of Performance Sailcraft, the Laser Builder. He is currently a free lance consultant to the International Marine Industry specialising in event management in South East Asia. One of his current roles involves project managing the ISAF Connect to Sailing project, focussed on key strategies and delivery of country specific projects to bring Industry and sport together to reverse the decline in participation in sailing on a worldwide basis. He is a Member of the Royal Yachting Association Sport Development Committee. Tim is a life time competitive sailor in dinghy, catamaran and sport boat classes.

Notes to Editors

1. The appointments will be for three year terms from 16 December 2009 until 15 December 2012.
2. These appointments attract a remuneration of £300 per day. The time commitment is 2 days per month.
3. Sport England operates under a Royal Charter and is the Government funded agency responsible for providing the strategic lead for sport in England in order to deliver the Government's sporting objectives. The Regional Champions for Community Sport replace the disbanded Regional Sports Boards. A Regional Champion for Community Sport in each of the 9 Sport England Regions (South West, South East, East, London, West Midlands, North East, North West and Yorkshire) will promote Sport England's strategy and to help secure regional partnership/investment which support the delivery of the strategy. The Regional Champion will promote Sport England's strategy to key regional stakeholders, broker regional partnerships to help community sport and share best practice around County Sports Partnerships.

4. Regional Champions will be appointed in the remaining four regions in 2010.
5. The DCMS is committed to the principle of public appointments on merit with independent assessments, openness and transparency of process and to providing equal opportunities for all, irrespective of race, age, disability, gender, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, transgender and working patterns. Appointments are made on merits and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Shaun Dawson, Peter Rowley, John Cove and Tim Coventry have declared no political activity. Stephen Castle has declared that he is a Conservative Party Councillor at Essex County Council. He has spoken and canvassed on behalf of the Conservative Party and made recordable donations to the Conservative Party.
6. Sport England current Board Members:

	Start Date	End Date	Term
Richard Lewis (Chair)	01/04/2009	31/03/2013	1
Michael Farrar CBE	21/03/2009	20/03/2012	2
Karren Brady	21/03/2009	20/03/2010	2
Jill Ainscough	16/04/2007	15/04/2010	1
Martin Thomas	16/04/2007	15/04/2010	1
Philip Lemanski	16/04/2007	15/04/2010	1
James Stewart	16/04/2007	15/04/2010	1
Mich Stevenson OBE	16/04/2007	15/04/2010	1