

RAF SPORT AWARDS

22 October 2026

RAF Club, London





WELCOME



Welcome to the RAF Sport Awards 2026 and to the RAF Club for those who have not been here before, and thank you to them for allowing us to host you here.

What a year we have had! From grassroots to Inter-Service success, Olympians and more. RAF Sport has delivered a startling array of activities, embracing everything that is good about sport in the Service. This is reflected in the number of citations submitted this year, which does not demean previous years at all; they just highlight how we have grown, supported by the RAF Central Fund and many others, so thank you to them too.

No matter what the playing surface - on snow or ice, pitches, courses or rings, and everywhere else - all of RAF Sport has excelled. So it is right that we celebrate the best of this excellence here today, and look forward to a bright future too, with sport providing a crucial part of the 'glue' that binds our community of the Whole Force and beyond, and lets us engage with whole of society, and friends and allies, at a time never more important than now, given the challenges we face in our joint endeavour.

The award winners and nominees today are the brilliant peaks in a mountain range effort. Typically, they won't believe that they are worthy of recognition, delivering as they do by their inspiration, energy and by 'making time for sport' - which helps them, and all of us, be 'Fit for Service' and 'Fit for Life'. I, and we, are humbled by what they do and what they have achieved - so a personal thank you to them.

Finally, I am delighted to see so many of our sports people supported by their guests today, and want to thank all of them - families, friends and line managers - for what you do for us. We are really grateful, with the same going for those who can't be with us - you are all part of RAF Sport, one team.

For those who can't be here, they can be a part of today if you tell them about the BFBS live stream this afternoon, which they can tune into to share our celebrations, or recap on the bits they, or you, are particularly interested in later. Thank you and enjoy!

Air Commodore R Fogden CBE RAFR
Director RAF Sport



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 1130** Guest Arrival
- 1230** Lunch
- 1330** Awards Ceremony
- 1335** Director RAF Sport Opening Address
- 1525** AOC 22Gp Closing Address
- 1530** AOC 22Gp Departs, followed by guests



SPORTSMAN

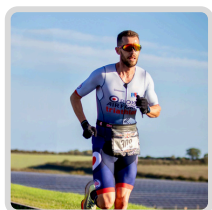
Nominees

This award recognises a sportsman who has achieved excellence in his performance, participated at the highest levels or had an outstanding achievement in his chosen sport.



Cpl Kyle Booth - Swimming

Cpl Booth has enjoyed an outstanding year, combining elite international achievement with continued dominance in Service sport. As a Welsh international swimmer, he became one of the select few athletes to represent Wales at two Commonwealth Games. Despite his Commonwealth preparations, Kyle prioritised representing the RAF at the Inter-Service Swimming Championships, dominating the breaststroke events.



Sgt Adam Baker - Triathlon

Sgt Baker continues to combine remarkable endurance performances with continued contribution to RAF Sport. His 2025 season saw him claim the British Masters Half Marathon title in 68:15, alongside 1st Masters at the Inter-Service 10km and 2nd overall at the British Masters 5km Championships. Beyond competition, his commitment to volunteering and promoting sport across the RAF has made a significant and lasting impact.



AS1 Cameron Tindle - Athletics

AS1 Tindle has established himself as one of the RAF's foremost athletes, becoming Scottish Senior Men's 60m Champion, the fastest indoor sprinter in Scotland and a genuine Commonwealth Games contender while continuing to dominate Inter-Service competition. He exemplifies the values of dedication, professionalism and excellence, demonstrating how operational performance can translate into sporting success.

SPORTSWOMAN

Nominees

This award recognises a sportswoman who has achieved excellence in her performance, participated at the highest levels or had an outstanding achievement in her chosen sport.



Sgt Charlotte Goodman - Swimming, Diving

Sgt Goodman has had another outstanding year, winning her fourth consecutive Inter-Services springboard and platform diving titles and achieving victory in every event entered at the Croatia Open Masters Championships. Alongside her international success, she has excelled as RAF Diving Team Manager, demonstrating exceptional leadership, mentorship and commitment to Service sport.



Flt Lt Nicole Burger - BLSA, Skeleton

From novice athlete to Olympian in just five years, Flt Lt Burger demonstrates exceptional dedication, resilience and sporting excellence. As the first female athlete to represent South Africa in Skeleton at the Olympic Games, she has achieved success at the highest level of international sport whilst exemplifying the values and standards of the Royal Air Force.



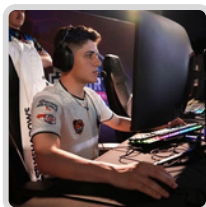
AS1 Alexandra Naughalty - Hockey

AS1 Naughalty's exceptional year has seen her earn selection for the Wales Over-35s Masters squad and represent Wales at the Indoor and Outdoor World Cups and Four Nations Tournament. A double Coaches' Player of the Tournament award winner, she also captained RAF Hockey to Inter-Service success, demonstrating exceptional leadership, skill and commitment throughout.

SPORTS COACH / OFFICIAL

Nominees

This award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to RAF Sport through exceptional coaching or officiating at the highest level.



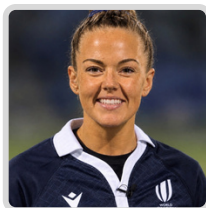
AS1(T) Stelios Elia - Video Gaming & Esports

AS1(T) Elia has achieved exceptional success in esports, leading the Cyprus National Rocket League Team to a Top 17 finish in the 2026 FIFAe Nations League and competing at the highest level of professional Rocket League. As the first UK Armed Forces esports athlete to attain High Performing Athlete Status, he has also played a pivotal role in developing and sustaining grassroots participation, strengthening international links and supporting recruitment and engagement.



Flt Lt Grace Bambury - Cricket

Flt Lt Bambury is a remarkable ambassador for RAF and UKAF sport, officiating in elite domestic and international cricket, including 'The Hundred' and T20 Internationals. Her appointment in the Inter-Services Championship at Lord's further demonstrated the trust placed in her abilities and judgement, while her progression to become the most senior cricket umpire within UKAF marks a significant milestone for Service sport.



Flt Lt Rebecca Piddlesden - Rugby Union

Flt Lt Piddlesden has been a driving force in rugby officiating, achieving unprecedented success at domestic, international and Service levels. Selected for the Women's Six Nations, WXV internationals and the Army v Navy Inter-Service Championship at Twickenham, she has also transformed RAF refereeing through leadership, mentoring, and innovation, establishing best practice across UK Armed Forces rugby.

SPORTS TEAM AWARD

This award recognises the team that has achieved either outstanding success over the past year or significant sustained achievement over several years.



RAF Boxing Elite Team

The RAF Boxing Elite Team has delivered an exceptional season, culminating in victory at the UK Armed Forces Inter-Service Boxing Championships and securing the RAF's first team title in 54 years. This historic achievement reflects the squad's collective strength, resilience, professionalism and commitment to excellence.



The eight-strong Elite squad, strengthened by two athletes progressing from the Development Team, completed 92 contests across the UK and overseas, an increase of more than 70% on the previous season. Competing in Germany, Bahrain and Sweden, alongside prestigious national events, the team consistently tested itself against the highest levels of amateur boxing and built valuable competitive experience.



Their success was underpinned by a strong high-performance culture, with rigorous preparation, athlete development, strength and conditioning, and dedicated support from coaches and staff. The integration of Development Team athletes strengthened squad depth and created a clear pathway for future success.

The Inter-Service victory was a collective achievement, demonstrating the value of teamwork, preparation and sustained commitment. Their outstanding season has re-established RAF Boxing at the pinnacle of Service competition and makes the team highly deserving of this award.

SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR

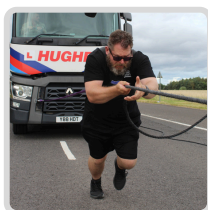
Nominees

This award recognises an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to RAF Sport through exceptional administration, organisation and management.



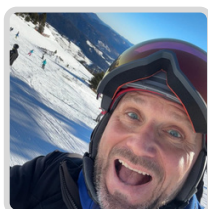
Wg Cdr Pippa Le Cras - Cricket

Wg Cdr Le Cras has been central to RAF Cricket for more than a decade, but her contribution in 2026 has been especially important during a year of significant transition. As Secretary, she goes above and beyond to ensure continuity of governance, operations and fixture planning. Despite strategic pressures, her leadership, dedication and organisational excellence have been instrumental in sustaining and developing RAF Cricket.



Sgt Stephen Winter - Strongman and Strongwoman

Sgt Winter has made an outstanding contribution to RAF and Tri-Service Strongman and Strongwoman through exceptional leadership, innovation and dedication. He conceived and delivered the highly successful 1,000,000kg Deadlift Challenge, raising over £8,000 for charity and showcasing Armed Forces sport to a large national audience.



Air Cdre Martin Cunningham - Winter Sports, Alpine

Air Cdre Cunningham has provided exemplary leadership as association Chair, overseeing the continued growth and success of RAF Alpine skiing. Through his vision, commitment, and stakeholder engagement, participation has reached record levels. Despite demanding operational roles, he has driven the development of RAF Winter Sports, creating opportunities that enhance confidence, teamwork and personal development.

ENDEAVOUR AWARD

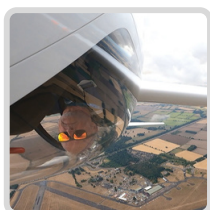
Nominees

This new award is aimed primarily at recognising unit level sport teams, clubs or individuals who have shown exceptional endeavour in the sporting arena.



WO John Speirs - 602 (City of Glasgow) Sqn RAuxAF

WO Speirs has made an exceptional contribution to RAF Sport through innovative leadership, inclusive physical activity and outstanding athletic achievement. His 'Sqn Chase' initiative has strengthened fitness, morale and cohesion, while his work modernising the Sqn gym created lasting opportunities for personnel. His own sporting success and commitment to coaching further exemplify his dedication.



RAF Gliding & Soaring and Capita glider Aerobatic Display, RAF Shawbury

AS1 Lefley-Kemp's aerobatic display at the RAF Cosford Air Show 2026 was the culmination of a Whole Force effort, with Mr Ian Gallacher and Miss Laura Martin dedicating significant time to coaching, mentoring, and developing him through 2025-26. Their support enabled Bradley to achieve a Civil Aviation Authority Public Display Authorisation and deliver a flawless display before more than 50,000 spectators.



AS1 Isabel Weaver - Rugby, RAF Boulmer

AS1 Weaver's remarkable progression from complete rugby novice to UKAF Women's Rugby 7s representative in just over a year reflects exceptional dedication, resilience and sporting potential. From her first competitive match to RAF and Inter-Service selection, she has excelled at every stage while maintaining outstanding professionalism and performance within her primary role.

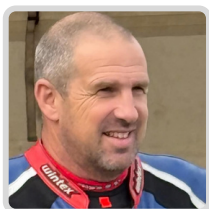
CIVILIAN VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award recognises civilian volunteers whose dedication and commitment have made an outstanding contribution to the delivery of RAF Sport.



Mr Warren Smart - American Football

Mr Smart has led RAF American Football to unparalleled success, guiding the RAF Mustangs to three Inter-Service Championship titles in four years. Through exceptional coaching, mentorship and personal commitment, he has developed players, expanded participation and created sustainable pathways that have firmly established the RAF as the leading force in Service American Football.



Mr Shane Colbrook - Motorsports

Mr Colbrook made an exceptional contribution to the RAF Sidecar Team during the 2026 season, providing vital expertise, technical knowledge and unwavering commitment. His selfless dedication, professionalism and personal sacrifice were instrumental in securing second place in the British Sidecar F1 Cup Championship and sustaining the team's success throughout the season.



Mr Stephen Potter - Athletics

Mr Potter has been a cornerstone of support behind the resurgence of RAF Tug of War, helping grow participation from fewer than 30 to over 100 competitors and assisting in the team's most significant success in three decades. Through more than ten years of selfless volunteer service, coaching excellence and personal sacrifice, he has developed athletes, elevated the sport's profile and enhanced the reputation of both RAF Tug of War and the Royal Air Force.

THE RAF CENTRAL FUND UNIT AWARD

Recognising that RAF Sport encompasses all sport across the RAF from individual endeavours to Station sports clubs and events, the RAF Central Fund Unit Award acknowledges an inspiring initiative that encourages and enables serving personnel to get physically active.



British Cycling with RAF Shawbury

British Cycling (BC) has established an exceptional partnership with RAF Shawbury, home to a state-of-the-art indoor BMX facility that is supporting the development of future Olympic talent. The partnership has delivered community cycling days for serving personnel and their families, alongside BC Ride Lead 'Train the Trainer' qualifications, enabling the RAF cycling community to develop sustainable coaching capability.



In 2024, a replica of the Paris Olympic BMX course was constructed in Hanger 59, supporting Kieran Reilly's Olympic silver medal success. Since then, the facility has hosted national championships and community events, earning recognition as one of the world's leading freestyle BMX courses and the only facility of its kind in the UK.



The partnership continues to showcase Shawbury and BC's commitment to sport. Future ambitions include expanding regional community programmes to the likes to Valley and Cosford, welcoming Olympic riders, developing qualified coaches and establishing the RAF Cycling Club as the UK's largest.

HEAD OF RAF SPORT AWARD

The Head of RAF Sport Award is a special award that may not fit into one of the other categories, or which may be worthy of separate recognition for a contribution or achievement within the wider sphere of RAF Sport. It is within the gift of the Head of RAF Sport alone.

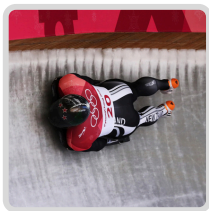


Flt Lt Rhys Thornbury - BLSA

Flt Lt Thornbury has made an exceptional contribution to Skeleton sport over more than 15 years, both within the RAF and internationally. His career is defined by perseverance, sporting excellence, leadership and an enduring commitment to developing others.



Beginning as a novice RAF Skeleton slider in 2011, Rhys progressed to become the RAF's most accomplished international athlete in the sport. Representing New Zealand, he secured multiple IBSF North American Cup victories, competed regularly on the World Cup circuit and achieved a career-best eighth place at Königssee, Germany, in 2017. He represented New Zealand at three World Championships before reaching the pinnacle of his career at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, where he entered the final run in sixth place.



Following his retirement from elite competition, Rhys continued to excel in Service sport, becoming RAF Skeleton's leading slider while developing the next generation as a coach and mentor. As OiC, he has combined competing, coaching and leadership, while his international coaching has supported athletes at the highest level.

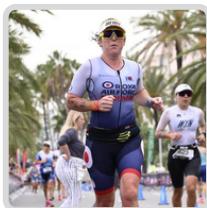
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognises individuals whose outstanding dedication and long-term commitment have made a significant and lasting impact on RAF Sport.



Wg Cdr (Retd) Chris Hockley - Small Arms

Wg Cdr (Retd) Hockley has made an outstanding lifelong contribution to RAF Service shooting and the wider RAF community. A founding member and former Captain of the RAF Target Rifle Club, he has led, developed and represented the RAF with distinction. Through RAFSAA, he has also raised significant charitable funds and championed lasting improvements for members.



Sgt Susan Pugh - Triathlon

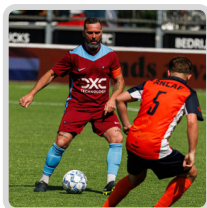
Over 22 years of service, Sgt Pugh has made an enduring contribution to RAF Sport as an international athlete, coach, mentor and advocate. From representing the RAF across tennis, cycling and triathlon, to developing elite athletes, supporting the rehabilitation of injured personnel and championing female participation in sport, her influence has extended far beyond her own personal achievements.



WO Samantha Williams - Basketball

WO Williams has been among the most influential figures in RAF Basketball since joining the Service in 2000. Her sustained leadership as a player, coach, official, administrator and ambassador has left an indelible mark on RAF and UKAF Basketball. She has developed generations of athletes, inspired success across men's and women's teams, and established opportunities for female players internationally, leaving an enduring legacy across Service sport.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Cpl Daniel Dixon - Football

Cpl Dixon has dedicated more than two decades to Service football, establishing himself as one of the most successful players in RAF Football history. His contribution has been defined by sustained excellence, exceptional longevity and an unwavering commitment to representative football. A nine-time Inter-Service champion and the only player to feature in seven consecutive RAF title-winning teams, he has inspired generations of players through outstanding dedication, professionalism and resilience.



Gp Capt Brian Watson - Motorsports

Gp Capt Watson has made an outstanding and continuous contribution to RAF Sport over more than three decades. As Chair of RAF Motorsports, he has transformed governance, expanded participation, secured enduring partnerships and strengthened pathways from grassroots to elite competition. His visionary leadership, mentorship and commitment to developing others leave a lasting legacy.



Sqn Ldr Martin Wilkinson - Football

Across nearly four decades, Sqn Ldr Wilkinson has shaped RAF Football through exceptional leadership, coaching, education and service. From elite player and successful manager to educator and executive, he has developed people, strengthened standards and modernised the sport, while supporting serving and retired personnel. His enduring influence makes him highly deserving of recognition.

THE RAF SPORT SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

The RAF Sport Special Recognition Award acknowledges an individual whose achievements and contribution to RAF Sport deserve particular recognition. This year, the award is presented to Amy Cokayne in recognition of her outstanding sporting accomplishments and continued excellence at the highest level.



Flt Lt Amy Cokayne - RAF Rugby Union

Flt Lt Cokayne has represented the Royal Air Force at the pinnacle of international sport, combining her career as an RAF Police Officer with an exceptional year as an England Red Rose. As a Rugby World Cup winner, 90+ cap international and England leader, her achievements exemplify sporting excellence and the opportunities available to Service personnel through RAF Sport.



Supported through the RAF Elite Athlete Scheme, she has remained immensely proud of her Service identity whilst competing on rugby's biggest stage.

Her influence extends beyond personal achievement. Cokayne is a highly visible ambassador for the RAF and an example of the pathway between Service life and elite sport. She has actively encouraged other talented sportswomen to consider RAF careers; notably, Scotland international and fellow RAF officer Sarah Bonar has credited Cokayne with personally persuading her to join the RAF rather than the Royal Navy.



Cokayne consistently uses her international platform to represent the Service, including celebrating on the World Cup stage with a military salute in recognition of her RAF career.





RAF SPORTS LOTTERY

THE VITAL LIFELINE FOR RAF SPORT

DID YOU KNOW? Your membership helps to provide the majority of the much needed funding for sport in the RAF.

Show your support by joining or increasing your tickets today.
Now hold up to **6** tickets and still only **£1** per ticket!

www.rafcf.org.uk/sports-lottery



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WITH THANKS



Proud supporter of the
2026 RAF Sport Awards drinks reception.



We would like to thank all supporters of RAF Sport for their contribution in enabling RAF personnel to access sport and physical activity throughout 2026.