

Ray Muddle: Sports Coach of the Year

Young talent

Members of the Wychwoods Tennis Club recently attended the West Oxfordshire District Council's Arts and Sports Awards evening. The Sports awards are for young people who have reached

County standard in their chosen sports and we were supporting Stephanie Prew, from our club, who at only 10 years old is one of the youngest to receive such an award.

Sports awards

Paul Hemming, captain of the Shipton Cricket club, was a guest speaker, and as well as giving a humorous account of their success in the Village Championships at Lord's in both 2002 and 2003 spoke of the need for practise and determination, before he presented the awards to a wide variety of young sportsmen and women. The awards are given to help with the cost of equipment, transport, and coaching. We all laughed when the swimmers said that they would spend their awards on new goggles, but on a more serious note it was very evident that these young people and their parents had made great sacrifices to achieve all that they had.

Wychwood Junior Tennis

The Arts awards followed and then came the turn of the adults and suddenly they were talking of the Wychwoods Tennis Club and the fantastic Youth



Ray accepting her award

Development programme that had been put in place over the last few years.

With over 80 children in coaching, as well as the Mini Tennis Red programme, where children as young as 5 or 6

start indoors at the Beaconsfield Hall with

short tennis and soft balls before progressing gradually to full tennis outside, they praised the work of our own Junior Co-ordinator, Ray Muddle, before presenting her with the Sports Coach of the Year Award for West Oxfordshire.

Congratulations Ray!

Ray was completely taken aback. Although she knew that Chris Hampton, our coach, had nominated her, as well as Alice Burns, Ray always underestimates her own contribution, and never dreamt that she would win. We were all thrilled for her, especially as we know how hard she works behind the scenes, ensuring that children are in the right groups, organising teams, performance squads and more importantly trying to keep the coaching going through the winter, so that others can progress as Stephanie has done.

We would all like to congratulate Ray on her success and hope that she will continue to develop junior tennis in the Wychwoods.

Valerie Clark