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■ The hula hoop display (left) and (right) Sport Wales' Richard Dando presents the junior volunteer of the year award to Maciej Szukala.

roll of honour

- Junior sports personality of the year – Sion Roberts, athletics
- Senior sports personality of the year – David Gregory, fencing
- Disability sports personality of the year – Luke Nixon, swimming
- Junior volunteer of the year – Maciej Szukala, Young Gold Ambassador
- Senior volunteer of the year – John Nuthall, Brickfield Rangers Football Club
- Primary school achievement award – St Peters School Health Council
- Secondary school achievement award – Ysgol Y Grango and Ysgol Rhiwabon 5x60 link with Abbey Road Acro
- Sportsmanship award – Paul Owen, motorcycling
- Coach of the year – Dan Sanders, tennis
- Club of the year – Abbey Road Acro
- Team of the year – Wrexham AAC Mens Endurance team
- Unsung hero – Phillip Roberts, Wrexham Hockey Club
- Arnold Griffiths Service to Sport Award – Mary Bainbridge, hockey and swimming

Good sports are honoured at awards ceremony

By Rebecca Cole
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THE brightest and best in Wrexham's sporting community have been honoured at the County Borough Sports Awards.

More than 300 players, coaches, volunteers and dignitaries attended the glitzy ceremony, which took place at Brymbo Sports and Social Complex.

The event, hosted by George Lacy, Wrexham Council's arts and entertainment officer, is now in its seventh year and was set up to recognise those who have displayed extraordinary athletic achievement or made an outstanding contribution to sport.

One of the lucky winners on the night was Mary Bainbridge, who was awarded the Arnold Griffiths service to sport award for committing 30 years to coaching swimmers and a variety of sport management positions.

She said: "It is a great occasion to see so many sporting faces together to collectively promote sport in Wrexham."

"It is important we keep encouraging and bringing new talent through."

Youngster Sion Roberts was crowned junior sports personality of the year after he became Welsh champion in the under-13s 100m and 200m in Cardiff in June.

Luke Nixon was named disability sports personality of the year. He swam for Great Britain at the European Deaf Swimming Championships and won a bronze medal in the relay.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Wrexham, Cllr Jim Kelly and his wife Elizabeth, Richard Dando the lead officer for Young Ambassadors Wales, and Wrexham-born Huw Jones, chief executive for Sport Wales, took to the stage to hand out the coveted awards on Friday.

Guests were treated to live entertainment from the Abbey Road acro-gymnastics squad, winners of club of the year, and



■ Huw Jones, chief executive of Sport Wales, presents the Arnold Griffiths Service Award to Mary Bainbridge.



■ Abbey Road Sports Acrobatics and Tumbling Club receive their award for club of the year.

Wrexham Young Sports Ambassadors, followed by a hula hoop display from Hula Nation.

Alan Watkin, chief leisure, library and culture officer, said: "The event has received enthusiastic support from the local sporting community of Wrexham as well as great assistance from a wide range of sponsors."

"We look forward to building on the success of the event in the future and to celebrating county winners who go on to gain future recognition

at a regional and national level." A raffle and auction were also held on the night and raised more than £300 for Children in Need and the Mayor's Charity.

Cllr Bob Dutton, OBE, deputy leader of the council and lead member for communities and performance, added: "The strength of this year's categories alone reflects the hard work and determination from all to put Wrexham on the sporting excellence map."

More awards pictures in tomorrow's Leader

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