



PRESS RELEASE

JOHN BARNWELL, GORDON TAYLOR AND BARRY McGUIGAN TO RECEIVE AWARDS AT EDUCATION SPORTS FORUM MEETING

At the Education Sports Forum meeting to be held at Oxford Brookes University on 30th November 2006 three of the forum members will be recognised for their dedication and commitment to the provision of education and training for the members they represent in their respective sports.

John Barnwell of the League Managers Association, Gordon Taylor of the Professional Footballers Association and Barry McGuigan of the British Boxers Association will be presented with Learner Champion/Advocate Awards by Frances O' Grady, Deputy General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress.

The Education Sports Forum was launched in December 2005. It aims to promote the interests of its members in the sports industry by assessing educational needs and monitoring the delivery of educational courses. It provides an opportunity for the different sports to exchange best practice in the area of education and training. The Forum will develop and implement policies and strategies to promote sport in the community, in order to contribute towards social cohesion and inclusion.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has praised the Forum for setting the important goal of expanding educational opportunities for those in professional sport, "This" he said "is vital to help them make the most of their full potential and also to prepare them better for life outside sport"

Commenting on the work of the Educational Sports Forum, Alan Irwin Secretary said:

"It is our stated aim, in setting up the ESF, to support people working in the sports industry, at whatever level, engaged in whatever jobs, with good quality educational advice and guidance, when required. There is a common perception in public view, that our national sports people are operating in a world that offers them a celebrity lifestyle and the earnings commensurate with that lifestyle. For many athletes and of course, not forgetting those working in the industry, week in week out, that simply isn't the case. These are ordinary workers getting average earnings and all too often nothing to look forward to when they get injured, retire, get sacked. Those issues need to be addressed and education and training is the obvious vehicle to do that and we are going to do our best to meet that challenge in the years ahead".

The President of the ESF, Des Farrell said "It is gratifying to see that all the excellent work that John, Gordon and Barry do for their members is being recognised. Their commitment to the education and training agenda is worthy of the utmost praise".....ends

Alan Irwin, Secretary
Educational Sports Forum