

## Guernsey Sporting Heroes

The first 10 Guernsey Sporting Heroes were inducted on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2005 as part of the annual sports awards evening. Selecting the first 10 wasn't too difficult but has become increasingly more so as the numbers being recognised has increased; so therefore whilst it is right and proper to recognise these people it can become controversial, particularly when applications are rejected.

The original criteria for consideration of candidates was:-

**PERFORMANCE:**        **The candidate must have competed in and achieved something very special in sporting terms in a local, national or international event.**

**INSPIRATION:**        **The individual should also have served as an inspiration to others in their sport.**

**COMMITMENT:**        **Thirdly, the strength of commitment to Guernsey sport is also seen as hugely important.**

**LONGEVITY:**         **The individual need no longer be competing at the highest level.**

These criteria were amended slightly in 2010 to better reflect the global impact of our sports people rather than on the local sport scene. As a result of this, it precluded nominations for sports men and women that had only excelled locally but not nationally or internationally.

The method of collating relevant information to allow commissioners to make an informed decision also changed. As well as acceptance there was also rejection of nominees and so therefore a valid reason had to be given as to why nominees had been rejected and that a proper procedure had been in place.

Below are the guidelines that were introduced and are still in use today:-

“An authenticating Commissioner will be appointed by the Chairman to authenticate any nominations received by the Commission for induction into the Guernsey Sporting Heroes Wall of Fame.

After the authentication process has been completed the Commissioner will then recommend to the Guernsey Sports Commission in writing whether or not such nomination is worthy of further consideration by the Commissioners.

Any nomination recommended by the Commissioner to the Commission for further consideration can only be approved by the Commission for induction into the Guernsey Sporting Heroes Wall of Fame, if all Commissioners have had the opportunity to review and then vote [possibly in absentia] on that nomination.

The criteria will include a final question asking the Commissioner to confirm whether they agree or disagree to the induction of the nominee into the Guernsey Sporting Heroes Wall of Fame.

If any Commissioner is not available to attend the meeting when the nomination is going to be voted on, the completed pro-forma schedule of criteria will be taken as a proxy vote on the nomination by the Commissioner concerned.

Two thirds of active Commissioners will be required for a nomination to be successful.

Nominations made on behalf of an individual should always be referred to the governing body of the sport of the nominee concerned, to ensure that any nomination is also recommended by the sport.

### **Criteria**

Matters to be considered by the authenticating commissioner:-

- 1] Is the nominee to be considered an inspirational role model by their peers and others?
- 2] Has the nominee performed / succeeded on the world stage over a reasonable period
- 3] Is the nominee from a sport recognized by the Guernsey Sports Commission?
- 4] Is the nominee considered to be from Guernsey?
- 5] If not, do you consider that Guernsey has been a significant part of their development?
- 6] Has the nominee, under the rules of the relevant International governing body, represented Guernsey?
- 7] Do you consider the nominee is worthy of further consideration by the Commissioners?  
Yes / No

Authenticating Commissioner to give his/her reason as to why the nominee is or is not considered worthy of further consideration by the Commissioners.

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**Matters to be considered by the Commissioners:**

- 1] Do you consider the nominee has achieved success at the highest level?
- 2] Do you consider the nominee has acted as an inspiration to others both within their sport and on the Island?
- 3] Do you agree that the nominee should be included as a Guernsey Sporting Hero? Yes / No”

As with any type of award being made, there will always be somebody somewhere that disagrees with the decision that has been made but that is just the nature of the beast.

By and large the Guernsey public has been supportive of the concept, particularly the older generation that have some affinity with the names up on the wall.

Graham Chester, Operations Director

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