

**The Tessa Sanderson Foundation's inaugural fundraising dinner was a grand success,
raising over £20,000.**



Over one hundred and fifty guests including Olympic legends Daley Thompson, Duncan Goodhew, Bill Nankeville, Ronnie Cooper and Tessa Sanderson, helped TSFA to raise a record £20,000 at its inaugural fundraising and awards night on December 5.

TSFA Awards function was held at the Royal Horseguards Hotel in Whitehall, London. John Inverdale, top BBC sports presenter led the evening proceedings.

The event honoured Olympic Legends from the 1948 London Olympic Games.

Bill Nankerville, ace mile runner who finished 6th in 1500 metres in 1948 Olympic Games and whose winning streak was beaten by the great Roger Bannister in 1951. Another legend, Ronnie Cooper, 83, was a lightweight boxer during the 1948 London Olympic Games. Bill donated a rare photograph of team members who broke a mile relay World record to the auction. Both legends commented that "It was a great Charity night to remember and a pleasure to see what was being done for the youngsters by the Tessa Sanderson Foundation, which was so different from the old days"

The Olympic Minister Hugh Robertson, graced with his presence at the dinner. He gave an encouraging and very supportive speech recognising the TSFA work in the East End and how London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games with the help of Tessa is really helping to inspire young people in Newham and wider London to become future Olympic champions whilst into education.

The event was also supported by some of our greatest Olympians and sportsmen. Double Olympic Champion Daley Thompson, Duncan Goodhew, Tony Jarrett, Garth Crooks, Bobby Barnes (PFA President), Ed Warner (UK Athletics Chairman) and Densign White (British Judo Chairman). TSFA special guests were Richard Farleigh, former Dragons Den Entrepreneur, Baroness Howells of St. Davids and Andi Osho, writer and comedian.

There were three awards presented at the dinner in recognition of The Tessa Sanderson Foundation youngsters and mentors work.

Richard Farleigh presented the TSFA Inspiration award to the young fencer Rajan Rai.

Rajan has been UK under 17 Fencing Champion and has won various Leon Paul competitions which is very well known in the sport of Fencing and is a big potential for the legacy of the sport. Rajan was spotted during talent identification 3 years ago and is working under TSFA coach Linda Strachan. He lives in the Host borough of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Raj is very much inspired by London 2012 in spite of very difficult family conditions and lack of funding he has maintained his focus on his schooling and his willingness to compete in an Olympic Games for Team GB.

Richard Farleigh said "it was a successful and great evening for supporting young people in sport, education and business" and congratulated the Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy for achieving this on all levels on the great work they are doing in the Community.

Swimming legend Duncan Goodhew who runs his own charity for young kids in sport presented the TSFA mentoring award to Greg Richards, former Olympian and UKA combined event coach. Duncan

said “he was delighted to have made the presentation and admired all the work and the achievements that was being done by TSFA to help these youngsters, the evening was very unique”

Daley Thompson presented the TSFA Young performer award to TSFA prodigy Jahmal Germain, 19 years old Newham college student.

Jahmal was spotted by TSFA almost 2 years ago when Jahmal arrived in UK from Haiti after the devastating Earthquake. He joined the Royal Welsh Regiment for a brief period. He lives in the Host borough and studies at Newham College of Further Education.

Jahmal trains under the TSFA coach Greg Richards. Jahmal is totally dedicated and inspired by London 2012 Olympics in so much that having only been training for a short length of time and having to learn all the discipline in this event he is now ranked 5th in the UK for Decathlon in his age group.

After receiving the award from Daley (Jahmal’s hero), Jahmal said “TSFA has changed his life forever and he will become the next Daley Thompson” Daley replied “It’s not so easy Jahmal” with a smile. On the Foundation work Daley said “what a marvellous job that Tessa has been doing with her Charity and mentoring young athletes like Jahmal and others.

Baroness Howells of St Davids said that the Tessa Sanderson foundation, in collaboration with Newham College, seeking out talent, training and giving much support to those who, because of poverty or ill health, may have missed the opportunity to get involved in sport.

TSFA para-athlete and London 2012 Paralympics hopeful Shawn Sewell recited poetry he wrote from his bedside during his time in hospital recovering. It was emotional and brought tears to eyes of the guests.

Many recipients of the awards paid tribute to the help that they received from TSFA and talked of how their lives had been turned around. Most of the audience were so moved that there was hardly a dry eye in the room.

At the end, Tessa Sanderson delivered a thank you note and said that she was delighted to see the generous support received from friends and business community to the foundation's work. Tessa also said that money raised from the fundraising dinner will be spent on vital sports and skills training and education work in the community.

About TSFA

Established in 2009, the charity’s mission statement is to create a unique youth sport programme in the London area for abled and disabled youngsters to enjoy all sports and the opportunity to participate at a higher level without jeopardising quality learning and education.

The foundation core activity includes School partnerships, Education Coaching and Talent search with a team of experienced sport coaches. Thousands of youngsters from deprived and disadvantaged communities have been benefitted from various activities of the foundation the last two years.

www.tsfa.co.uk