

CASE STUDY

SKILLSACTIVE CELEBRATES THE SUCCESS OF NVQS

The 100,000th NVQ certificate across the active leisure and learning sector was issued in September 2007. The recipient, Mike Ashton from Oldham, completed an NVQ in spectator control at Telford College of Arts and Technology and was recognised in a special ceremony at the SkillsActive Patron's Dinner in December.

NVQs have been a huge success since their launch 15 years ago. They capture the national occupational standards that employers design and develop, and signify that an individual is competent in their job role and that they have proved this over time in the work place.

Mike has worked as a steward at Manchester United for nearly 25 years and has seen the role and responsibilities of stewards change within that time. Mike said:

"Gone are the days when we were able to pack as many people into the ground until the turnstiles could no longer let people through. Back then we were able to watch the game along with the other spectators. These days things are very different. Every moment of the match is spent monitoring the situation and stewards are trained and have either attained or are working towards their NVQ."

Mike was presented with his award by Sir David Richards, chairman of the Premier League. Mr Richards said: "The safety of supporters at Premier League matches is of paramount importance and fully trained and qualified stewards play a major part in looking after fans. We believe that Premier League grounds are amongst the safest in the world and comprehensive training programmes play a key part in ensuring that supporters know they will be able to watch the match in a safe and comfortable environment."

SkillsActive has been celebrating the success of NVQs across the sector. The first of these celebrations was a special awards ceremony at Leisure Industry Week in Birmingham in September 2007, where Elaine Clowes, SkillsActive chair, awarded learners across various areas of the sector for their achievement.

Jamie Hooper received an award for completing his NVQ in sporting excellence specialising in golf, awarded through Edexcel, Matthew Fisher was recognised for completing his NVQ in instructing physical activity and exercise, awarded through Central YMCA Qualifications and Jules Housecroft received her award for completing her sports development/leisure management NVQ through City & Guilds. Elaine Clowes, SkillsActive chair said:

"NVQs take time and commitment to achieve. They combine assessment of both knowledge and practical application and confirm that someone can do the job to the standard expected by employers."

"The NVQs in spectator control highlight the massive improvements in safety awareness, crowd management and customer care over the past few years. We are proud to have contributed to the development of the NVQs and we congratulate all those who have worked so hard to obtain them."

JOHN DE QUIDT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE FOOTBALL LICENSING AUTHORITY

Matthew Fisher retrained around 18 months ago to become a fitness instructor after a stint in the marines, semi-professional football and factory work. He’s now a successful personal trainer and part-time fitness tutor at West Nottinghamshire College. Matthew said:

“I enjoyed completing the NVQ so much that I’m considering taking a degree in sports science or sports performance coaching in the near future. Doing the NVQ ignited my passion to want to teach others and my ambition is to learn more about health and fitness at university whilst also expanding my client base and helping others get fit.”



Jamie Hooper studied for his NVQ in sporting excellence whilst undertaking 3 A Levels. He’s now at Loughborough University studying a BSc in sports technology. He has been selected for the university golf team and will be playing in the British Universities Sports Association golf league. Jamie said: “I really enjoyed studying for the NVQ and my advanced apprenticeship. It’s been amazing studying something I love. I hope to pursue a career in golf after university and the NVQ will really help me achieve this goal.”

SkillsActive work closely with City & Guilds awarding body to develop and deliver the spectator control qualifications.



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