

NEWS RELEASE: Date: 31 July 2007



*****NEWS RELEASE*****

EDWARD GARNIER MP VISITS BURSARY RECIPIENT SPORTS COACH AT HIGHFIELD RANGERS FC

Edward Garnier MP for Harborough, was at Highfield Rangers Football Club in Leicestershire last week to visit local football coach, Rehanne Skinner.

Rehanne is a women's football coach for Leicester City Women's FC. She is aiming to complete her level 4/UEFA A Licence in the next year to become one of a handful of top level female coaches in the UK.

Rehanne is aware of the demands of completing this qualification and was recently awarded a Nancy Ovens bursary, sponsored by SkillsActive, that will be used to allow her to work with a variety of men's teams including Hull City, Everton and Sunderland. Rehanne will be able to bring her new skills back to the benefit of Leicester City and the women's game in the community.

Edward Garnier MP, met Rehanne at a coaching session and found out more about her work in the area and the Nancy Ovens bursary.

Mr Garnier said, "Rehanne is doing some great work in her local community and it was wonderful to see her work inspiring young people in Leicestershire. Sport is a force for good across society and I am sure the support from SkillsActive and Nancy Ovens bursary will allow her to increase her skills and reach her goal of becoming a top level professional coach".

SkillsActive's chief executive, Stephen Studd, said; "Edward Garnier's visit to Highfield Rangers FC to meet Rehanne Skinner is great recognition of the importance of investing in the people who work at a grassroots level and pass on their expertise to local communities and key groups; Rehanne's work with girls in football is a prime example of this. MPs fully appreciate the work of their constituents and it is great to see talented individuals such as Rehanne gaining the credit and support they deserve."

Rehanne said of the women's game in Leicestershire, "There are now over 1500 girls playing in clubs across the county and this number is increasing significantly by the year." Highlighting how it was her employer that pointed her towards the bursary, she said: "I'm trying to broaden my experience in football by working with different men's clubs, the experience of which will be of benefit to my employer as well as myself"

-ENDS-

For more information on the visit, the Nancy Ovens Bursary or for photographs please contact:

Mike Burrows
mike.burrows@skillsactive.com
Tel: 020 7632 2034
Mob: 07841 743 219

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Edward Garnier MP is Member of Parliament for Harborough.
2. The visit took place on Friday 27 August.
3. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for Sport and Recreation, Health and Fitness, Playwork, The Outdoors and the Caravan industries.
4. A former Board member of SPRITO, SkillsActive's predecessor, Nancy Ovens MBE was an enthusiastic supporter of education, training and development of skills in the active leisure and learning sector. The Nancy Ovens Trust was formed by family, friends and colleagues as a way of celebrating and recognising all the work she had done to inspire and motivate change for children and young people.
5. The bursary, sponsored by SkillsActive for the second year running and awarded by the Nancy Ovens Trust, is aimed at paid or volunteer coaches and leaders who work with children and young people in the active leisure and learning sector. Building on the experiences of last year, eight people from across UK are being given the opportunity to increase their skills through a truly innovative range of placements and experiences.
6. SkillsActive's mission statement is: "To ensure best quality, best business and best value within the Sector to achieve its economic and social potential."
7. SSCs are employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector throughout the UK. SSCs provide employers with the opportunity to provide leadership to meet their sector's skills and business needs. In return they receive substantial public investment and greater dialogue with government departments across the UK.
8. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com
9. SkillsActive has developed a Sector Skills Agreement for the Active Leisure and Learning Sector which defines the Sector's skills needs and ultimately forms an agreement between employers, government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years.
9. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
 - PEOPLE...
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
 - PRODUCTIVITY...
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.
 - PROVISION...
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.
 - PROMOTION...
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.