

Adams Family wins top award



Happy Family: Steve Hayes (left) and Dave Evans on the podium at the FourFourTwo Awards

WYCOMBE Wanderers were crowned the Sports Alliance Family Club of The Year for Coca-Cola League Two at the 2008 Football League Awards.

Community Scheme manager Dave Evans and managing director Steve Hayes received the prestigious award in front of 800 people at a gala dinner at The London Hilton on Sunday night.

The Blues were also highly commended in the category for Wickes Community Club of the Year – a title that went to Championship side Watford.

Hayes, who has always championed the community work that the club does, said: "I'm very proud indeed. To win that award takes everyone at the club to be working towards it, from the stewards to the board."

"What we're doing in the community is really quite special and outside of Wycombe we're actually very highly regarded."

"I think we're a bit cocooned in Wycombe though and don't realise what's on our doorstep."

His opinion was backed up by comments made on the night.

A spokesman for the Football League said: "Wycombe Wanderers offer an unrivalled family experience on matchdays."

"They have shown dedication to ensuring that they provide a fantastic experience for the whole family. It makes you wish they were your own club."

Hayes also said that being highly commended in the Wickes Community Club of the Year was a phenomenal achievement considering the clubs Wycombe were up against.

He said: "Out of 72 clubs, we effectively finished second. Watford won it and they received all those millions of pounds from being in the Premiership and have invested a lot of that into their community schemes."

"We haven't had that money and are chuffed to bits with what we have achieved."

"We see over 250,000 children a year through our community scheme and we only need a small percentage to come to games regularly to make this work."

"I said at the awards that we've been in existence for more than 100 years, but most of that has been in non-league, so the only way we can compete is by becoming a community club, and we're starting to do that."

"We have 18 full time staff and this award is for their hard work and dedication."

"There were some good people here when I arrived and since then we've brought in some more people and motivated the people that are here."

"Everyone at the club has a part to play."

You use the club, tell us what it is that makes it such a winner. Tell us your family matchday experiences and your experiences of the community scheme.
www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/sport

Let's all Coe for gold



Game on: Sebastian Coe at Stoke Mandeville, birthplace of the Paralympics, where he announced the sites that have been approved to become training centres for visiting Olympic teams.

Blues and nine others get green light for Olympics

LORD Sebastian Coe hailed it a great day for South Bucks as ten venues across the area, including Wycombe Wanderers, were given the green light to become training centres for visiting nations at the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics.

He said: "This is a great day for Bucks and the High Wycombe area. We always said that we wanted these Olympics to be about so much more than London."

"I want athletes to come to our country and into our communities and spend a little bit of time inspiring the next generation of athletes to come through."

He said the committee were hugely impressed with the facilities they saw.

He said: "It is a tribute to the work that has already been done locally that so many centres from the area have been included."

"These sites were chosen because everything that we believe is necessary to train world-class athletes is in place."

The sites will now be included in a Pre-Games Training Camp Guide to be published and released to teams at this year's Beijing Olympics and will now start the process of wooing teams.

Wanderers: We will put the Olympians first

STEVE Hayes says Wanderers will train somewhere else if that's what it takes to bring an Olympic team to the town.

Wanderers' training ground is one of ten centres across South Bucks to have been given the green light to become a training camp for a 2012 Olympic team.

And the Blues managing director is determined that Wanderers don't miss the boat when it comes to being part of Britain's biggest sporting event since the 1966 World Cup.

He said: "We will accommodate the teams, we can train somewhere else on a temporary basis."

He is determined to do all he can to bring a taste of the Olympics to the town.

He added: "We won't get another chance. The Olympics only comes to your country once in a lifetime."

"You get inspired by Olympians and even more inspired by the Paralympians."

"The town is on the up, We've got the Eden Centre about to open,

we've got a fantastic university and the important thing is to keep Wycombe on the map."

"This is another exciting development for Wanderers in a week when we have won the League Two Family Club of the Year award and also been highly commended in the category for Community Club of the Year."

"We may only be in the fourth division at the moment but we are a Premiership club in many ways."

Wanderers have got the support of former Olympic swimmer Adrian Moorhouse, who lives in Farnham Royal and works in Bourne End.

Hayes said: "We've got so much going for us. Position-wise we're pretty good and with people like Adrian Moorhouse on board we've got a very good chance."

But there is still a lot of work to be done with more than 600 centres

Olympic Guide

MORE than 600 sporting venues nationwide have been given permission by the London Olympic Organising Committee to sell themselves as potential training camps for visiting teams.

■ Ten venues in South Bucks, including Wycombe Wanderers, have been put on the approved list. They will now be included in a special guide which will be distributed to all the Olympic nations in Beijing this year.

■ The venues are: Active Equestrian Centre, Wycombe; Bisham Abbey; High Wycombe Judo Centre; Dorney Lake; Longridge Boating Centre; Shardeloes and Snowball Farm Equestrian Centre; Wycombe Badminton Centre; Wycombe Sports Centre and Wycombe Wanderers

■ A further ten sites from the remainder of the county are also included on the list

which includes 600 facilities in total.

■ Venues that are successful in attracting teams will be able to apply for grants of up to £25,000 and the individual teams will pay to use the facilities.

■ As well as the Olympics teams venues will also be pitching to attract teams for the Paralympics which follow.

■ Now they have been included in the official guide the venues can also pitch their services directly to the national Olympic Committees.

■ To be accepted for the Guide the facilities had to undergo an 18-month application and assessment process.

■ Foreign venues that have previously held these camps say they bring a triple boost to communities, stimulating the local economy, enhancing links and inspiring a new generation of athletes.

nationwide on the official accredited list of approved training venues.

Hayes said: "We are on the list and

that's a great start. You have got to be in it to win it and we will be working hard to make sure we win it."

Adrian will give Blues and Bucks Moore clout



Olympic dream: Adrian Moorhouse and Radnage paralympian Claire Strange

ADRIAN Moorhouse won gold at the 1988 Seoul Olympics – now he's trying to win the hearts of international teams and bring them to Bucks.

The swimming legend will spearhead the county's bid to attract teams to train here for the 2012 Olympics.

Twenty Bucks sites are in the running and Moorhouse, who works in Bourne End, will be battling for them all.

He will be commentating at this year's Beijing Games and will use the opportunity and his contacts to moonlight in the county's cause.

He said: "It is a wonderful

by Dave Peters

dpeters@london.newsquest.co.uk

opportunity. I'm really proud we've got this far. We've done well to be included in the guide, that was number one, but now we've got to go for the countries."

"When I'm in Beijing I'm going to start talking to them and try to persuade them to come to Buckinghamshire."

"I'm very confident that we can host some teams. We've got some really great facilities and good people here."

"We shouldn't be over-ambitious.

We're not going to get the whole American nation coming here but I think there will be a few mid-size teams worth talking to and trying to woo."

And he says the whole area will benefit.

He said: "This is going to mean an awful lot to communities. Different nations will come, with their support staff and families, and if we are creative we can think about tying it in with schools and businesses."

"It will boost the local economy, there would be a tourism legacy, a cultural legacy and the chance to inspire younger people."