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Weston winners in Royal celebration

Weston Athletic Club members ditched their trainers at the door, and scrubbed-up a treat for the club's annual awards dinner on Friday night at the Royal Hotel. 150 members packed into the ballroom for a superb three course meal, before the winners of the 2015 awards were honoured for their efforts.

As well as winning the men's road championship, Kieron Summers won the marathon cup for his superb performance at the London Marathon last year. Nick Briffitt won the age-graded marathon cup, and Theresa King won the women's marathon cup.

Nia Davies was the overall winner in the women's road championship, while Mary Nutley won the off-road award. Helen Diamond was rewarded for the highest combined scores in both championships, as was Guy Bradford for the men. Tony Hogg took first prize in the men's off-road championship.

It was a good night for Niki Fulstow and Andy Chadburn who were surprised to learn that they had won the female and male prizes for most improved runners of the year.

John Hinchliffe and Michelle Fryer won the Hotlegs trophies rewarding them for having completed the most championship races last year.

Chris McMillan won the Head Coach Performance award, and Gerry Hope scooped the 5k Handicap trophy.

The club's triathletes were also recognised, with Andy Hayes winning the President's Tri Bowl and Phil Tomlinson being named triathlete of the year.

Jim Wotton, undoubtedly the club's driving force thanks to his tireless dedication, was awarded the Chairman's Cup, to rapturous applause. Rob Skeen, who organises the club's junior races, the annual Beacon Batch race, as well as coaching duties, was deservedly voted club person of the year by his fellow members.

Long-standing club members Paul Snelling and Jim White were both made lifetime members, and Kev Hudson received the achievement award having made a swift return to running following a hip operation last year.

A further 35 awards were made to members who achieved personal best times in last year's Weston prom runs, and 24 awards were given to the runners up and age category winners in the club championship.

Finally, on a less serious note, three club members were given special awards for non-running-related incidents involving walking, carrying pizza as mid-race nutrition and dubious driving skills.

After the awards ceremony, club members let their hair down and enjoyed drinking and dancing til after midnight as a fitting end to a great evening and a great year's running.

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