

Planning to report at 2012? Don't be so sure

JACQUELIN MAGNAY

OLYMPICS EDITOR, TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP

WHAT clout underpins a democratic and robust sports newspaper reporting scene? Not much when it comes to accreditation at the London 2012 Olympic Games. The International Olympic Committee has released details of the accreditation numbers available for British print journalists covering their home-town Olympics, and the figures are worryingly tight.

There will be 270 E accreditations for the British press which will afford universal access to all of the Olympic venues and the Main Press Centre. In addition there will be around 30 Es accreditations, which are for journalists covering football matches outside of London. Initial discussions with the IOC may mean the Es accreditations may also be offered to print journalists covering the sailing at Weymouth and possibly the equestrian events at Greenwich.

As well, the Press Association has been given 'national agency' status and has been already allocated 60 E reporting accreditations.

So for all of the British press there will be just over 360 accreditations.

But the IOC believes that the PA will comprehensively cover every British athlete in competition, thus fulfilling all of the demands of regional newspapers (The IOC considers newspapers in Manchester or Birmingham to be regional). Thus the 300 E accreditations available for distribution are supposed to be primarily allocated to the 11 national daily newspapers operating out of London. But of course, there are the increasing numbers of specialist websites, and the increasing demands of traditional newspapers forging into the online arena also wanting the access that an E accreditation brings.



ACTION IMAGES

Sir Chris Hoy puts the new velodrome to the test

The maths will be difficult. There are 26 Olympic sports but played at 35 venues. On peak days there are 15 different sports in competition. There is news, politics, VIPs, security, transport, logistics to cover as well as the sport.

Compare this with Beijing in 2008 for which 1,000 print accreditations were given to the Chinese print media; or Sydney in 2000 where the two main media companies divvied up the spoils, having nearly 100 E accreditations each.

Interestingly the IOC says it has reduced the Chinese reporting numbers for the London Olympics and claims the Chinese are not happy about it. So how many will they have in London? Two hundred. Not that many fewer than the British figures really. But the IOC says the numbers for the UK are more than double what was given to the UK journalists at non-hometown Olympics.

The Americans and the Australians have had their numbers reduced too, ostensibly to boost the UK numbers. Australia, with its close colonial ties to the Mother Country, will have 72 E accreditations, down a quarter on its numbers for the Beijing Games.

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS IN SJA AWARDS

IT'S time to vote for the SJA's Sportsman, Sportswoman and Sports Team of the Year. Voting forms are included in this mail-out, with a closing date of November 9.

The Bulletin is offering some guidance in casting your votes by suggesting some likely contenders for the three main awards and providing a prompt list for those who have not been paying full 24/7 attention throughout the year. But members may vote for whoever they choose – as long as they are eligible to compete for Britain in their particular sport. The important thing is to use that vote. The three principal awards – together with several others chosen by the SJA committee – will be presented at the showpiece 62nd annual SJA British Sports Awards supported by sponsor UK Sport, at The Brewery, close by the Barbican, on Wednesday, December 8.

Tickets are priced at £80+VAT for SJA members and £120+VAT for non-members. Members may bring a guest for £100+VAT. Tickets are available from our event organiser, Start2Finish Events Management at 0208 916 2237 or e-mail sja@s2fevents.co.uk. **Take your pick - pages 4-5**

The IOC says it is limited to 5,600 E accreditations worldwide – the number entrenched in the bid book for which LOCOCG, contractually, must supply seats and space.

The British Olympic Association has the delicate task of issuing the British accreditations and determining who is a worthy candidate to possess one. Behind the scenes there has been incredible lobbying to try to boost the numbers to satisfy such a competitive marketplace. But other measures are being put in place to satisfy the local reporting demand.

The Mayor of London is working with VisitBritain to ensure non-sport interviews with key government ministers and any political briefings takes place at the non-accredited media centre. (This does require a separate accreditation but does not have any limit on numbers).

The BOA is also looking at having its own media centre outside of the Olympic venues to help satisfy demand for interviews with athletes from newspapers looking for online content and the requests from non-rights broadcaster holders.

Meanwhile photographers (EP accreditations) are having a separate battle. But that's another long story.

Ben Anslie on his way to gold again in Beijing



World's Games briefing sees media wake up to wonders of Weymouth

THE WORLD Press Briefing for London 2012 was an eye-opener for anyone who had not been to one before. Over three days a team of well-briefed, well-organised and lucid presenters went through their paces.

If they could not give an answer this time, they will be able to next year, probably in October, when the next briefing will be held – the final briefing before the Games.

This year's briefing also contained some key information from the cities and centres outside London who will play a vital supporting part in the 2012 Games.

These include Weymouth, the Olympic sailing venue. Now, journalists have been hearing for months about the qualities of the Weymouth waters for international competition and also about the skills of Ben Anslie who is unbelievably concentrated and difficult to beat no matter what. But around the help desk people wanted to know how long the train took from London to Weymouth, how often it would stop on the way and whether, if anyone turns up out of the blue to pen an Anslie special, it would be possible to stay the night in Weymouth? Questions the Weymouth people dealt with splendidly.

But one thing at Weymouth which nobody may have been anticipating was the fact that local fishermen, ferry owners and diving companies are howling across the waters because they have been threatened with being

BARRY NEWCOMBE

SJA CHAIRMAN

banned from operating during the Olympic Games.

The Daily Telegraph business section scooped what seems to be one of the more bizarre tales ahead of 2012.

Weymouth and Portland Borough Council has a harbour management board which has approved the ban without offering compensation and a draft order has been lodged. Parliament comes next.

"These are commercial fishermen with very small boats. They have been told for the duration of the event – for at least 23 days – they will not be able to go out and work their nets and pots and they are not being offered any consolation. It's nonsense," said Dave Gibson, secretary of the Weymouth and Portland Licensed Skippers Association. "They eke out a living in Weymouth Bay."

From White Motor Boats, Paul Compton said: "We will all bend over backwards to keep out of the way and to make it a tremendous success. But if we can't sail, we can't live. And if there's no compensation we will go bust. For the first time in this port the divers, fishermen, and ferry operators have come together on this."

Not everyone may know that a fisherman's right to land his catch freely in Britain – and that means from the three-boat port at Rodel in the Western Isles all the way down to Weymouth – originates in the White Herring Fisheries Act of 1771. Richard Tyler, who wrote the *Telegraph* story, says draft harbour order maps out where the Olympic sailing will take place, where the boats will be moored, and where the spectators may sit.

Congratulations to Tyler. I think he has landed one of the best pre-Olympics stories. Does the IOC know about this? Perhaps it should investigate and talk to the fishermen, ferry owners and diving companies. And get to the bottom of the harbour on this one.

"FISHERMEN, FERRY OWNERS AND DIVING COMPANIES ARE HOWLING ACROSS THE WATERS OVER THREAT OF BEING BANNED FROM OPERATING DURING THE GAMES"

Europe's journos may hit back in Premier protest

KEIR RADNEDGE

EUROPEAN journalists are considering whether English colleagues should be barred from attending league matches on the continent; this is the outcome of increasing anger over the complexities they find in applying to attend Premier League and Football League games.

UK journalists and sports desk administrators have grown familiar with the bureaucracy associated with the system run by Football DataCo.

However foreign journalists find the demands implicit in obtaining a one-game permit – initial lengthy, English-legalise licence form completion plus proof of employers' public liability insurance in countries where the system works differently – beyond the pale.

DataCo's stance is that it would be entirely wrong to differentiate between different groups of media organisations and journalists and that the current system provides invaluable, even-handed administrative support for clubs in a media-intense environment.

Marina Witte, of the Dutch sportswriters' association, says: "The way it works is ridiculous. For one match a Dutch reporter – and I know it's the same for all other countries – has to jump through so many hoops. There is huge interest in English football in Holland; don't the clubs realise, even without going into freedom of the press issues, that this is worth money to them in terms of promotion and merchandising?"

Foreign journalists' organisations, without apparent exception, consider the administrative demands of DataCo (dual application to club and DataCo, licence application form, public liability insurance proof in countries where different systems operate) a restraint of trade.

As Witte says: "Lots of my members think this is a deliberate strategy to prevent foreign



Rafael Van der Vaart (above left) and Nigel De Jong (inset, left) are two of the Dutch stars attracting their own media to the Premier League

journalists attending English matches. Maybe the Europeans have to make it difficult so the English might understand."

One of the reasons for the comprehension chasm is that it is commonplace in Holland, Belgium, Germany, France etc for accreditation issues to be administered by clubs in cooperation with journalists' associations.

This is why colleagues in those countries are actively considering whether they should make UK reporters' access to domestic matches as difficult as they find attempting to work in England.

Domestically, negotiations are launching between Football DataCo (on behalf of the FA Premier League and the Football League) and News Media Coalition and other national media interests, including the SJA, concerning the next domestic football media access agreement.

The agreement which had expired at the end of last season was extended, with the agreement of both parties, for the current

season. The new round of talks must be concluded by March so that the draft agreement can be circulated and considered on both sides before coming before the FA Premier League at its 2011 annual meeting.

Issues of concern include timing restrictions (particularly relevant since the recent skirmish over tweets), general access to players, photographer shut-outs (e.g. Southampton, Leeds etc).

Many UK freelancers also believe that the DataCo demands on them create an impossible vicious circle – centred on the impossibility of providing 30 article examples of reporting from, matches which the applicant is barred from attending.

Despite the belief and attempted practice of some English clubs, DataCo controls do not apply to UEFA competition matches such as the Champions League and Europa League. Hence many English media journalists find it easier to obtain accredited access to games in the Champions League than in the Premier League.

McCoy and Farah leading the way as SJA awards race enters final furlong

TONY McCOY and Mo Farah are heading the field as the contest to find the SJA's Sportsman of the Year for 2010 approaches the final bend of our year-long search.

McCoy, the master jockey, would be an appropriate choice in this non-Olympic year. Who can forget his awesome ride on Don't Push It to win the Grand National at Aintree in April? His uncharacteristic emotion and Gazza-like tears at the finish moved him into the category of household name, whereas he was previously lauded by the racing fraternity and admired by those with a more general sporting brief.

McCoy's National success came at his 15th attempt, which is remarkable when you consider he has been champion National Hunt jockey for the past 15 years and has ridden more than 3,000 winners over the jumps (Champion National Hunt jockey before McCoy? Richard Dunwoody back in 1995).

McCoy, 36, from Co. Antrim in Northern Ireland is very eligible for the SJA award which has never gone to a jockey in all its 61 years.

Farah arrived in this country from his native Somalia at the age of eight and has worn the British athletics vest with pride and distinction around the world for a decade. Now 27, his career reached its peak this past summer when he won both the 5,000m and 10,000m at the European Championships – the first Briton and only the fifth man ever to do the double.

To crown his season, Farah went to Zurich in August and broke David Moorcroft's long-standing British 5,000m record, the first Briton to run under 13 minutes.

Final defeat

Of course British sport had approached the summer with high hopes of a memorable year. Would John Terry/Rio Ferdinand/Steven Gerrard lift the World Cup? Not even close.

Would Andy Murray win a Grand Slam, hopefully Wimbledon, maybe the US Open? The Scot held on to his ranking of No4 in the world but lost the Australian final to Roger Federer, the Wimbledon semi-final to Rafa Nadal and went out of the US Open to Stanislas Wawrinka in the third round.

So if there were disappointments, there were surprises too. Graeme McDowell, an Ulsterman like McCoy, became the first European to win the US Open since Tony Jacklin in 1970 and the first Briton to win a Major since 1999.

Lewis Hamilton, SJA winner in 2007, and Jenson Button, last year's recipient, both made

IAN COLE

their mark on the Formula One world drivers' championship, Hamilton holding a narrow lead entering the second half of the season.

Then there was Mark Cavendish, sprint king of the Tour de France with five stage wins, including the final dash along the Champs Elysees for the second successive year, taking his career total of stage wins to 15.

A third Ulsterman, Rory McIlroy, became the youngest golfer since Tiger Woods in 1996 to win a US tour event when he won the Quail Hollow Championship the day before his 21st birthday. McIlroy also set a record Open first round score of 63 at St Andrews.

England's cricketers had a successful year ahead of this winter's defence of the Ashes Down Under and Graeme Swann established himself as the No.1 spin bowler in the world. When he bowled out Bangladesh in Dacca in March he became the first England off spinner to taken ten wickets in a Test match since Jim Laker against the Australians in 1956.

OTHERS TO CONSIDER:

Phillips Idowu, added the European triple jump crown to his 2009 world and 2006 Commonwealth titles, recording a personal best;

Andy Turner and Dai Greene, European and Commonwealth champions in, respectively, the 110m hurdles and 400m hurdles;

Lee Westwood, runner-up in the U.S. Masters and won the St Jude Classic in Memphis;

Ian Poulter, rose to world No.5 after winning the Accenture matchplay championship in Arizona;

Tom Daley, double diving gold medallist at the Commonwealth Games;

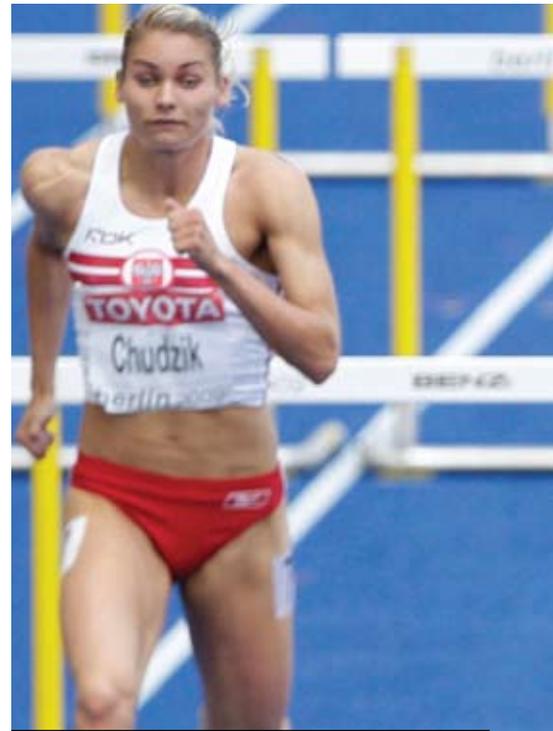
David Haye, defended his WBA heavyweight title with a ninth round stoppage of John Ruiz in Manchester;

Daniel Keatings, gold on the pommel horse at the European gymnastics championships – Britain's first gold in the sport at a major event;

Chris Hoy, won his tenth career world championship cycling gold medal in the keirin;

Alan Wills, world field archery champion;

Brian Davis, won wide acclaim when he called a two-stroke penalty on himself, costing £500,000 in prize money, during a play-off with Jim Furyk in the Verizon Heritage Classic in South Carolina.



Jessica Ennis (right) leads the way among the women with Tony McCoy (below left) and Mo Farah (lower far right) main contenders among the men



SJA TEAM OF

England cricketers in the prize frame again after triumph in the Twenty20 World Cup...

Heptathlon heroine Ennis looks on the way to rare double



WHO CAN stop Jessica Ennis retaining her Sportswoman of the Year crown? The Sheffield athlete added the European heptathlon gold medal to last year's world title, setting a championship record points total in Barcelona in July.

Earlier in the year Ennis, 24, added the world indoor title to her c.v. and though she has decided not to compete in the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, she appears to be a hot favourite to pick up our silverware.

She is arguably the best female athlete in the world and has overcome the huge disappointment of missing the Beijing Olympics through injury, setting her sights on a memorable home Games in London 2012.

Amy Williams won Britain's first solo Winter Olympic gold medal for 30 years when she triumphed in the women's skeleton bob; Robin Cousins had been the last to take individual gold in figure skating while the last female gold medallist was Jeannette Altwegg back in 1952.

Few have forgotten her performance in Vancouver which helped melt some of the snow around our own doorsteps back here in Britain.

Victoria Pendleton, the SJA's 2007 champion, is in contention again after winning the women's sprint title at cycling's world championships. She also won a silver in the keirin at that tournament.

Beth Tweddle, never far from the podium whenever she competes for Britain, is approaching veteran status in women's gymnastics at 25, but achieved a remarkable double in the European championships when she won gold on the uneven bars and on

the floor – both within an hour of each other.

Much is expected of Britain's swimming women these days and at the European championships in Budapest they did not disappoint. Fran Halsall, Gemma Spofforth, Hannah Miley, Lizzie Simmonds and Rebecca Adlington all struck gold while 20-year-old Halsall was the pick of the bunch, flying back to Southport with five gold medals in her luggage.

PENDLETON IN CONTENTION AGAIN AS WELL AS SWIM GIRLS

OTHER CONTENDERS:

Jenny Meadows, broke Kelly Holmes' seven-year UK 800 metres indoor record; won silver at the world indoors, bronze at the European outdoors;

Laura Robson, reached the final of the girls' singles at the Australian Open;

Jodie Williams, world junior 100m champion at 16. When she won silver in the 200m it was her first defeat in 152 races;

Sophie Hitchon, world junior hammer champion;

Rachel Cawthorn, two gold medals and a bronze at the Canoe Sprint World Cup in Germany;

Elena Baltacha, British tennis No.1 won her first tournament in Michigan;

Emma Pooley, first British cyclist to win the Tour de l'Aude in France.

IAN COLE



THE YEAR

ENGLAND'S cricketers are once again in the frame to win the SJA Sports Team of the Year award. In a summer bedevilled by weak opposition and spot-fixing allegations, Paul Collingwood led the Twenty20 team to victory in the short version of the World Cup in the Caribbean in May.

Michael Vaughan was the last cricketer to lift the prestigious SJA trophy, England winning two years running – in 2004 for the Test series victory in South Africa and in

2005 for a magnificent Ashes triumph, regaining the urn from Australia after 18 years.

England's achievement – the first time the national team has won a global competition – is a major consideration though the cricketers were not alone in achieving success overseas. The GB athletics team at the European championships brought home 19 medals, including six golds. The GB swimming

team earned 16 medals, including six golds, at their European championships.

Both the England men's and England women's hockey teams had improved seasons, reaching the semi-finals of their respective World Cups and the England women's rugby union team reached the World Cup final before losing to old foes New Zealand.

And then Europe's golfers won a thrilling Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor.



John Jackson

Why fame game found me sharing the screen with Ali McGraw then turning up in Don Howe's bedroom

WHEN Hollywood beauty Ali McGraw took my arm and whispered: "Hi star!" I simply preened, but when Don Howe, the then England football coach, shouted across some foreign hotel lobby: "If I ever see you on my ****ing TV screen again I'll ..." I knew I had made the big time.

And all because on a quiet day at Wimbledon in 1977 I ventured out to discover how the filming of *Players* was progressing.

The movie, starring Dean Martin Jr and Ali McGraw, had been given permission to film at the All England Club before play started (always 2pm in those days). It told the story of how a young Californian tearaway was guided to the Wimbledon championship – interspersed with the odd love tangle with my new co-star.

They were filming on the roof of the then players' lounge when I approached a man with a clipboard. Immediately came a booming megaphone query from director Robert Evans above: "Have you got those goddam reporters yet?"

Clipboard aquiver the aide replied: "I'm talking to a real reporter". With the answer: "He'll do, bring him up."

That is how I entered the world of Hollywood. I was handed a piece of paper marked Reporter One, with my lines for an interview with Argentine star Guillermo Vilas. I had to ask about his tactics when he met the Dean Martin character in the Wimbledon final, and in J McEnroe-speak he would reply: "Why should I tell you, you'll only put it in the paper?" I was to counter that that was my job.

I stood in front of this mammoth camera, with Vilas and his film manager Ion Tiriac leaning against the railing.

"Lights, cameras roll," I took a deep breath and asked Vilas: "How will you play Christensen in the final?" Vilas replied: "The same way I played when I last met him".

Hang on, that's not the script I had. In desperation I nudged Reporter Two alongside me but all that happened were frantic cries of "cut, cut". A few more takes and my Hollywood career was off and ... ending. At least Ali McGraw was pleased: "Hi star. I've just seen the cuts, and you're great."

There was no invitation to walk the red carpet at any premiere but I soon realised I was becoming well known by England's international footballers. Hotels abroad felt that as it was a film about sport it was ideal for their guests' private viewing. Kevin Keegan was one who occasionally observed: "Oh, not you again".

Don Howe, a great player who became a good coach, was not best pleased, however. I had known him since meeting at the 1962 World Cup in Chile and although we always got on, he did not want my ugly mug on his TV every time he went abroad.

"I will not be responsible for my actions if you appear in my bedroom again", he observed.

I did point out that it could be worse. He could be seeing a re-run of a Jim'll Fix It when I was helping a precocious 13-year-old who wanted to be a reporter, taking him to a football pools reception to interview the big winner and comedienne Marti Caine.

Stardom can be difficult, but who cares when Ali McGraw and Marti Caine like you?

"I WAS HANDED A PIECE OF PAPER WITH LINES FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH VILAS"

HATCH MATCH AND DESPATCH

Comings and goings at the sports desk around the country
– by **STEVEN DOWNES**

■ The *Bulletin* is happy to report that there is no truth in the rumour that **Jim Rosenthal** agreed again to host the 62nd annual SJA British Sports Awards at The Brewery on December 8 only on condition that the food was not provided by **Heston Blumenthal**. Rosenthal, whose 30-year career as a TV sport frontman includes being the face of ITV athletics, boxing and Formula 1, returns to the SJA event buoyed by his recent hiring as the presenter of Channel 5's coverage of the Europa League. At Channel 5, Rosenthal replaces **Colin Murray**, who in televised football's version of musical chairs, has taken over at the BBC's MoTD2 from **Adrian Chiles**, who has opted for the obscurity of breakfast television. Oh, and in case you were wondering, Rosenthal recently won a compensation case after his family suffered food poisoning at Blumenthal's pricy eatery (and no, it wasn't at a Little Chef).

■ At the SJA Committee meeting in September, tribute was paid to **Robin Jones**, who runs the Digital South photo agency, after he refused to sign an agreement with Southampton to syndicate pictures on the behalf of the football club. Days before the start of the football season, Southampton said it would not accredit photographers from local or national newspapers or agencies this season, but would offer its own syndicated pictures. Happily, after negotiations with the Newspaper Publishers' Association, including *The Sun's* **Mike Dunn**, Southampton reconsidered their position, and working photographers are again being accredited for matches at St Mary's.

■ A memorial service to celebrate the life of **Bob Millward**, the London-based Associated Press sportswriter, was held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on October 20. Millward collapsed and died while working at the World Cup in South Africa. He was 58.

■ *Sunday Mirror* columnist **Mike Calvin's** self-published *Family: Life, Death and Football* is likely to be of special interest to a number of sports journalists.

Calvin's book is based on a year following Millward, the club which the *Bulletin* guesstimates has been covered by more leading sports journos when working on the same local newspaper than possibly any other in the country (unless, of course, you know different...). Over the past 30-odd years, the the Millwall-covering sports desk at the *South London Press* has been staffed by, among others, **David Bond** (now the BBC Sports Editor), **Paul McCarthy** (*News of the World* Sports Editor), **Ian Malin** (*The Guardian*), **Brian Alexander** (the former *Sun* sports

chief, now a broadcaster; Alexander infamously got the *SLP* banned from the old Den) and **Tony Stenson** (now at the *Express* after 20-odd years at the *Mirror*). Among Calvin's favourite lines from the book is Millwall captain Paul Robinson, in the Wembley dressing room: "We're playing for the people who hate their jobs, who'd love our lives. Let's give them something special." *Family: Life, Death and Football* can be ordered from www.michaelcalvin.com

■ **Norman Giller**, the SJA website stalwart has just ended a 50-year association with "Fleet Street" newspapers, after the *Express* opted to end his contributor's contract this month. "Suddenly, the recession is not just an elephant in my room, but an entire bloody zoo," Uncle Norm says, as he continues with one of his latest publishing ventures, writing six sports nostalgia books in just over three months, all to be delivered to the printers before Christmas. First up, done and dusted (book No 88 from the Giller word factory) is *Chopper's Chelsea* – Ron Harris, selecting the 50 greatest players at the Bridge from when he first joined the club in 1959.

■ Cuts at *The Times* over the summer have hit the sports desk particularly hard. **David Hands**, rugby correspondent for the past 28 years, has left (he's already re-appeared freelancing at The Independent). **Mark Souster** has been named as Hands's replacement as rugby corr. **Chris Irvine**, the newspaper's rugby league writer since 1995, was told his contract would not be renewed. Also leaving *The Times* is racing writer **Julian Muscat**, desk man **Marcus Williams** and football reporters **Russell Kempson** and **Nick Szczepanik**.

■ Back at work at *The Times* after maternity leave is **Ashling O'Connor**, now with additional responsibility for general sports news as well as the Olympics.

■ **Robert Charles**, the head of sport at Channel 5 since 1997, is one of the latest leading executives to opt to leave the company since the £105 million takeover by *Daily Express* proprietor **Richard Desmond**. Charles, a regular guest at SJA events and judge at our annual British Sports Journalism Awards, was previously head of sport for Yorkshire Television.

■ The *Daily Mail's* Formula 1 reporter since 2006, **Jonathan McEvoy**, has been appointed as the paper's Olympics correspondent. McEvoy will continue to cover Grands Prix for the rest of this season, with **Simon Cass** shadowing him. McEvoy's story last year of world champion Jenson Button's move to McLaren saw him short-listed for the sports story of the year prize at SJA's British Sports Journalism Awards.

■ The *Daily Telegraph's* new sports editor is **Adam Sills**. Sills, 34, was recruited from *The Guardian*, where most recently he had been head of sport planning.

■ Sports photographer **Eileen Langsley** has had her work honoured by being presented with the International Order of Merit at the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in America.

It is thought to be the first time that a sporting Hall of Fame has recognised a sports photographer in this way. It is certainly the first time a woman photographer has received such an honour.

■ **Tommy Hindley**, of Professional Sport photography, has received a prestigious Tennis Europe award for long and outstanding contribution to tennis's media coverage.

■ After 34 years as *The Herald's* staff athletics correspondent, **Doug Gillon** has retired – though he continues to pen two columns a week for the Glasgow daily and was also busy at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi. Gillon won three SJA British Sports Journalism gongs in his career, and last year he received a life-time achievement prize at the Scottish Press Awards.

■ Athletics specialist **Dave Martin's** contract was not renewed by PA Sport this summer. Martin, 63, had worked for PA since 1998, having previously reported for UK News and *Athletics Weekly*.

■ **Sean Lightbown**, a student at Bath University, was the first recipient of the Sports Journalists' Association training bursary, worth almost £2,000 and generously provided by PMA Media Training.

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|  Paul KIMMAGE (Sunday Times) |  Lisa DOBRISKEY (Olympic Athlete) |  Patrick BARCLAY (The Times) |  Lucinda GREEN (Freelance) |  Martin KEEOWN (Freelance) |
|  Jim WHITE (Daily Telegraph) |  David CONN (Guardian) |  Will BUCKLEY (Freelance) |  Stuart BARNES (Sunday Times/Sky) |  |
|  Sue MOTT (Freelance) |  Ivan PONTING (Freelance) |  Paul HAYWARD (Observer/Guardian) |  Stephen JONES (Sunday Times) |  Martin JOHNSON (Sunday Times) |

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Stars of the show (from left):
Barry Newcombe, Chester Stern,
Hugh Routledge, Gill Sheldon,
Dave Richman, Mark Lomas
and Don Cave

Routledge turns out to be right winner on the day

THE SJA's autumn golf meeting at Muswell Hill had an emotional finale when the Phil Sheldon Trophy was won by Hugh Routledge, the late photographer's great mate.

Routledge, a regular supporter of the SJA's two annual golf days, clocked up 37 Stableford points on a windy September morning on the tree-lined north London course to lift first prize by a margin of four points.

"It's a fantastic honour for me to win this trophy because Phil was such a close friend of mine," he said after receiving his prize from Phil Sheldon's widow, Gill.

Pat Mooney, recently retired sports editor of the *Hampstead & Highgate Express*, came second on his SJA golfing debut with 33 points with former winner Chester Stern third, a further point adrift.

The guests' section was won by Don Cave, former school-mate of joint organizer Trevor Bond, with 34 points, followed by Sam

Emery, son of former SJA chairman David Emery, and Peter Luck's guest Paul Llewellyn, on 29 and 27 points respectively.

In the team section (best two scores out of three per hole to count), Routledge, Stern and David Richman romped to victory with 77 points, four clear of runners-up Cave, Gerry Cox and Mark Lomas.

Lomas also won the longest drive prize of a bottle of Glenfiddich whisky (kindly donated by Routledge) with a massive 308-yard effort on the par-4 17th while nearest the pin on the short 12th went to Luck's other guest, Richard Higgins.

A total of 15 players took part in the day and were then joined for lunch by Gill Sheldon, SJA chairman Barry Newcombe and SJA member Graham Morrison, who once again kindly donated four bottles of dessert wine as prizes from his family's vineyard in the south of France.

Jean Colwill

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Jean Colwill, wife of membership secretary Bill, following a long period of suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Jean died suddenly, but peacefully, at home with Bill and son Peter

at her side on September 18. During Bill's 12 years as the SJA's Treasurer, which ended with Jean's illness, she was seldom missing from his side and a popular addition to any occasion. To Bill and Peter, the Association's deepest condolences.

Dates for your diary

■ Thursday, December 2

FIFA World Cup host vote re 2018 and 2022 (Zurich)

■ Wednesday, December 8

SJA Sports Awards (The Brewery, London)

■ Monday, March 7

SJA Sports Journalism Awards (The Brewery)

* For lunches contact Mary Fitzhenry (see Contacts); for golf days, Paul Trow at ptrow76780@aol.com