



Legal Excellence Awards Dinner 2018

22ND NOVEMBER 2018

VENUE

Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort,
Derry Hill, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 9PQ

HEADLINE SPONSOR

Chadwick Nott

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE**
foundation

GWILS LEGAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018

A three course black tie dinner with wine will be followed by the Legal Excellence Awards Ceremony celebrating the local legal profession, hosted by Wallace Dobbin, Bass Player, Barrister & Business Strategist.

THIS YEAR'S CHOSEN CHARITY IS:

**MY
NAME'S
DODDIE**
foundation

Drinks Reception	7pm
Dinner	7.45pm VIP Q&A Session with Matt Perry, Duncan Bell and David Hilton (ex International and Bath Rugby Union players) followed by Dinner
Carriages	12.30am
Venue	Bowood Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort
Booking Form	www.gwils.co.uk

PRESIDENTS WELCOME

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome back! With immense pride following the successes of the awards in 2017, I am excited to launch the GWILS Legal Excellence Awards Dinner 2018.

In 2016 GWILS was re-launched with a new committee, brand and enthusiasm. 2016 saw a new look website, the first “Rock the Boat” summer party, our traditional Founders Day Christmas lunch and a number of social and training events. I was honoured to be elected for 2 further terms as President with my goal to build on the firm foundations the committee had laid and to continue representing the local legal community.



Our flagship event continues to be the Legal Excellence Awards. What an opportunity, we now have to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our profession. 2018 brings with it the added honour of supporting the Doddie Weir Foundation in raising awareness and funds for research into Motor Neurone Disease. To help this cause, we are incredibly lucky to have Matt Perry, Duncan Bell and David Hilton (ex International and Bath Rugby Union players) join us for the evening, and we will be treated to a Q&A live on stage with them. Those who win an award will have it made extra special by having the rugby players on stage when they receive their award and have their photo taken with the stars.

These awards are about looking around at those you work with every day and really appreciating what you and they do, daily. I urge you to take a moment to put into words (and we are not asking for many) as to why you appreciate your trainee, paralegal, legal cashier, secretary, receptionist, office manager, assistant, associate, solicitor or partner and why you think they might have gone that extra mile for a client, colleague or community.

And what about you? Be bold and tell us what makes you, your team and your firm extra special.

Personally, and on behalf of everyone at GWILS, I would like to thank all on the committee who have worked tirelessly to get this event off the ground; our sponsors without whom this event would not be possible; and all our members, firms and organisations that support GWILS.

Here's to a fantastic evening celebrating legal and sporting success!

Very best wishes,

Ramona Derbyshire

President, Gloucester & Wiltshire Law Society



HOST FOR THE EVENING

Wallace Dobbin

Bass Player, Barrister & Business Strategist

Before being called to the Bar, Wallace was the bass player in 70's punk band the MPs. He says that gigs with Sham 69, Penetration and the Clash provided a curiously accurate insight into his future life in chambers.

With a life at the Bar far too exciting a prospect to consider, he eventually turned to the insurance industry, where through hard work, nepotism and a lack of serious competition, he eventually became a Board Director of Zurich Financial Services. Wallace was responsible for Zurich's award-winning sponsorship of premiership rugby.

Surprising the market, and largely himself, Wallace became a founder of one of the most successful start-ups in financial services. He is now a successful Chairman and Non-Executive Director within the insurance industry.

Wallace was also a Trustee of the Sir Steve Redgrave Charitable Trust and a development Board member of Lawrence Dallaglio's Rugbyworks charity. Perhaps as a pointer to the next phase of his musical career, earlier this year he crossed the Alps on a bicycle with Lawrence Dallaglio and Andrew Ridgely of Wham fame.

Wallace's full name is actually William Wallace and he can trace his Scottish roots back to the first time he watched Braveheart, he is without doubt the rightful King of Scotland!



JUDGING PANEL

Byron Carron, *former District Judge*

Michael Nield, *former District Judge*

Sara Whiteley, *District Judge*

Peter Davies, *Deputy District Judge*

Ravinder Hothi, *Law Society's Head of Relationship Management – Midlands & South West*

Neil Elsdon, *Partner, RSM Swindon*

VIP Q&A

A VIP Q&A Session with Matt Perry, Duncan Bell and David Hilton, ex International and Bath Rugby Union players. All have played play for the 100 World Legions Rugby Team which support a number of Charities including our chosen Charity for the evening – The Doddie Weir Foundation for Motor Neurone Disease.

Matt Perry

Being on the playing field and working as a team has felt natural to me ever since my schooldays. I made my rugby debut for Bath rugby club against Nottingham in 1995 at the age of 18, which led to debuting for the England team against Australia 2 years later.

At 23, I became the most capped Full Back, with 36 caps. I played in the 1999 World Cup as well as the Lions tour to Australia in 2001.

Transition from rugby...

When injury forced me to retire from rugby in 2007, I wanted to build on what I'd learnt from the field, and the business management qualification I secured during night school. Meeting Simon Wilsher, we realised we could combine our skills and expertise to establish a new way of building high performance teams. Simon has 25 years of experience in corporate coaching and a natural love of rugby, stemming back to his days growing up in Zimbabwe.

Training & experience...

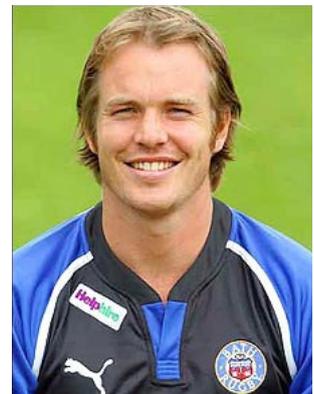
I spent several years training as an executive coach through Wilsher coaching and change leadership college. Simon Wilsher and I co-designed and delivered change management and performance coaching programmes for clients such as Visa Europe, Nationwide, Monitise, M&S, Inspects and Paradigm.

City life...

After several years, I decided it was time for a new adventure and in 2012 I moved to London to become Group Performance Director for Monitise (mobile payments sector). A year later I became European Client Director, delivering One Team High Performance ways of working in strategic partnerships with Visa Europe, RBS, TEF and Virgin Money.

Entrepreneurial instinct...

Using the wealth of experience I gained in the city, I decided to establish my own business in Bath in 2015, helping companies unlock natural talent within their teams. The result? I believe Transition 15 provides a fresh approach that cannot be replicated in a book.



VIP Q&A

Duncan Bell

Duncan was raised in South Gloucestershire and started rugby at the age of 9 playing for Bath Minis.

After leaving school Duncan turned professional and played for 19 years at the top level starting at Harlequins whilst at University then moving to Ebbw Vale for 2 seasons but was transferred to Sale Sharks where he 1st toured with England on the notorious Tour of Hell in 1998.

Duncan moved to Pontypridd for 2 successful seasons before returning 'home' to Bath Rugby where he played for a further 9 years winning the European Challenge Cup in 2008.

Qualifying as a mortgage advisor Duncan retired in 2012 but came out of retirement in 2014 to help Newport Gwent Dragons for the last 10 games of the league season before fully retiring.

Duncan achieved 5 full England caps during his career playing against Italy, Scotland, Australia, Argentina and New Zealand.



VIP Q&A

David Hilton

David is an English-born former Scottish international rugby union player. His club career saw him represent Bath Rugby, Glasgow Warriors and Bristol over a 16 year and 273 match club career. At International level David was capped 42 times for the Scotland. His position of choice is as a prop.



He gained his first cap for the Scotland against Canada in January 1991 and his 42nd and final cap against South Africa on 16 November 2002.

During his club career, Hilton won the Heineken Cup for Bath in 1998, as well as league and domestic cup successes for the same club. In 1999 David left Bath to play for Glasgow in the Welsh-Scottish League and then the Celtic League, where he continued to ply his trade until returning to the West Country in 2003 to play for Bristol where he played for a further 5 seasons, helping the club return to the English Premiership, before his retirement in 2008.

David still lives in Bristol and now works as a Development Officer for the RFU.

OUR CHOSEN CHARITY

My Name's Daddie Foundation

When Daddie Weir shared his diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease in June 2017, he also stated his determination to make a difference in the quest to find a cure for this devastating disease.

The launch of My Name's Daddie Foundation in November at Murrayfield captured the attention and imagination of the rugby community and wider public - and since then, the charity has been overwhelmed by the level of support and offers of help it has received.

Funds have been raised through sponsored walks, runs, cycles, dinners and auctions – the charity has benefitted from head shaves, raffles, golf events and even an enormously successful tractor rally.

The Daddie Gump challenge, organised by Rob Wainwright, culminated in a mass march through the streets of Rome on the last weekend of the Six Nations with thousands of Scotland fans wearing My Name's Daddie Foundation headbands to show their support.

Daddie Weir says the response has been amazing: "The level of support and generosity people have shown me since I shared my diagnosis has been humbling. This has meant a great deal to me and my family and we are now firmly focussed on what we can do to help fund research and hopefully, one day, find a cure for MND. We also want to support fellow sufferers and push the need for research further up the agenda."

"We may be too late in finding something that can help me, but I am committed to doing everything I can to help find a cure."

The Foundation has commissioned an independent report to help steer its strategy and will soon be sharing details of its first investment into MND Research.

Already My Name's Daddie Foundation has helped a number of people affected by MND with support and will continue to look at ways of helping fellow sufferers while also raising awareness of the disease.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fundraising
in support of

**MY
NAME'S
DADDIE**
foundation

GWILS LEGAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2018

THE CATEGORIES

SUPPORT TEAM MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Entry Requirement:

Open to individuals working in the Glos & Wilts region, providing support services to law firms, including but not limited to secretarial support, facilities, HR, accounts, IT, risk & compliance.

Awarded to an individual who has shown exceptional support in the delivery of legal services and who has demonstrated that they have gone above and beyond normal standards in their contribution to the firm and /or commitment and dedication to clients and the legal sector.

JUNIOR LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Entry Requirement:

Open to LPC students, LPC graduates, Paralegals, Trainee Solicitors and Solicitors up to five years qualified working in the Glos & Wilts region. If the nominee is a solicitor, they will be eligible to enter this category if they are qualified 5 years or less as of 1 September 2017. LPC students and LPC graduates who are shortlisted may be asked to provide confirmation of their LPC attainment.

Awarded to an individual who has an exceptional standard of work as well as great dedication in their role as a junior lawyer. They will be excelling in their role rather than just doing a good job or will be making a significant contribution to voluntary or pro-bono schemes rather than simply assisting. The winner of this award will be raising their own profile or their team's/firm's and bring insight, flair, imagination and hard work to everything they do.

LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Entry Requirement:

Open to all practicing solicitors working in private practice or in-house within the Glos & Wilts region.

Awarded to a Lawyer or FCILEx who has made an outstanding contribution either to their firm, client work or the legal sector. This award may include solicitor or legal executive advocates who can demonstrate excellence in advocacy, in-house solicitors and sole practitioners.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Entry Requirement:

Open to all legal or support services teams within law firms in the Glos & Wilts region.

Awarded to a legal or support team from private practice, or in-house in commerce or public service, that has made an outstanding contribution either in their organisation, or to their clients or legal sector.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD

Entry Requirement:

Open to Law firms of all sizes whose head office, or principal place of business is in the Glos & Wilts region.

Awarded to a firm who has shown notable commitment to causes or projects in the Glos & Wilts region/local community. Please focus on one or two particular projects that your solicitors have engaged in over the previous twelve months that you feel demonstrates excellence in pro-bono work and/or examples of initiative and innovation, and employee empowerment, in community investment including fundraising, charitable giving, community advice and non-legal volunteering.

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

Entry Requirement:

Open to law firms of all sizes whose head office, or principal place of business is in the Glos & Wilts region.

Awarded to a firm that is able to demonstrate excellence in the provision of legal services which has been recognised either regionally or nationally, or a firm that has seen significant development during the year. The winner of this award will demonstrate significant contribution and/or brought reputational benefit to the Glos & Wilts area; will in some way represent "law at its best", demonstrating commitment to law as a business and outstanding client care and delivery; show excellence in leadership and have a clear vision for the future.

PRESIDENT'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Entry Requirement:

Open to members of GWILS only.

The President of GWILS shall consider entries received in all award categories, as well as any additional entries received specifically in relation to this award, and shall identify an individual who has demonstrated an exceptional contribution to the legal sector, their firm and/or clients during their career.

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