

Olympic swimmer headhunts mum for elite speaker team

BY LAUREN EVERITT

A SENSE of adventure and desire to be active has led one mum to be headhunted by an Olympic swimmer.

Joey Bull from Virginia Water has been invited to join an elite group of motivational speakers by swimming legend and TV star Sharron Davies MBE.

The 43-year-old's life has been a mix of ups and downs after an injury forced her to give up on her dream career as a ballet dancer. Instead Mrs Bull has taken part in Adventure Athletics

which involved racing through remote jungles, down rivers, up mountains and across deserts.

And it is because of her sheer determination that Mrs Bull has been invited to join the team which will give talks to businesses, schools, sports clubs and others.

She said: "It's so flattering to be asked to be part of the motivational speakers team.

"It's nice to know that what I have done with my life and the skills I have, has been identified and recognised by someone like Sharron."

Mrs Bull was brought up in

Abbot's Drive but now lives in Switzerland with her husband Nicholas and son Oscar. The couple had another son, Edward, this summer but he died at birth.

Mrs Bull was selected for being an internationally renowned trainer, presenter of workout DVDs, writer and qualified diver, as well as being a strong and determined woman who defies the odds.

"To become a speaker you have to be yourself, engage with the audiences and take them along for the ride with the ups and downs of the story," she said. "We've all

had triumphs, failures and some tragedies but we will leave them with a positive message that can give them a boost in business, sports or their personal lives."

Sharron Davies has been a motivational speaker for more than 20 years and created the team with people who have exceptional achievements and interesting life stories to draw from.

The team will also include Olympic sprinter Jennifer Stoute and Diane Youdale, best known as Jet from TV show Gladiators.

Visit www.sharrondavies.com or www.joeybull.com to book.

Apply for community funds

HUNDREDS of thousands of pounds is up for grabs for community projects.

The Heathrow Community and Environment Large Awards are also on offer for schools and voluntary organisations within the Royal Borough and Runnymede.

Grants of up to £50,000 will be awarded to projects focusing on five themes: reduce, reuse, recycle;

climate change and energy; protecting and enhancing our environment; bringing communities together, and developing skills.

The £300,000 available has been collected from airlines in breach of the government's noise limits. The closing date is Friday, October 23, and application forms are available from Louise Morris on 01895 839855.

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● **PIECE OF CAKE:** Dawn O'Leary and Mark Courage from DBS. 095342

Charity cuppa

HUNDREDS of people across the area put the kettle on and got involved in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Schools, councils, community groups and businesses were among those taking part in the nationwide event, which encourages people to host a coffee morning and raise funds for the charity. Sunningdale

businesses Davis Burton Sellek (DBS) and Encompass Financial Management invited clients along for cake and a cup of coffee at their offices – The Galleries in Charters Road – to help raise money.

Dawn O'Leary, a partner at DBS, said: "The coffee morning raised £475 and just shows the generosity and kindness of people in the local area."

Team nets promotion

A TENNIS team has been promoted after an outstanding season.

The men's first team at Royal Ascot Tennis Club has proven its strength to win the Berkshire LTA Men's Division Two and gain promotion to the first division.

The team won its final match of the season in straight sets against Windsor on Saturday, September 19. Team captain Aaron Flamson said: "We've had a fantastic season, with some really close matches.

"This year's success has been a strong united effort from all team members spurred on to win with the prospect of joining the best teams in the county in Division One. The players beat teams from Caversham, Maidenhead and Twyford along the way.

Mr Flamson added: "There are more than 70 teams in the Berkshire LTA Men's League and we are thrilled to now be among the very top teams."

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