

PRESS RELEASE

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South Glos. businessman scoops major regional award

Mark Crutchley, Director of Circadian Trust, a social enterprise that delivers sport and leisure facilities in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, has been awarded the Third Sector Director of the Year award in the Institute of Directors (IoD) South West regional awards.

Mark's win was announced last night (Thursday 9 June) at Ashton Gate Stadium. The event attracted over 100 people and celebrated outstanding business people and South West success.

He will now go forward for a chance to be a national award winner, judged against all the other regional finalists this autumn.

Mark has been at the helm of the Circadian Trust since it was established just over ten years ago. Today it operates seven Active Leisure Centres in Thornbury, Bradley Stoke, Yate, Longwell Green, Kingswood, Patchway and Downend. In the last nine years the social enterprise has invested some £7m back into local facilities and delivered savings to the local authority. Today the centres offer activities ranging in diversity from studio cycling to tots judo to cardiac rehabilitation.

The Trust has been instrumental in many new community initiatives. A unique Active Partnership with the local authority has resulted in the development of a combined leisure and library membership. This year, with some Arts Council funding, this scheme has been extended to offer a free leisure and library Active membership to all new students at selected South Gloucestershire Schools. The scheme was not only launched at a time when literacy and childhood obesity are hot topics, it also helps support vulnerable children and adults by creating a mechanism for them to access their local leisure facilities.

IoD South West chairman Nick Sturge said: "Mark is a great example of twisting several strands of current community agendas into one very effective solution. His application demonstrated elements of excellent business understanding, belief and persuasion to deliver consistent and proven results within a difficult climate yet with obvious impact for the future."

Mark Crutchley, said: "It is wonderful to receive this award and be recognised for our hard work across South Gloucestershire to improve the health and leisure provision of the local community. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my fantastic team – I wouldn't be in this position without all of their support!"

The guest speaker at this year's event was local entrepreneur Helena Hills, co-founder of True Start Coffee, creating a niche in the market for high performance coffee.

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Notes to editors

About Circadian Trust

- Circadian Trust operates five leisure centre sites and two dual-use sports centres across South Gloucestershire in Bradley Stoke, Downend, Kingswood, Longwell Green, Patchway, Thornbury and Yate and is a company and charity. Working in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, the community strategy and overall shared philosophy is to contribute to the improved health, cultural and social wellbeing of the local community improving quality of life.
- Circadian Trust is celebrating its tenth anniversary as a trust.
- Circadian Trust is award winning with IIP Silver status, ISO 14001, ISO 9001 and ISP18001 accreditations. For more info please contact Ben Beasley (ben.beasley@circadiantrust.org) *
For more information, visit: www.circadiantrust.org

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