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THE  TIMES

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The Times Sydney Friskin Memorial Silver Goblet 2005 Award

## MANAGER DAVID WHITTLE TAKES OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD



DAVID WHITTLE is the winner of The Times Sydney Friskin Memorial Silver Goblet for 2005. The presentation will be made to him by Neil Friskin (son) accompanied by David Chappell, Deputy Managing Editor of the newspaper, at the annual presentations of the Hockey Writers' Club at the Wimbledon Club on Monday 6 February at 1.30p.m.

Cutting his teeth as manager of the highly successful Havant side in domestic and European competitions in the eighties he began his long and distinguished term in national team management with the England men's team in 1993 and the Great Britain men's team in 1994, retiring in April 2005 after the Champions Challenge in Alexandria.

During this hectic twelve year period David managed the England team in three World Cups (Sydney, Utrecht and Kuala Lumpur) and the GB team in three Olympics (Atlanta, Sydney and Athens), following their successful qualifying tournaments in Barcelona, Osaka and Madrid. In addition he managed the England team at innumerable other tournaments at home and abroad. At his retirement he was the longest serving international manager in world hockey.

In addition to the usual duties of a manager David had to deal with the issues arising from the bombings in Atlanta and Madrid, alleged match fixing between other teams in Barcelona, the near resignation of the coach in Osaka and 'player power' which resulted in the resignation of two coaches.

David brought to his important and demanding role many qualities including detailed preparation, dedication, adaptability, approachability (to players, press, parents and supporters alike) and loyalty in support of his coaches and players throughout the years. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him but he always put the well-being of his players first.

David Chappell said: "Hockey was lucky to have been served by a man of such outstanding qualities. I know Sydney Friskin was extremely appreciative of his contribution to the media and in particular to himself when he was taken seriously ill in Malaysia whilst with the England squad. Personally I witnessed and was grateful for his contribution at the Sydney and Athens Olympics."

Previous winners of this Award, in memory of Sydney Friskin, former Hockey Correspondent of The Times, who died in 1999, were:

- 2000 Ernie Wall OBE
- 2001 Robert Watson
- 2002 David Collier
- 2003 Mike Corby
- 2004 Anne Ellis OBE

The Goblet is one of many Hockey Writers' Club awards to be presented at the Wimbledon Club. Former Great Britain and England hockey and squash international Mike Corby and recent President of the English Hockey Association will make the presentations to the male and female 2005 UK Players of the Year. The winners of Higgins Group UK Youth Players of the Year and the Chris Moore Memorial Regional Hockey Writers Awards will also receive their prizes.

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