**Verulam Sport: Sports Show of the Year Application Community Radio Awards 2020**

To focus on our community, we have pushed things forward from a technological perspective. We have always reported live from all St Albans City Football Clubs games. We now provide the listeners with enhanced quality coverage by embracing Luci (IP based high quality audio) technology. You will hear this in the audio aspect of this application with the ‘Voice of the Saints’ Graham Griffin reporting from the Tonbridge Angels fixture.

It is always our belief that sporting stories have a powerful message for us all and sport as a consequence has a key place at the core of all Community life.

To illustrate this you will hear from Simba Mupamhanga Head Coach of the St Albans Centurions Rugby League team.

We believe we can inspire participation. Rugby League even at the highest level is a niche sport and here in the south where Rugby Union is a strong hold this is even more the case. We consider it our duty to highlight the sporting journeys of such often under represented sports.

A few seasons ago Simba considered quitting as a coach and it is inspiring to speak with him after his charges claimed their first silverware in nine seasons in the most dramatic of circumstances.

We are mindful of how important the sport of Rugby Union is to our core listeners. Consequently, it is great to hear every week from the ‘Pride of Hertfordshire Rugby Union’ The Old Albanians. You will hear in our audio aspect from the ‘Voice of the OA’s’ the charismatic Brian Quinn.

Verulam Sport always seeks to provide a platform for the vital role sport plays not just in a physical sense but in its capacity to challenge preconceptions and often provide vital charitable connections. To illustrate this you will hear audio from an interview with Michael Wallace co-founder of the not for profit organisation Kicoff@3. Here, they were organising a local football tournament in which all proceeds were to go towards the Ollie Foundation who provide support and mentoring for those who are affected by suicide.

The Verulam Sport team are committed to shining a light on sports’ unique capacity to inspire and unite local communities. We also take great pride in ensuring we provide the listeners with the kind of big name guests that very few Community Radio stations can draw.

One of these individuals at the top of sporting history is Sally Gunnell who we welcome back to the show. She is one of only five GB Athletes all time, and the only female, to win the ‘Golden Sweep.’ Gold medals at Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth Games. Sally speaks eloquently and humbly of her successes with this content airing just before International Woman’s day.

Further to this is another example of Verulam Sport speaking to the very best in sport. Tony chat’s to a very proud St Albanite and Ireland’s most successful Boxer all time Steve Collins. He spoke with Verulam Sport and offered his insights ahead of one of the most anticipated sporting moments of the last year, Fury v Wilder 2. He also reveals that moving to St Albans was the best “move” he made in his life, which brings the connection to the local area.

So, whilst it has been a challenging time for us all it has been an exciting one. Verulam Sport is proud to be able to mix the highest caliber of sporting interviews with the ability to highlight all the great sporting excellence happening locally. We are delighted to be considered for ‘Best Sports Show 2020’ in the Community Radio Awards.