

Footballing trailblazers honoured

SPORTING prowess from two of Ribble Valley's top teams has been officially recognised by Ribble Valley Borough Council.

Rimington FC and Hurst Green FC have each done more than their fair share to put the Valley firmly on the sporting map, and the council chose to honour their outstanding achievements.

Rimington FC is one the most successful amateur teams in the borough's proud sporting history. In the past 10 years, under manager Terry Braithwaite, they have been the East Lancashire Premier Division champions no less than four times, won the President's Cup twice and the Craven Cup a remarkable six times.

In the golden season of 2007/8 they did the treble – becoming East Lancashire League champions and winning the President's Cup and Craven Cup. They did the double, being league champions and Craven Cup winners, in the following two seasons.

Rimington councillor Richard Sherras commented: "For these consistent results over such an extended period, Terry cannot be praised highly enough, without taking anything away from what is a team performance.

"Success can only come with talented, dedicated players and officials. Credit goes also to the Recreation Association and residents of Rimington for supporting the provision of such good playing, training and recreation facilities largely from their own resources."

Meanwhile, Hurst Green FC in March became the first ever club from Ribble Valley to win the prestigious Lancashire Amateur Cup – a mighty achievement to add to their East Lancashire League Premier Division Championship in 2006/7.

The Club is now working towards the FA's Charter Standard award and has one of the best grounds in the league.

The club and committee, which also run the village's cricket club, form an important, pro active part of the Hurst Green Community.



TRACK RECORD: the presentation to Rimington FC with, from the left, Deputy Ribble Valley Mayor Coun. Simon Hore, assistant manager Steve Conti, manager Terry Braithwaite and Mayor Coun. Lois Rimmer.



PIONEERS: Ribble Valley's Deputy Mayor Coun. Simon Hore and Mayor Coun. Lois Rimmer present the award to Peter Hayhurst and Barry Bolton, of Hurst Green FC.