



MEDIA RELEASE

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SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 2010 GUERNSEY AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENT

ONE of the world's leading social entrepreneurs is set to address islanders at Guernsey's most prestigious awards evenings.

The Garenne Group, one of the team of sponsors of the Guernsey Awards for Achievement 2010, has confirmed that Mel Young, who is recognised by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, will be the keynote speaker at the forthcoming gala evening to be held on Thursday 3rd February 2011.

'I am really looking forward to the event – I think Mel Young will be an incredibly motivational speaker. His social projects are fantastic and we can certainly all learn something from his experiences of the last 30 years. It is an honour for us to have secured such a notable speaker,' said Andy Hall, chief executive of the Garenne Group.

Mr Young, who previously worked as a journalist, co-founded The Big Issue in Scotland in 1993 which today is one of the UK's leading social businesses and continues to offer homeless and vulnerably housed people the opportunity to earn a legitimate income. The organisation is made up of two parts; a limited company which produces and distributes a magazine to a network of street vendors, and a registered charity which exists to help those vendors gain control of their lives by addressing the issues which have contributed to their homelessness.

The Big Issue Company publishes a weekly entertainment and current affairs magazine, which Big Issue sellers (or vendors) buy for 85p and sell for £1.70, thereby earning 85p per copy. Any post investment profit generated through the sale of the magazine or the sale of advertising is passed on to The Big Issue Foundation. The Foundation is also reliant upon donations from the public to fund its crucial work with vendors. The organisation currently supports over 2,900 homeless and vulnerably housed people across the country. The magazine is read by over 670,000 people every week throughout the UK*.

Mr Young also co-founded Senscot (Social Entrepreneurs Network Scotland), is a former President and Honorary President of INSP (International Network of Street Papers), set up City Lynx magazine and New Consumer Magazine and worked on a community newspaper in Wester Hailes in Edinburgh in the 1990's. He is a Non-Executive Director on two boards – Sport Scotland and Glasgow Culture and Sport and is a member of the World Economic Forum Sports Agenda Council.

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Currently Mr Young is President and CEO of the Homeless World Cup, which he co-founded in 2003. The Homeless World Cup is a world-class, annual, international football tournament that uses football as a catalyst to encourage people who are homeless to change their lives and to change the attitudes of governments, media, public and key influencers to create better solutions to homelessness around the world.

It has triggered and supports grass-roots football programmes in over 70 nations engaging 30,000 homeless players all year round. Research consistently demonstrates that over 70 per cent of players experience a significant life change and often come off drugs and alcohol, move into homes, jobs, education and training, repair relationships and even become coaches and players. The Homeless World Cup is supported by UEFA, Nike, Vodafone Group Foundation, Global Ambassador Eric Cantona and international footballers Didier Drogba and Rio Ferdinand.

Mr Young has been awarded three honorary degrees from Scottish Universities, is a lifelong supporter of Hibernian FC and is the author of Goal, the story of the Homeless World Cup.

The Guernsey Awards for Achievement was launched in 1986 and the Garenne Group has sponsored the gala evening speaker for the past nine years. The annual event attracts an audience of around 800 people, drawn from all sectors and sizes of local businesses, along with politicians, the media, award judges and sponsors.

The 2010 Awards for Achievement Gala Evening will take place on Thursday 3rd February 2011 at Beau Sejour. For more event information or to purchase a table please contact Natalie Davidson at The Guernsey Event Company on 01481 728686.

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Notes for Editors:

1. The Garenne Group is made up of six leading companies: RG Falla, Camerons, Geomarine, AFM, Granite Le Pelley and Rabey's Group. The Garenne Group is the Channel Island market leader, with over 600 employees and an annual turnover of £100m. It is committed to excellence, innovation and teamwork.

2. Previous Awards for Achievement speakers have included:
 - 2009 – Tim Smit, creator of the Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan
 - 2008 – Lord Falconer, former Lord Chancellor and the first UK Secretary of State for Justice.
 - 2007 – Lord Coe, double Olympic gold medalist, Conservative politician and Chairman of London 2012.

3. The Awards for Achievement categories are as follows:
 - Healthspan Best Large Business
 - BWCI Best Medium Business
 - NatWest (Guernsey) Best Small Business
 - Guernsey commerce and Employment Department Guernsey Business of the Year Award
 - IOD-GTA-University Centre Excellence in Training Award
 - Specsavers Unsung Hero Award
 - Guiton Group Ambassador of the Year Award