

## BLESMA nominee named finalist for 2017 Soldiering On Awards

Friday 24 February, 2017

Former British Army soldier Owen Pick has been named a finalist in the Sporting Excellence category of the 2017 Soldiering On Awards.

Pick, a single leg amputee, was one of 46 finalists in ten categories honoured at a House of Lords reception on 9 February. The evening was hosted by Awards patron, the Rt Hon Earl Howe PC, and celebrated individuals and organisations for their inspirational and outstanding achievements in support of the Armed Forces Community.

"The Soldiering On Awards recognise the amazing contribution that former members of the Armed Forces – and animal partners – continue to make to society and also those individuals, charities and groups in the wider community who support their journey," said Earl Howe. "We believe that we are all part of one community and are stronger together supporting each other."

Put forward for the Award by BLESMA, the nomination read:

*"Owen was a soldier who lost a leg in a Taliban blast in Afghanistan and now has become a competitive snowboard athlete. He tried out the sport after being discharged from the Army and within 18 months hurtled up the World rankings, beating experienced able-bodied competitors. Owen is now rated 7th in the World and is on target for a podium place in the 2018 Winter Paralympics in South Korea."*

BLESMA CEO Barry Le Grys MBE said: "Owen has since risen higher. An enormously determined individual, Owen is a great team player and always keen to help his fellows out."

Finalists were nominated by members of the public and more than 40 charities and not-for-profit organisations either representing or associated with the wider Armed Forces Community. Winners are selected by a distinguished Independent Judges Panel, co-chaired by General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL and Debra Allcock Tyler, Chief Executive of the Directory of Social Change.

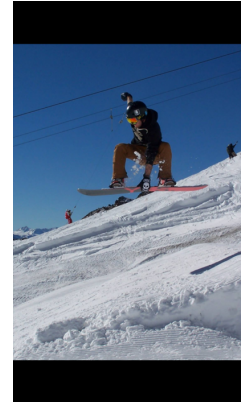
This year's winners will be announced at the 2017 Soldiering On Awards on Friday, 24 March at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel, London.

The Soldiering On Through Life Trust encourages support for the UK's Armed Forces Community by nationally recognising the achievements of groups or individuals supporting this Community through the annual **Soldiering On Awards**.

Soldiering On Awards: National Recognition for the Armed Forces Community.

For highlights of the 2016 Soldiering On Awards visit: [www.soldieringon.org](http://www.soldieringon.org)

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