

## **A NATIONAL AWARDS SCHEME for SPORT and the ARTS (2)**

Following my proposal (submitted on 11 November 04 by e-mail on my behalf by [felicity.grainger@ntlworld.com](mailto:felicity.grainger@ntlworld.com)) I was kindly contacted by Patricia Ferguson MSP and Bill Butler MSP to whom I had sent copies of the proposal.

The Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport informed me of the existing Dewar Arts Awards (set up by the Scottish Executive in 2002), the Arts Trust of Scotland (administered by the Scottish Arts Council) and SportScotland's Athlete Support (funded, I believe, through one of the SAC's Lottery funds).

While I was pleased to hear of some available funding for Scottish high fliers in the arts and sport I was curious that I had never heard of these particular trusts though I have followed the ups and downs of funding for the arts in Scotland all my life. We are all generally aware that there are charitable trusts some small, some large all over the country with funds they might make available to talented youngsters born in Scotland. But they are not easy to identify and the timing and scale of their disbursements are often uncompromising. With this in mind and in the light of the information kindly provided by the minister I should like to offer the following small development of my original outline proposal.

For high fliers in sport and the arts there should be a substantial NATIONAL AWARDS scheme for Scotland and the awards (which should be based on need rather than a fixed, flat rate) should be given a high profile by the Executive. Such awards would contribute to the Executive's policies in health, social inclusion and culture and the achievements of the recipients of such awards would contribute to Scotland's standing at home and abroad.

The funds for supporting individual high fliers in sport and the arts should be 'harmonised' and administered by an independent body appointed for the purpose (this body might do well to choose to act with or through existing advisory bodies in sport and the arts). This body should also co-operate with such Scottish charitable trusts as share its aims. Above all this body would ensure that with the Executive's help its award ceremonies were national pride events for the whole of the Scottish people.

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