

Margaret Peggie OBE at Windsor Castle



The day I went to Windsor Castle to receive my OBE from the Queen was one I will never forget. It was a very special experience for me and my family and also one of those days when you feel proud and lucky to be British. It was the first investiture to be held at Windsor Castle since Victoria's reign, so a very special day too for the Castle staff who offered their congratulations at every possible opportunity

On arriving at the Castle, I was taken off one way to be briefed while my guests, husband Pat, daughter Jo and son James were taken off in another to wait patiently for the ceremony to begin.

Following the briefing we were lined up in presentation order and led through the wonderful State Rooms to wait in the Throne Room adjacent to the Waterloo Chamber where the ceremony took place.

Being Armistice Day, it started with two minutes' silence during which I found it hard to concentrate, as I was worrying about remembering exactly when I had to walk forward, turn, curtsy and thinking about what to say to the Queen. When my moment came I hope my League training in 'standing tall' and 'presentation' served me well!

As the Queen pinned on my medal, I told her that my 'services to Fitness, Dance and Sport' had started with the Womens League of Health and Beauty which she might remember. "Indeed I do" she said. Her handshake signalled that my time was over, that I had to walk backwards and make a second curtsy before exiting the Chamber.

When the ceremony was over I joined up with the family in the beautifully renovated St. George's Hall for official photographs. This gave us a chance to chat to other recipients and their families and to get a good look at Lawrence Dallaglio who was receiving his OBE too.

I am sure that there are hundreds of other deserving people who don't get honoured in this way and that I was just one of the lucky ones who do, but that hasn't stopped

me savouring every moment of the whole experience or enjoying the happiness the honour has brought me.