



**IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU CAN ACHIEVE**



WITH  
**MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER & LIFE COACH**  
*gary skyner*



# Who is Gary Skyner?



Gary Skyner defies expectations of what can be achieved. Real life traumas are turned into triumphs every day. Gary's awe-inspiring tale of triumph over tragedy will touch your heart and lift your spirit.

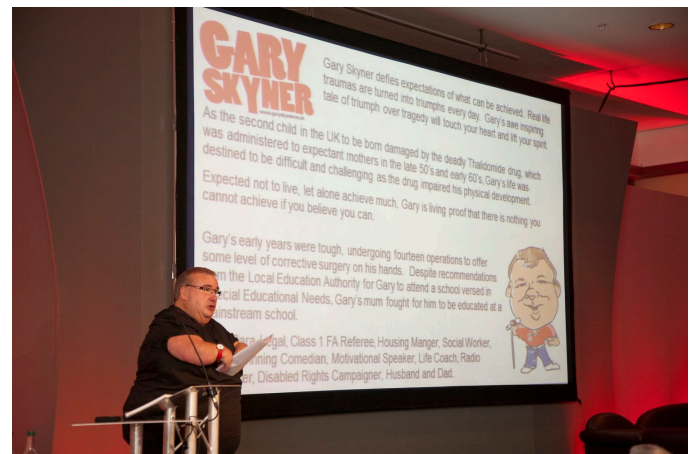
As one of the earliest children in the UK to be born damaged by the deadly Thalidomide drug, which was administered to expectant mothers in the 1960's, Gary's life was destined to

be difficult and challenging as the drug impaired his physical development.

Expected not to live, let alone to achieve much, Gary is living proof that there is nothing you cannot achieve if you believe you can.

Gary's presentation is not your usual run-of-the-mill motivational speech. There are no *"go get 'em boys, climb that mountain, cross that finish line, slay that dragon, and get the pretty girl"* scenarios.

He deals with real life: not as a superstar, athlete or famous mountaineer, but as a man who started out in life with one obstacle after another.



Gary with the Australian Olympic Boxing Team

# The Audience

Gary's presentation doesn't show a bitter man but a man standing up asking people to 'do the right thing'. As a professional comedian, the speech is delivered with humorous anecdotes and a look at how the comedic approach to things can often win over the toughest of battles.

Gary is happy to tailor his presentation to the audience, curriculum target or event.

Gary has been presenting to audiences all over the United Kingdom since 1996. Audiences have included:

- Schools (year 7 and up)
- Schools supporting students with emotional and behavioural difficulties
- Schools supporting students with special educational needs and disabilities
- Sporting academies
- Amateur and professional sports teams (including premiership league football)
- Prisons (Category B to D)
- Staff training (why not book two back-to-back sessions, one for staff and one for clients or students)
- Sixth form colleges
- Further education colleges
- Universities
- Day centres
- Third Sector conferences
- Disability awareness conferences

Gary is also an accomplished keynote speaker for Rotary and similar organisations.





# The Presentation

Presentations can be tailored to any length although generally a 45-minute presentation will allow sufficient time for questions at the end of the session.

Presentations are interactive; Gary enjoys asking the audience to join in. Gary will often ask two members of the audience to come to the front to help illustrate perceptions.



Gary will introduce the audience to the challenges he was presented with, talk about the 'poor thing' analogy he was given by medical professionals and then show the audience how he overcame each and every obstacle placed before him.

Gary's presentation includes a 7 minute DVD – a tangible insight into

Gary the campaigner, Gary the comedian and even Gary the Pilot! The DVD also features lifelong friend Ricky Tomlinson and Gary's appearance on national television with Jonathan Ross.

Gary will talk about his campaigning achievements with Diageo (formerly Distillers – the UK distributors of Thalidomide) and more recently, the UK Government.

- Approx £150 million for the benefit of UK survivors until 2037 from Diageo – with the help of Gary's celebrity friends – Prince Naseem Hamed, Noel & Liam Gallagher and Michael Owen to name a few.
- A £20 million funding package over three years from the UK Government – along with an apology.



# Recommendations & Testimonials

The following testimonials have been collated from letters of endorsement, post presentation evaluation forms, social media updates and printed materials published in the press. Student feedback is always anonymised although an indication of year group / age is generally provided.



**Cansfield, Ashton-in-Makerfield**  
**Audience: 800 year 7-11 students and 80 members of staff.**

*"You were our first visitor to a full assembly and it proved a massive success we will look now to making this a more regular occurrence, so a massive thank you."*

**Lisa Rothwell,**  
**Lead Practitioner - Cansfield**

*"Thank you very much for coming in and sharing your inspiring story"*

*"I really enjoyed the teachings and he has made me feel like I can do anything"*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed the assembly, it was very inspiring"*

**Year 7 – 11 student feedback**

*"Gary engaged the audience from the start. His personality shone through and you felt a real connection with him."*

*"His sense of humour, timing, the message he got across loud and clear and the fact the students are still talking about him, show the impact he made."*

*"I would definitely recommend him to other schools. It was a pleasure to meet him."*

**Jackie Jones,**  
**Deputy Headteacher - Cansfield**

*"Mr Skyner is living proof that there is nothing that cannot be achieved if you believe you can!"*

**Anna Dobson,**  
**Curriculum Support - Cansfield**

**Publication: Wigan Evening Post**  
**(19/11/15)**



**Moor Park High School, Preston**  
**Audience: Year 7-11 students**

In September, the Sixth Form was visited by motivational speaker Gary Skyner who came to deliver a very positive message to our students.

Gary has a physical disability but he has not allowed it to stop him from setting and achieving personal goals. In his presentation, Gary talked about how to conquer fears, benefit from setbacks, change limitations into opportunities and how to make the most of your potential.

Gary's inspiring message certainly showed the students that with application and ambition they can achieve anything they want.

**Publication: Moor News (Winter 2015)**

*"Made me think different, funny and engaging"*

**Year 11 learner**

*"It was great! Funny and serious, great lesson and inspirational."*

**Year 11 learner**



**West Lancashire College, Skelmersdale**  
**Audience: Foundation Learning Awards (Jun 2016)**  
**Audience: Prince's Trust Development Course (Sept 2015)**  
**Audience: Staff Motivation (Mar 2015)**



### West Lancashire College

23 June 2016

What a fantastic evening at our Foundation Learning Awards! Thank you to Inspirational Guest Speaker, Gary Skyner, The Mayor of West Lancashire Cllr Liz Savage and Leader of West Lancashire Borough Council, Ian Moran! A huge well done to all learners and award winners! [#ProudtobeWLC](#)



### West Lancashire College

16 September 2015

Big thanks to Gary Skyner for the motivational and very funny speech given to our learners today, they were truly inspired. We can't wait to have you back here again soon!



**Woolton High School, Liverpool**  
**Audience: 11-16 year old boys with emotional and behavioural difficulties**

*"The message Gary gave to the boys was serious and poignant. The boys were visibly moved by it. Many of the points Gary raised were interesting, informative and provoked conversation. Important in helping children come to terms with some of the issues in their own lives. The boys found that they could easily relate to Gary's struggles. It was a valuable experience for the boys."*

**Steve McKenna, Deputy Headmaster, Woolton High School**



**Rotary District 1060 Annual Conference**

*"Gary has given us all something to think about. It is most impressive what he has achieved against the odds and we shall long remember his presentation."*

*The Thalidomide scandal has long gone from most peoples' memories so it was very timely to be reminded of it."*

**Roger Coopey, Conference Chairman**

**HMP Durham Category B Prisoners**

*"Myself and the whole group thoroughly enjoyed your talk. The presentation was clear, and the message well delivered."*

**Mim Arbia, Diversity Manager, HMP Durham**



**WEA - Audience: Members of Copeland Occupational & Social Centre**

*"A big thank you for everything you did on Tuesday – everyone had a great day!"*

**Sarah Edwards, Learning Manager Workers' Educational Association**



*"Very funny and inspirational session"*

*"Humorous, relevant to disability and extremely inspirational. I hope to hear him talk again in the future"*

**Feedback from attendees at the NAEP Annual Conference**





## Cronton Sixth Form College and Riverside College, Widnes

**Audience: 16 - 18 year old students** (2013, with return visits in 2014 and 2015)

*"Two fantastic and engaging motivational slots at both our Sixth Form and F.E sites - a huge success."*

*"On a serious note, once they'd all stopped laughing at your jokes, conversations in relation to disability, self-belief and assumptions took over. I am confident that for some, attitudes have changed forever."*

*"Our students from both A level and vocational studies were educated and entertained! Tutors and students have asked if you can come back again next year and I have replied to say 100% yes."*

**Maxine Mealey, Head of School**  
Cronton Sixth Form College



*"I found Gary very interesting, made me open my eyes to disabilities"*

A level learner

*"Made me think about my life and I can do anything if I put my mind to it"*

IT level 2 learner

*"Made me even more determined to succeed not only for myself but for them, as an example of what you can achieve in life despite any circumstances or disabilities, with the right attitude and determination"*

Access to HE learner



## Cardinal Newman College, Preston

**Audience: 16 - 18 year old students** (7 return visits)

*"We are really privileged to have such an inspirational speaker and I know that you have made a lasting impression on so many, young and old. Thank you for inspiring our students with such an uplifting and positive performance"*

**Anne Russell, Head of Chaplaincy**  
Cardinal Newman College



**Sellafield Ltd**

## Sellafield Ltd, Cumbria

**Audience: Apprentices aged 16 plus**

*"It was wonderfully inspirational and heart-warming. We listen to many speakers who have achieved some great sporting success but all appear to have begun with every advantage which life can offer."*

*"Your talk showed how personal courage and determination can surmount the most daunting of obstacles and result in success, respect and the admiration of all."*

**Barry Snelson, Managing Director**  
Sellafield Ltd



## Tees Valley Alliance AGM delegates

*"Your motivational talk was an inspiration to everybody who attended the event. Feedback from the delegates was very positive and supportive of your presentation."*

**Catherine Haycroft**  
Tees Valley Social Care & Health Alliance

## Patterson Medical

### Windsor Sales Conference



*"We wanted an after dinner speaker who would both entertain our sales staff but also motivate them to realise their potential and exceed their customers' expectations. Gary was both humorous and entertaining. His life story is inspiring and his battles with major drug companies enthralling. I would thoroughly recommend Gary to anyone looking for an after dinner speaker"*

**Chris Manning, UK Sales Director**

# Contact Us

Gary's personal management team can be contacted as follows:-

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In emergencies or for urgent enquiries, please contact Gary direct on  
**07768 101 381** (text is preferred)

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Posters and high-res images can be downloaded directly from the  
downloads section of **www.garyskyner.co.uk**

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Website: **http://www.garyskyner.co.uk**

