



Newsletter

February 2015

Issue #4

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BT become official GBWR partner



January saw GBWR sign a three-year partnership with BT which will help the sport grow massively in terms of playing numbers, officials, volunteers and spectators.

The partnership over the next three years will include;

- **BT National Youth Programme.** We will build on the youth initiatives we have piloted over the last two years and continue to work with existing partners such as the Harlequins and Saracens' Foundations to provide the game for up to 400 young people over the next three years, creating at least ten youth teams.
- **BT National Championships.** BT will help us to grow this into a showcase event for all teams taking part and to make it attractive to spectators as a great family day out. The first BT National Championships will be May bank holiday this year in the Copperbox at the Olympic Park.
- **BT Great Britain National Team.** BT will provide additional support to help further our ambitions to become a medal winning team.
- **BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge 2015.** BT will be the title sponsor of the first ever WWRC – this event will be even more amazing with BT's support and will further raise the public's interest in our sport.
- **BT Wheelchair Rugby Community Programme.** BT will provide additional support to help us grow programmes such as Rugby Wheels and SIUs and our Super Series tournament that will be renamed the BT Super Series.

The partnership was officially announced 21st January at Twickenham Stadium and Suzi Williams, BT's Global Brand & Marketing Director, GBWR Chief Executive David Pond, GBWR Ambassador and England Rugby star Mike Brown, GBWR Captain Mike Kerr and GB athletes Coral Batey and Chris Ryan were all in attendance to celebrate this exciting new time for the sport.

Ospreys win first game against RGC

Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby won their first game under their new name with a 52-42 win over North Wales outfit RGC.

RGC Wheelchair Rugby were also appearing for the first time since changing their name and were able to show off the talents of young Tom Baines.

The game took place in Neath, South Wales with a healthy crowd in attendance for the spectacle.

Both sides will be heading to the Super Series this month with Ospreys competing in Division Two and RGC competing in Division One.



Milton Keynes taster sessions

GBWR are continuing the partnership with Milton Keynes Council and the Stantonbury Arts & Leisure Centre to bring this exciting Paralympic sport to Milton Keynes.

Following one session in January we will continue into February and March with taster sessions open to any disabled person over the age of 16 years old.

The sessions are delivered by experienced coaches and rugby chairs are provided. If this is a sport you have thought about trying, this is your chance to experience it at a fun recreational session with all the equipment and support provided.

The sessions are taking place at Stantonbury Arts & Leisure Centre, Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK14 6BN from 1-3pm on the 15th & 28th February and 8th March.

For more details and to register please contact Paul Arnold, GBWR Regional Development Officer, on 07872 664 927 or at paul.arnold@gbwr.org.uk.

Super Series returns for the second weekend of competition

The BT Super Series is back for the second league weekend of the 2014-15 season this month with all 17 teams returning to Stoke-on-Trent's Fenton Manor Sports Complex.

All the Division Two and Three action will take place on Valentine's weekend (14th-15th February) with Solent Sharks and Gloucester hoping to continue their unbeaten runs in their respective leagues.

Westcountry Hawks player Ed Larkin (pictured below) is one to watch in Division Two after picking up a best in classification award in November. Gloucester's Charlie Hetherington could catch the eye again after picking up the most valuable player award in the same weekend beating competition from players in Division Two.



It will be a chance for the three new teams who compete in the third division to enjoy another weekend of competitive action in the Midlands following their first taste of the Super Series in November.

In Division Two, North East Bulls are hot on the heels of the Sharks and will want to keep the pressure on the league leaders.

Division Three side Woodbridge Warriors will want to pick up their first win after coming close before Christmas with some close scores against Gloucester and Canterbury.

All the action from Division One takes place the following weekend (21st-22nd February) with West Coast Crash sitting on top of the table with ten points, two ahead of second placed Storm.

It will be a good chance for fans to see some of the top GB players over the weekend with the likes of Ayaz Bhuta, GBWR captain Mike Kerr, Coral Batey and Jonathan Cogan all likely to feature.

Remember that the event is free to watch and will take place at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2RR.

For more information please visit gbwr.org.uk to download the information pack. Team lists will also be available to download from gbwr.org.uk closer to the event.



BT WWRC15 fixtures announced

The schedule for the BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge in October has now been released. With eight teams competing in this brand new tournament, GB find themselves in Pool B alongside Australia, Japan and France. Paul Shaw's side will take on France on 12th October before facing London 2012 Gold medallists Australia a day later. GB conclude their group on October 14th against Japan. Pool A consists of USA, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand. The tournament will take place at the Olympic Park in London in October.

Starr chosen as Head Table Official

The IWRP have announced the selection of Simon Starr as the Head Table Official for the BT WWRC15 tournament in October. Simon started out as a Table Official in August 2009 at the Trevor Williams Memorial Tournament and he has since been involved in each annual Super Series competition and the Nationals.

Internationally, he has tabled at the 2011 GB Cup, the London Test Event and Paralympics in 2012 and was fortunate enough to be selected for the World Championships in Denmark in 2014.

At London 2012 he had a Games Maker role as one of the statisticians for the event and over the last three years he has assisted new table officials in learning their trade.

David Pond, GBWR Chief Executive and BT WWRC15 lead said: "I am delighted with the appointment. Simon has made an enormous commitment to the game over a number of years and is highly experienced. The BT WWRC15 event will bring together the best teams in the world and will be an amazing spectacle, it will be critical that we also have the very best officials and Simon more than meets that requirement."

Simon said: "I am honoured to have been selected for the position and I am looking forward to building a great team of table officials to support this fantastic event which will be a show case for the sport in this country."

Officials and Mechanics Workshops

GBWR once again teamed up with Gloucester University, who were able to provide us with a location to hold some officials and mechanics workshops.

These workshops were well attended and it was a good chance to increase the number of volunteers within our sport and for volunteers to learn more about wheelchair rugby and meet with members from other teams. We would like to thank Doz Preece and Brian Ward for leading the workshops and Gloucester University for once again providing a venue.

Contact Us



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