



# Tip-off

GBWR's official  
monthly  
newsletter

Oct 2016 #24



BT Super Series | Rio 2016 | Get Involved | Dorset Destroyers | Rainbow Laces



## Fifth place at Rio 2016 for GB

The ParalympicsGB wheelchair rugby team's Rio 2016 medal hopes were dashed, but the team return having maintained their fifth place ranking from London 2012 and remain Europe's highest ranked team.

Paul Shaw's side knew that only their best would get them out of a tricky Group B that included 2012 Paralympic gold medal winners Australia and last year's BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge winners Canada, as well as the hosts Brazil.

On day one, GB narrowly lost out to Australia 53-51 whilst Canada recorded a confident 62-48 victory over Brazil. A win against Canada in the next game was a must and unfortunately in dramatic circumstances a last second goal in overtime meant that fifth was the best that GB could achieve following a 50-49 defeat.

The squad regrouped to record an emphatic 52-32 score over Brazil to finish third in Group B to set up a match with Sweden for fifth spot on day four of the competition.

A 56-42 score was enough to confirm GB's fifth place finish, equalling their efforts four years ago in London and continuing

their dominance as the highest ranked European nation in the sport.

Australia managed to retain their Paralympic title with a gold medal match victory over USA (59-58) whilst Japan picked up their first Paralympic medal when they beat Canada for bronze 52-50.

The players will now shift their attentions back to the upcoming BT Super Series season where you can watch some of our most recent Paralympians battle it out for their respective club sides. All events are free for spectators and keep an eye out on [gbwr.org.uk](http://gbwr.org.uk) or future editions of Tip-Off for more information.



## BT Super Series is back!

The BT Super Series is back for another season starting with Division Two's opening league weekend on the 29th-30th of this month.

Entry is free to all spectators across the weekend and will take place at the Walsall Sports Arena, University of Wolverhampton, WS1 3TA.

More information regarding, teams and fixtures will be on [gbwr.org.uk](http://gbwr.org.uk) closer to the event.

## 2016 Bulls' Invitational Tournament

This year's Bulls' Invitational Tournament is being held this October, and it will be a larger event than previous years with 5 teams taking part. Joining the North East Bulls this year will be Ulster Barbarians, Caledonian Crushers, Yorkshire Lions and Liverpool Lions.

Entry is free and spectators are welcome!

When? 15 – 16 October, from 0900 each day

Where? Sedgefield Community College, TS21 3DD



## Dorset Destroyers need you!

The Dorset Destroyers Wheelchair Rugby Club is looking for more players to join them in the league.

Currently the club is a little short of “classifiable” players and so are on the lookout for the start of the next season.

So, what do we mean by “classifiable”? To play in the league you need to have a physical impairment in at least 3 limbs.

When you join, you will get 4 free taster sessions and be provided with a rugby wheelchair, all equipment and full training. It is a very exciting time for the club, as it has only been training since February 2015 and is now taking the next step forward.

The club trains every Sunday from 11 till 2pm at Rossmore Leisure Centre, Herbert Ave, Poole, BH12 4HR.

Please call Sue for more details on 07747 586006.

## GBWR support Rainbow Laces

The Rainbow Laces campaign started in 2013 as a partnership between Paddy Power and Stonewall. It was focused on football specifically, and on promoting acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) football players. Over a series of high profile campaign weeks, dozens of Premier League footballers wore Rainbow Laces, the Metro Newspaper did a #RainbowLaces takeover, the campaign video with Arsenal attracted 1.4 million views, and 30% of the British population heard about the campaign. After two years of partnership, Stonewall and Paddy Power amicably parted ways. But the work goes on.

Stonewall now has full ownership of the Rainbow Laces campaign and has committed to run the campaign for a further three years. The campaign is trying to create an environment where all LGBT people feel welcome at all levels of sport, with the belief that most people in sport welcome LGBT people, and we all need to come together to deal with the small minority of people who give sport a bad name through homophobic, biphobic and transphobic actions.

There have been some key changes to the campaign – it is now:

- Focussed on ALL sports, although at the moment the chief focus is on football, rugby and cricket as three of the biggest sports in Britain
- Working intensively with grassroots, youth and community sport alongside high profile clubs and leagues
- Actively working with a wide range of sport sponsors as a force for positive change across sport through #TeamPride

In September the campaign is being re-launched, with a story based on extensive new research of sport fans’ experience of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. #TeamPride will also be announced as part of a big call to action to the sports industry.

## Butterfield wins Gold in Rio

GBWR would like to congratulate Jo Butterfield who won gold in the women’s F51 Club Throw in Rio last month.

The Scot, who plays wheelchair rugby for Caledonian Crushers, smashed her own world record when she threw 22.81 metres to take the gold medal.

In the same event, our very own Kylie Grimes, who was part of the GB Wheelchair Rugby team in London 2012, finished fourth to narrowly miss out on Bronze.

Issy Bailey of Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club was also competing in Rio at her first Paralympic Games. The 22-year-old was unable to qualify for the finals of the women’s P2-10m Air Pistol event, finishing 14th, just five points off qualifying with the top eight progressing to the final which was won by Iran’s Sareh Javanmardidodmani.

GBWR would just like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of not only our wheelchair rugby players, but also to Jo, Kylie and Issy and to everyone who played a part in making this year’s Paralympic Games a success!



Also launched will be the toolkit for grassroots, community and youth sport clubs to raise awareness, and organising a series of community sport #RainbowLaces activities in different parts of the country.

On 25-27 November, 2 months on from the re-launch of the campaign, there will be a weekend of focus on leagues, clubs, players, senior staff and the media - all visibly demonstrating their commitment to the #RainbowLaces campaign by wearing rainbow props (including captain arm bands, hair bands for long haired players, ties for news presenters, and laces for all other players).

At GBWR we want to hear from all those who have ideas as to how we can get behind the campaign and we will be sending out support packs to those individuals or clubs and asking them to tweet pictures of them wearing their #rainbow laces when the campaign launches. If you or your club would like to be involved, please e-mail [danielhook@rfu.com](mailto:danielhook@rfu.com).

## Contact Us



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