



Tip-off

GBWR's official
monthly
newsletter

Dec 2016 #26



uk sport



SPORT
ENGLAND



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UK Sport Funding Decision

As many of you would be aware of by now, GBWR have been stunned by UK Sport's decision to completely cut their funding leading into Tokyo 2020.

The decision has shocked many across the sporting spectrum and will have serious implications on the future of our GB national team.

Since the decision, we have been blessed with the amount of support we have received, not only from those connected to our sport but by the wider community who have learned of our injustice in the national press.

We are currently in the process of appealing the decision and our lawyers have informed UK Sport of our intention to represent our case for the decision to be overturned.

Please help by showing your support on social media, and in any other way you can. Please use the hashtag #saveGBWR in your posts.



Confidence in our sport

A week after the news that UK Sport had made the decision to cut our funding, Sport England released their funding plans and have shown confidence in our sport to fully fund our plan. This is a fantastic result for all involved and recognises the outstanding development work that has been achieved over the last four years.

The £2.4M is the full amount we asked for and is a significant increase in our funding from the last cycle – one of the only sports to have achieved this.

Gloucester set to become the Titans

Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club will now be known as the Gloucester Titans, going forward.

The move to become the Titans, will allow the club alongside Gloucester Rugby to deliver outreach and introductory wheelchair rugby sessions to schools and groups across the county.

The sessions will allow the Gloucester Wheelchair Rugby Club to highlight the sport and introduce it to more and more people across Gloucestershire whilst supporting the team, now known as the Titans in their Super Series competitions, as they seek to progress from Division Two.

Wheelchair Rugby is in my heart

Exeter Hawks were crowned BT Youth Tournament champions after beating Saracens 15-12 in a closely fought final.

Hawks were unbeaten in all of their matches across a packed day of wheelchair rugby action, beating the likes of Solent Sharks (16-5), Leicester Tigers (20-7) and Ospreys (17-7) en route to the final showdown with Saracens in a repeat of last year's final.

Hawks' star player Tilly, 14, spoke before the final, highlighting what the key factor was in Exeter's impressive displays: "The training we get is incredible and that has helped the confidence of the team".



The West Country side finished second last year, losing to Saracens in the final, something Tilly said had been playing on the team's minds heading into the 2016 tournament. "Facing Saracens again was a scary thought but after finishing second last year we have grown as a team and since become regional champions heading into this tournament".

Tilly, who lists former GB Wheelchair Rugby Captain Steve Brown as one of her sporting idols, has dreams of following in Brown's footsteps and competing at a Paralympic Games – "Tokyo 2020 is the aim" said the schoolgirl, "I am training a lot and wheelchair rugby is in my heart".

Hawks win BT Youth Tournament

The BT Youth Tournament returned for a second year after an incredibly successful event last year at the Copper Box Arena.

This year, Stoke Mandeville was to play host as seven teams from across the country came together to compete to win the cup.

Last years runners-up Exeter Hawks were crowned Cup champions at the expense of reigning champions Saracens, whilst Leicester Tigers managed to win the Shield in the competition for the minor places.

The day was a huge success with the standard seeing a significant increase from last year. Hawks enjoyed the most success, winning all of their four games across the day, including some final revenge on Saracens who had arrived with every intention to retain their title.

In Group A, Saracens and Ospreys were the early frontrunners, both winning their opening two matches against Bristol and Northampton before going head to head in the final match of the group. In a competitive affair, Saracens came out on top to maintain their unbeaten start to the day

narrowly edging out their South Wales opponents 14-13. Both Ospreys and Saracens progressed to the knockout round of the cup, meaning both Bristol and Northampton had to battle it out for the shield alongside Leicester Tigers.

In Group B Exeter were showing their dominance with Team Solent Sharks narrowly edging out Tigers to progress to the cup. Hawks won both of their group games and looked strong heading into the cup semi final against Ospreys, winning 17-7 to confirm their place in the final. In the other semi-final Saracens narrowly beat Sharks 10-8 despite a spirited comeback from the Hampshire side.



Picture: Martin Saych

It was a case of déjà vu for the final and in a tight game throughout, Hawks managed hold on to their slim lead to lift the cup for the first time.

In the Shield, Tigers and Bristol had to battle it out to face Northampton in the final and Tigers, despite losing their opening two games in the group, won 17-4 before beating Northampton 13-10 in the final.

Warriors top of Division One

Gaelic Warriors went straight to the top of the BT Super Series Division One table after an impressive opening weekend of the season in Leicester.

West Coast Crash, who finished runners up last time out had to settle for second again but have it all to play for heading into the next round of games in February.

Warriors topped Pool A after day one with wins over Marauders (63-36), Storm (48-43) and Crusaders (59-36). They took their good form into the second day and made sure of their place in the final with a 68-45 win over Team Solent Sharks.

In Pool B, Crash were the early pacesetters, winning their opening three games against North East Bulls (60-21), Sharks (70-38) and Leicester Tigers (53-36). On day two they set up a final with Warriors after narrowly beating Storm 42-40.

The final was a competitive tie as you would expect with Warriors just taking the points with a 44-37 score. Storm clinched third at the expense of Sharks with a 56-45 victory.

Individual awards from the weekend went to;

Alan Lynch- Gaelic Warriors (0.5/1.0)
Nick Cummins- Leicester Tigers (1.5)
Chris Ryan- Storm (2.0)
Mandip Sehmi- Storm (2.5)
Thomas Moylan- Gaelic Warriors (3.0/3.5)
Gavin Walker- Marauders (MVP)



“It all seems unjust”

Ayaz Bhuta is one of the wheelchair rugby athletes that will be directly affected by UK Sport's decision to cut their funding for the sport in the Tokyo 2020 cycle.

Bhuta (pictured above) and his GB team mates, come April 1st 2017 wont be receiving their monthly funding that is part of being on the UK Sport Programme and most will have to start looking for employment elsewhere.

The Bolton born player, who made his Paralympic debut in Rio this year, spends a lot of time with community projects, speaking in schools and groups and using his experience in elite sport to help others.

Bhuta told the Daily Telegraph: “Without this sport, I would probably just be sat at home watching TV and eating loads and not making many friends.”

“It may stop me doing my community ambassador work as well. Being a Muslim athlete, we are quite big on charity, and I give a lot back to community, going into Muslim schools and trying to inspire the next generation of Muslim disabled athletes.”

Contact Us



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Merry Christmas from GBWR

From everyone here at Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.