



# Tip-off

GBWR's official  
monthly  
newsletter

Feb 2017 #28



uk sport



BT Super Series | GB Assistant Coaches | Taster Sessions | #saveGBWR



## Reading Taster Sessions

Wheelchair rugby is coming to Reading this month! GBWR will be running sessions for players over 16.

The sessions, run alongside Get Berkshire Active are aimed at anybody with a physical disability, over the age of 16, male or female, complete beginners or those who may have played before.

There will be two sessions in February (5th & 19th) between 12-1:30pm at Meadway Sports Centre, Conwy Close, Tilehurst, Reading, RG30 4BZ.

There will be another session on March 19th between 12-1:30pm at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, Haddon Drive, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4LY.

For more information please contact Paul Arnold, Regional Development Officer, at paul.arnold@gbwr.org.uk or on 07872 664 927.

## BT Super Series Enters Business End of the Season

### Warriors to defend top spot

It's a busy month of BT Super Series action with all three divisions gearing up for another round of fixtures.

Division One returns on the 18th/19th February in Walsall as Gaelic Warriors look to defend their spot at the top of the table at the midway point of the season. Last year's runners up West Coast Crash are close behind in second, whilst reigning champions Storm are in third place.

Team Solent Sharks, Leicester Tigers and Marauders take up the middle of the table heading over to Walsall whilst North East Bulls and Crusaders will want to improve on their last results to jump out of the bottom two positions.

## New GB Coaching Team

While we await the decision on our representation to UK Sport to fund the GB squad for the Tokyo cycle, planning for this year's European Championships continues with the announcement of our coaching team.

Paul Shaw will continue as Head Coach following a very successful Rio cycle that saw the team become European Champions in 2015 and narrowly miss out on a semi-final place at the Rio Paralympic Games. Appointed as assistant coaches are Rob Tarr and Darren Matthews.

Rob Tarr is one of the most experienced players and coaches in the game. He represented GB at every major tournament between 1985- 2005 including three Paralympic Games, three World Championships and four European Championships, and was captain of the team for the Athens games in 2004. Following his retirement from international rugby he coached the GB development squad between 2006-2009, many of whom went on to be selected for the senior team. He also was part of the Sporting Champions and Respect Athlete mentoring programmes working and inspiring young people. In 2012 he joined Leicester Tigers Wheelchair Rugby Club as Head Coach and has led the team to promotion from Division Two and to silver and bronze medals in both national and international competitions. Rob has also been involved in delivering a number of the GBWR programmes and is one of only two coach tutors.

Darren Matthews also joins with considerable playing and coaching experience. As a player he has won League, Nationals and European titles. He made the full transition to coaching with Leicester Tigers before becoming the lead Northern Talent coach and eventually assistant coach in the Talent Development programme. He also brings a great deal of experience in video analysis and nutrition.



A host of GB and international stars with Paralympic experience are all set to feature and the event is free for anyone wishing to come and support our teams over the two days of competition.

The eight-team league is split into two pools of four on day one with placing games and a final all happening on the second day of action, ensuring that there is something to play for in every match.

The games will take place at Walsall Sports Arena, University of Wolverhampton, WS1 3TA.

## Hellfire & Burn set for title fight in final Division Two weekend

Canterbury continued their unbeaten league season when Division Two returned for a second league weekend at the end of January.

The side, who boast former GB captain Steve Brown in their ranks, top the league by four points with West Coast Burn not far behind them after another solid league weekend finishing second.

It is all to play for when the teams meet again at the end of February in the final league weekend of the season.

Hellfire topped Pool A on day one with wins over Caledonian Crushers (56-14), Ospreys (53-44) and Gloucester Titans (52-38) before heading into the placement games on day two.

In Pool B, Burn were enjoying similar success with victories over Yorkshire Lions (61-36), Westcountry Hawks (55-39) and Liverpool (38-44).

There was plenty of action heading into day two as Canterbury and Burn both continued to win their games, setting up another final between the Division Two high-flyers.

Special mention goes to Ospreys and Hawks who improved from the opening weekend to finish third and fourth this weekend and climb up one place above Liverpool, who finished eighth this weekend following a fourth placed finish back in October.

Another special mention must go to Crushers who, with the help of experienced GB international Mike Kerr as a player and coach, picked up their first win since returning to Division Two when they narrowly edged out Liverpool by one point (44-43) in a great match played in good spirit.

The final was another close encounter between Canterbury and Burn with the former just edging the result with a 43-41 victory to maintain Hellfire's lead at the top of the table.

The individual award winners were;

Sam Lloyd-Ospreys- 0.5  
Mike Kerr- Crushers- 1.0/1.5  
Ed Larkin- Hawks- 2.0  
Josh Williams (right)- Burn- 2.5  
Stuart Robinson- Ospreys- 3.0/3.5 & MVP



Division Two returns for the final weekend at the end of this month (25-26 February) at the Walsall Sports Arena, University of Wolverhampton, WS1 3TA.

All the sides will be hoping to end the season on a high with promotion places to Division One there for the taking. Again this event is free for spectators and we welcome anybody who would like to come and watch when we return to the Midlands.

## Division Three Preview

Division Three of the BT Super Series is back this month for the second round of league fixtures when the teams head to Wycombe Leisure Centre on February 11th.

Stoke Mandeville Maulers are currently top of the four-team league after an unbeaten day last time out in Newbury in December.

Like always, the event is free to any spectators wishing to come and support our teams and GBWR would welcome anybody who would like to see first hand our amazing sport.

Exactly two months will have passed since the four sides met in Newbury in December and the Brighton Buccaneers, Maulers, Dorset Destroyers and Team Solent Hammerheads will be ready to go head to head again as we reach the midpoint of the season.

Brighton, who are new to the BT Super Series setup this season, fielded an all-female line up during the last Division Three event, a commendable feat by any standards. Dorset are also new to the Super Series this season and will be hoping to continue their development as a team.

Both Maulers and Hammerheads remain in Division Three for a second season and will be again look forward to some competitive action in Wycombe.

The full venue address is; Wycombe Leisure Centre, Handy Cross, HP11 1UP.

## #saveGBWR Campaign

The #saveGBWR campaign is still in full swing and we would like to remind readers of Tip-Off to head over to [gbwr.org.uk](http://gbwr.org.uk) and register their support to help Mike Brown send the GBWR team to Tokyo 2020.

As we prepare our appeal to UK Sport to reverse their funding decision, it is vitally important that, as supporters and key members of our sport, you help by registering and getting all your family and friends to register their support also. Please keep using the official #saveGBWR in your social media posts and we will keep you updated with any developments on our website, through social media and in the next edition of Tip-Off.



## Contact Us



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[gbwr.org.uk](http://gbwr.org.uk)



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