



# Newsletter

December 2014

Issue #2

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## Taster Sessions

Throughout December, there will be some taster sessions up and down the country to try and raise the profile of the sport and increase the numbers of players and volunteers in the UK.

The West Midlands Wheelchair Rugby Club will be holding sessions for new players and volunteers. Sessions will take place on the 1st and 15th December between 4-6pm. The sessions will be held at Portway Lifestyle Centre, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 1HE.

There was also a chance to give the sport a try in Neath on the 5th December for people aged between 8 and 18 years old. GBWR and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg teamed up to provide a fun session which included wheelchair multi-skills and a chance to play wheelchair rugby. The event was held at Neath Sports Centre, Cwrt Herbert, Neath, SA10 7BE.

For more information about the session in Neath please contact either:

Victoria Radmore (Disability Support Wales) at [v.radmore@npt.gov.uk](mailto:v.radmore@npt.gov.uk) / 07879693047.

Amanda Thomas (GBWR) at [amanda.thomas@gbwr.org.uk](mailto:amanda.thomas@gbwr.org.uk) / 07950545014



## Name changes in Wales

It seems to be all change in Wales at the moment with South Wales Pirates and North Wales Dragons both having name changes.

The Pirates, who played their last games under this name at the Super Series last month are teaming up with Ospreys Rugby and will now be called Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby.

In the northern area of the country, the Dragons are undergoing a similar transition in December with the side going into partnership with Rygbi Gogledd Cymru (RGC). The partnership will officially happen on the 9th December with the Dragons set to be called RGC Wheelchair Rugby.

RGC will be heading down for a training session with the Dragons, who will give some of their able bodied players a chance to get in a chair and challenge the North Wales side. In return, the Dragons will be putting on a demonstration when RGC play Merthyr RFC on the 20th of this month.

Dragons captain Tony Stackhouse said: "We now have people that want to help us with funding and putting us on the map. It is an amazing time for us right now."



## Rugbymania

The competition is back for a 16th year in the Czech Republic. The eight team tournament will take place in the country's fourth biggest city, Pilsen, between the 5th-7th December and will include a GBWR Talent Development Team.

Coach Phil Zealey has picked his squad of ten players with Burn's Ryan Cowling as captain. The other players are; Alex Smart, Richard Devine, Josh Williams, Nick Cummins, Jonny Collingwood, David Anthony (above), Daniel Dawoud, Matt Hignett and Ryan Dickin. The players will be up against some strong opposition from across Europe, which include teams such as Gaelic Warriors, Flying Dutchmen, Prague Robots, Danis Dynamite, European Giants, Italy and The Gunners/Maniacs.

Zealey said: "The aim of the tournament for us is to see the things we are introducing in training camps being implemented by the players in a competitive environment. This tournament gives them a real opportunity to see how they are progressing and where they currently fit against some good international players."

# Super Series Weekend

# Round One

## Division One

West Coast Crash went through the whole opening weekend unbeaten, taking an early two point lead at the top of the table. The North West outfit recorded victories against Burn (53-29), North Wales Dragons (44-41) and Marauders (52-49) to progress to the semi-final on Sunday 9th November. Coached by Tom Paulson, the side beat Leicester Tigers to reach the final, where they comfortably beat Storm by ten clear points 47-37. Tigers did however beat Marauders 47-39 to take third.



The individual awards from Division One went to;

Richard Devine- Marauders (0.5)  
Alan Lynch- Gaelic Warriors (1.0)  
Nick Cummins- Leicester Tigers (1.5)  
Chris Ryan- Storm (2.0)  
Ayaz Bhuta- West Coast Crash (2.5)  
Jonathan Hivernat- North Wales Dragons (3.0/3.5)  
Thomas Moylan- Gaelic Warriors- MVP

## Division Two

Solent Sharks were the big winners of the weekend with a perfect start to the new season. Gary Banks' side won all five of their games. The Southampton based side now sit at the top of the table closely followed by North East Bulls who managed four wins across the two days. There has to be a special mention to Caledonian Crushers who had to rely on just four players over the weekend and they put in a valiant effort with little reward. The Solent Hammerheads recorded their first ever Super Series win against the Crushers whilst the Westcountry Hawks endured a mixed weekend with three defeats and two wins whilst featuring some new players in their squad.

The individual awards from Division Two went to;

Ciaron Pryce- Caledonian Crushers (0.5)  
Richard Ingram- Westcountry Hawks (1.0)  
Luke Twizzel- North East Bulls (1.5)  
Ed Larkin (pictured right)- Hawks (2.0)  
Patrick Asher-Relf- Solent Sharks (2.5)  
Aaron Phipps- Solent Sharks (3.0/3.5)



## Division Three



The brand new Division Three proved to be a success in the opening weekend. All three sides brought a healthy bunch of supporters with them who really livened up the event.

Gloucester were the big winners of the weekend, picking up wins in both of their matches, with Charlie Hetherington picking up the most valuable player award for the weekend which included the Division Two sides.

The red & whites picked up a 35-29 victory over Steve Brown's Canterbury side before managing to hold off a late comeback by a spirited Woodbridge side with a 28-26 score.

Woodbridge failed to win their second game being at the wrong end of a 36-29 score line, which ended Canterbury's weekend on a high.

All three teams put in some good performances with some individuals showing some early potential in the game. The division looks like it will be another tight affair when the sides meet again in February.

## Ollie Mangion's First Tournament

Following the start of the brand new Division Three, there were plenty of new faces and names that could become better known in the future. It was a chance for players to get their first taste of competitive rugby and the tournament atmosphere was definitely enhanced by the enthusiastic supporters.

GBWR caught up with young Canterbury star Ollie Mangion to get his thoughts on his first taste of competitive play.

The 19-year-old, who is currently studying in his final year of A Levels said: "It has been great, I really enjoyed it. I was disappointed with the first result against Gloucester but you have to lose at some point. We still played really well and we ended on a high with a win against Woodbridge which was a fantastic way to end the weekend."

Mangion has hopes to go to university but says he has been hooked on wheelchair rugby since the 2012 Paralympics and hopes one day he can maybe represent GB at a Paralympic Games in the future.

## Division One

Pos	Team	Points
1	West Coast Crash	10
2	Storm	8
3	Leicester Tigers	6
4	Marauders	5
5	Gaelic Warriors	4
6	North Wales Dragons	3
7	Crusaders	2
8	West Coast Burn	1

## Division Two

Pos	Team	Points
1	Team Solent Sharks	15
2	North East Bulls	13
3	South Wales Pirates	11
4	West Country Hawks	9
5	Hammerheads	7
6	Caledonian Crushers	5

## Merry Christmas from GBWR

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

## Super Series Tables

### Division Three

Pos	Team	Points
1	Gloucester	6
2	Canterbury	4
3	Woodbridge Wheeled Warriors	2

### Getting to know...

#### Myles Pearson & Aaron Phipps

**Team:**  
Solent Sharks

**Age:**  
MP 21, AP 31.

**Favourite Food:**  
MP: Curry, AP: Fajitas.

**Sporting Idol:**  
MP: David Beckham, AP: Andy Barrow and David Weir.

**Favourite sport away from Wheelchair Rugby:**  
MP: Football (Liverpool fan), AP: Fishing.

**Proudest moment in Wheelchair Rugby:**  
Both: Representing GB at the London 2012 Paralympics.

**Hopes for the future:**  
MP: Get into the Rio 2016 team, AP: Get the Sharks into Division One

**A fun fact about yourselves:**  
Both Myles and Aaron claim to be in a two piece band called 'Mylipps' with Myles on keyboard and Aaron 'spitting bars'.



## Contact Us



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