



Chis Ryan for Nationals Cup winners Storm



Mike and Jinx at Invictus



Pirates 25 years on



Jonny and Tony at Copper Box



Issy Bailey for Gloucester



The future!



Sharks win Division 2



West Coast Crash, Super Series Division 1 champions



London taster sessions



Nationals award winners with BT's Suzy Christopher



BT WWRC15 tickets go on sale



Thank you Officials



Martin Bayfield at BT WWRC15 ticket launch



Hawks receive Waitrose funding

## From the Chair

Is there any other Paralympic sport which can claim to have achieved so much since those heady days of London 2012!? From a personal perspective, it is a privilege to be involved with a sport that benefits from such a committed team of employees, volunteers and players (not forgetting my colleagues on the Board who spend a huge amount of time dealing with a variety of often unglamorous albeit critical issues). Your combined efforts, together with the support of our funding partners, notably UK Sport, Sport England and the Lottery has meant that GBWR continues to evolve; we have secured a fantastic three year sponsorship commitment from BT, the membership and the number of clubs has continued to grow (as a result of which we are one of the few Governing Bodies to have received additional Sport England reward money), the GB team is becoming increasingly competitive (the GBWR match against Canada in the World Championships was outstanding), the Invictus games demonstrated the potential for other variants of the game and, finally, our governance is now ranked as a "Green", the highest possible rating. On this final point, it would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to stress the importance of each of our clubs working towards (and eventually achieving) the new club accreditation; the potential reputational damage from issues such as safeguarding and equality should not be underestimated.

As far as the Board is concerned, we have again had a busy year. This started with a strategy day in January, attended in part by the CEO of UK Sport, focussing on important issues such as strategy and risk. Since then a great deal of time has been spent on improving our governing documents to reflect organisational and legislative changes and also to meet the requirements of our funding partners; updated Articles will be presented to the AGM for adoption in July. We are currently in the process of recruiting two additional Trustees which will both broaden our skill base and give us the opportunity to improve Board diversity.

Looking to the year ahead, the BT sponsored WWRC15 in October, an important high profile tournament on home soil, has enabled us to attract the best teams in the world over to the UK. This, combined with the Europeans, and hopefully qualification for Rio, means that 2015 should be yet another exciting and rewarding year for the Sport!

*Kevin Aitchison*

Kevin Aitchison  
Chair, GBWR

## Chief Executive's Review

It would be difficult not to conclude that we have again enjoyed a very successful year. We have delivered against the priorities we set in 2014 and provided a breath-taking number of participation opportunities which have been enjoyed by many and gained additional Sport England 'reward' funding. Our 'bread and butter' continues to be our clubs and we have made real progress towards helping them strengthen their governance and grow their player and volunteer base. At the same time we are seeing strong growth in the overall number of clubs and their geographical location. This year we have focused on our workforce and have started to implement our coaching, classification and volunteer strategies. Workforce development will gather pace in 2015 and we aim to have an accredited coaching course by the end of the year which the majority of our club coaches will have undertaken. We have also established our talent pathway and it is very exciting to see so much new talent competing for the elite squad. Matching our level of delivery with resources available is still a challenge but in addition to increased Sport England investment Roma Sports have joined as new sponsors of the Nationals and we have raised income from corporate fundraising and had funding from the Saracens Sports Foundation and our ambassador Mike Brown. The net result for the year for the company was a deficit of £3k, which is in line with our budget. Our newly established subsidiary, WWRC 2015, produced a loss of £32k which we are confident will be recovered in 2015. In January we announced a three year partnership agreement with BT, one of the world's leading providers of communications services. This is an amazing achievement and has the potential to be a game changer for our sport.

The dye is set for 2015 to be a vintage year for GBWR, mirroring the profile and impact that London 2012 had on the sport. The Rugby World Cup comes to town in September and wheelchair rugby, now an integral part of the rugby family, will be very much part of that celebration. The BT WWRC15 tournament and its community programme which both sit in the middle of the World Cup schedule will showcase the game to fans and those new to the sport, supported by ITV's live match broadcasts and the relationship with World Rugby. Our challenge will be to find the resources and means to capitalise on the opportunities that this will present. Ahead of this tournament are the European Championships in Finland and this Paralympic qualifying event is one we are targeting to win.

Finally, delivering this level of performance is only achievable through the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of the individuals who make up the GBWR team – these are the volunteers, staff and Trustees all of whom I wholeheartedly thank and appreciate, not forgetting our Ambassador Mike Brown, our many partners, sponsors and donors whose support enables us to deliver more rugby in more forms to more people – thank you!

*David Pond*

David Pond  
Chief Executive  
June 2015

# 2014 - another remarkable year of growth for our sport

- **Growth.** We got more people playing again in 2014. For the second year in a row we exceeded our Sport England participation targets resulting in additional Sport England funding. Membership increased by almost 40% and a further three clubs have been formed: Dorset Destroyers, Yorkshire Lions, and West Midland Warriors. With the Saracens Sports Foundation we are delivering a youth programme to over 40 young people across Hertfordshire and North London and across south west London we have worked with youth groups supported with investment from our Ambassador Mike Brown and the Middlesex Sports Foundation. In Wales the North Wales Dragons moved home to Glyndwr University, partnered with RGC and took on the same name. South Wales Pirates celebrated their 25th anniversary and found a new partner with Ospreys rugby club and similarly renamed.
- **Coaching.** We are working with Sports Coach UK and 1st4Sport to develop accredited coaching courses and have formed a Technical Coaching Group with our most experienced coaches who are tasked to provide the technical elements of the future qualification. The first course will be piloted in the summer. We held our first coaching conference at which 80% of our clubs were represented.
- **Talent.** Over the year there have been 3 x 5 day talent camps and a number of day sessions. A squad of 10 athletes were selected and a team took part in the Rugby Mania tournament in Prague. We are working with the Ministry of Defence 'Front Line to Start Line' initiative where at least one potential athlete has been identified. 36 athletes are being evaluated for the new talent programme.
- **Equality.** We extended our equality profile audit to include coaches, officials and Members with an encouraging +25% response. In June we will interview for two new Trustees and are seeking to have a more balanced and diverse board. We are in discussions with Stonewall with an aim to work together. We are on target for our submission for the Preliminary Level of the Equality Standard.
- **Governing Documents.** Our governing documents have been reviewed and rewritten to reflect organisational and legislative changes and to meet the requirements of funding organisations. The new Articles will be presented to the AGM for adoption in July.
- **Safeguarding.** With the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit we have progressed our safeguarding organisation. Jo Arnold has been appointed our first NGB Safeguarding Officer. All clubs now have Club Welfare Officers and we are on target to achieve the Intermediate Standards.
- **2014 World Championships.** The GB squad met all of its targets agreed with UK Sport for 2014-15 and achieved 5th place at the 2014 World Championships in Denmark, coming within one point of Canada after two periods of extra time. Overall the team played 37 games in 2014, many against the top teams in the world.
- **BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge.** We are on target to deliver BT WWRC15 in October. In January 2015 we secured BT as the Title Sponsor and we appointed an Event Director. Mayor of London Boris Johnson and England Rugby international and GBWR Ambassador Mike Brown, launched the event in May. The Copper Box Arena is contracted as the venue and ticket sales opened in March 2015 following a launch at the BT Tower. ITV is the official broadcaster and will broadcast live coverage of all evening games.
- **New Partners.** In January we announced a 3 year partnership with BT. BT is now the principal partner of the National Championships with Roma Sports also joining as a major sponsor. The Saracens Sports Foundation, with the support of Nigel Wray, was a new partner in 2014 and helped fund the youth programme. Income from fundraising and donations was also achieved through our ambassador Mike Brown, 'Enterprise Rent a Car' and fundraising days. The delivery of corporate events to companies Nissan and Finlandia were also a source of additional income in 2014.
- **Competition.** West Coast Crash won Division 1 of the 2014 Super Series, Solent Sharks Division 2 and Gloucester Division 3. In an all London final Storm beat Crusaders 45-43 to take the BT National Championships Cup, with Canterbury winners of the Shield competition.
- **International.** Helped by funding from UK Sport International Influence we have supported the IWRP. In August Trustees Andrew Flatt and Mike Spence attended the IWRP General Assembly. In February 2015 GBWR hosted the IWRP Board for its strategy review. Richard Allcroft remains as an IWRP Board member, John Timms European Competitions Manager and Sarah Leighton European Classification Manager.

# What's next in 2015?

- **Keep Growing the Sport.** This continues to be a top priority in 2015. We will continue with our development programmes with the aim of increasing the number of active participants in the sport and meeting our Sport England participation targets. We will increase our number of clubs by a further 3 over the year taking us to a total of 19 by March 2016.
- **BT National Youth Programme.** We will recruit a youth manager, establish a national youth programme and develop 6 youth teams by March 2016.
- **Game Variants.** We will work towards developing a paraplegic version of the game and establish 2 paraplegic teams by March 2016.
- **Promote Equality.** We will deliver a LGBT initiative, support the 'This Girl Can' campaign, and deliver a participation campaign aimed at BME groups. We will recruit two female members to the Board of Trustees and achieve the Equality Preliminary Standard.
- **Club Support.** We will support clubs to implement the GBWR affiliation process. We will support the transition to clubs of a minimum of 10% of those taking part in talent identification events.
- **Talent.** We will establish Talent centres of excellence and identify a minimum of 1 x 3.5 1 x 3.0 and 1 x 1.0 who have the potential to join the elite squad.
- **Coaching.** We will complete and deliver the first GBWR coaching qualification and accredit a minimum of 8 GBWR coaches by March 2016.
- **Workforce.** If we are to continue to grow the sport then we must also grow and develop our workforce. We will recruit and provide appropriate training for officials, classifiers, mechanics and volunteers.
- **Safeguarding.** We will achieve the Intermediate Safeguarding Standard.
- **IWRF 2015 European Championships.** We will achieve Gold Medal position at these championships and in so doing qualify for the 2016 Paralympic Games.
- **BT World Wheelchair Rugby Challenge 2015.** We will work with our partners and the broadcaster to deliver BT WWRC 15 as a world class event and ensure it is on budget.
- **New Partners.** We will consolidate our new partnership with BT. We will seek a minimum of two new funding partners.



Jamie Stead at the 2014 Worlds

## Independent Auditor's Statement to the Trustees of Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Limited

We have examined the summary consolidated financial statement for the year ending 31 March 2015 which comprises the Summarised Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and the Summarised Consolidated Balance Sheet.

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Auditor

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summary consolidated financial statement in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary consolidated financial statement within this GBWR Annual Report with the full GBWR Annual Report and the Trustees' Report, and its compliance with the relevant requirements of Section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. The report is made to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters that we have agreed to state in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees, as a body, for our work or for this report.

We also read the other information contained in the GBWR Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we became aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary consolidated financial statement.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements and on the Trustees' Report.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summary consolidated financial statement is consistent with the GBWR Annual Report and the Trustees' Report for the year ending 31 March 2015 and complies with the applicable requirements of Section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

Nicola Wakefield (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Mazars LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
Times House  
Throwley Way  
Sutton  
Surrey, SM1 4JQ  
18 June 2015

<b>ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015</b>			<b>Summarised Consolidated Balance Sheet</b>		
<b>Summarised Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities</b>			<b>At 31 March 2015</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>		<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>GBWR only</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>GBWR only</b>
		<b>£</b>			<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>			<b>Fixed assets</b>	29,984	70,347
Donations and subscriptions	136,630	152,154	<b>Current assets</b>		
<i>Funding</i>			Cash at bank	84,248	149,530
UK Sport	630,360	569,593	Debtors	47,846	20,756
Sport England	376,705	357,806		<b>132,094</b>	<b>170,286</b>
	<b>1,143,695</b>	<b>1,079,553</b>	<b>Current liabilities</b>		
			Creditors	127,495	170,473
<b>Resources Expended</b>			<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>	4,599	(187)
Costs of generating funds	33,345	389	<b>Net assets</b>	<b>34,583</b>	<b>70,160</b>
World Class Programme and Whole Sport Plan	896,136	848,599	Restricted funds	(25,041)	8,585
Management and administration	249,791	240,797	Unrestricted funds	59,624	61,575
	<b>1,179,272</b>	<b>1,089,785</b>		<b>34,583</b>	<b>70,160</b>
<b>Net (outgoing) resources</b>	<b>(35,577)</b>	<b>(10,232)</b>			

# Canterbury's Story

2013 and GBWR meet with Jonathan Marsh Canterbury Rugby Club to discuss developing a wheelchair section to the club. Later in the year with the help of Sport England funding, GBWR set up a series of taster sessions with the club. At the very first session there was only one local participant, but by the last session, two months later, a core group of eight players had formed. With considerable local support and a Sport England small grants award, the club bought enough chairs to start training. Benefitting from the experience of ex-GB captain Steve Brown as their coach the club have gone on to take part in the Super Series and win the shield at the 2015 BT Nationals. The wheelchair team is now a fully integrated part of Canterbury Rugby Club, with a core group of ten players training every week, supported by a group of dedicated volunteers.

Jonathan Marsh the now Chairman of Canterbury Rugby club and the driving force behind the wheelchair section commented, ***"Our first season was a tremendous challenge and an achievement. It would not have been possible without the tremendous support we received from the whole community, the dedication and focus of the whole squad, players and volunteers, as well as having a motivational coach with the knowledge and strategic insights to enable us to challenge not just new teams but teams that had been around for some time. The key task now is to retain our division 2 status and compete in the National Cup competition in 2016."***



Canterbury win Nationals Shield



IWRWF President John Bishop with GBWR Chair at the Worlds



Prince Harry kits up for the Invictus Games



Harlequins Foundation supports GBWR

**Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby Limited [www.gbwr.org.uk](http://www.gbwr.org.uk)**

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