

IWRF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY NEWSLETTER

Richard Allcroft



All the very best to World Championship participants

We are fast approaching the World Championships in Sydney and good luck to all those teams and volunteers travelling. I'm sure the Australia and New Zealand team will be looking forward to the relatively short trip. For those of you who narrowly missed out on qualification, or are still on the pathway towards our premier event I hope you get the opportunity to watch some quality wheelchair rugby through the available broadcast and web-streaming.

We need to reduce the costs and increase the revenue

The pathway to qualification for all IWRF members involves significant costs both for travel and accommodation, food, transport and the use of sporting venues. Whilst this is the nature of sport for many of us, I'm proud to see that nations work hard to be able to finance the costs involved. I'm conscious that when I spoke with Poland, Colombia, Ireland and New Zealand in Switzerland at the qualification tournament this was their major concern. Although I'm pleased to say there were some brief celebrations at the evening dinner.

I've talked previously about this as one of our biggest challenges for the sport. I recently spent time with members of the Competitions Committee whilst attending the Canada Cup in Vancouver. The cost of tournaments was the number one priority that the group looked at. Over the next few months the various committees of the IWRF will be considering the ideas and I look forward to listening to you - the membership as the competitions are yours. Whilst this may go some way to reducing costs it will in no way remove it altogether. There is still the need to promote and market the sport both Nationally and Internationally to attract sponsors and partners.

Change will be required.

Part of my vision for the IWRF is that it is recognised and respected as a leading International Federation. I thought long and hard about these words and realise that there will be changes along the way. In my experience change can be difficult and often takes time to implement. It is important that some of these changes evolve. An organisation's "reputation" can often be overlooked and for some sports this may only be realised when it has been damaged publicly or otherwise. Some of you may have seen incidents recently around doping violations and of course in the Paralympic Movement our own unique system of classification has on occasion come under scrutiny.

We need to protect our values

Two of our values as an organisation are respect and integrity and it is important that these are not just words in a strategic plan. Our values are fundamental in everything we do. My hope in the future is that we grow and make ourselves more attractive to spectators, sponsors and the wider public.

Our athletes and volunteers are the best promoters of our amazing sport.

A message from John Bishop

As you hopefully know by now, I will be stepping down as IWRF President following our General Assembly on August 12th in Sydney, Australia. Richard Allcroft from Great Britain has submitted his nomination to run for IWRF President, and I hope that you will join me in supporting him based on his vast experience and knowledge in our sport.

I have known and worked with Richard since 2012, and believe that he is well suited for this important position. He has been involved with our sport as an athlete and an administrator for more than 20 years, serving in numerous roles. He is well connected within the Wheelchair Rugby Family, as well as with the



IPC and many other international sport organizations. Richards manifesto lays out four strong pledges that he believes will help build a stronger sport and federation, all of which I agree with.

As a motivated person with a committed passion for our sport, Richard has the time, ability and necessary skills to lead our sport and federation well into the future. I believe that he will make a great President for the IWRF, and ask that you support him when it is time to vote.

John Bishop,
President, IWRF



Partnerships are important.

Working with our legal partner Hogan Lovells (Brussels office) on a European

Manifesto weblink.

In the June newsletter I outlined my vision and four pledges for the future of the IWRF. I hope you agree with the plans I would implement to make our sport progress and be successful.

Your support is essential to achieve my vision. If you would like to discuss my manifesto and you are attending the World Championships please get in touch and we will arrange to meet in person.

Respect

The Wheelchair Rugby Family has respect for athletes, teammates and opponents, coaches, officials, spectators, and everyone involved in the sport.

Integrity

The Wheelchair Rugby Family acts with integrity, recognizing that honesty and fair play are essential components of success in sport and life.