



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

PERSONAL STATEMENT: JON NUTMAN

It was an honour to be co-opted onto the Board of Trustees in late 2018. Since returning to the sport, it was immediately apparent to me just how far GB Wheelchair Rugby has developed and progressed since my days as an athlete. The sport has grown exponentially and it now reaches many more individuals, groups and young people.

As a newly spinal-cord injured person in 1984, wheelchair rugby was an integral part of my personal social reintegration and development. The team spirit, the camaraderie and the physical challenge was central to my sense of self-confidence and belief that there is a life after a traumatic injury / disability.

Empowerment of disabled people is both personal and political. I believe that wheelchair rugby has an important part to play in society; it demonstrates that individuals with high level physical impairments can reach their potential, can achieve personal targets and that they can thrive. Our sport is thus part of breaking down the barriers that exist in society that can prevent disabled people from taking part – it offers a positive viewpoint.

I am new to the Board of Trustees and it is, and no doubt will continue to be, a steep learning curve. I have now had the opportunity to meet some of the athletes, the staff and the volunteers at the Super Series events and the Quad Nations tournament and I hope to have many more such opportunities to meet those involved in our sport and to hear how wheelchair rugby is changing lives, challenging and operating for all involved.

If formally elected to the Board of Trustees at the AGM, I look forward to the opportunity to use my time and my experience to further develop, promote & support the continued growth of wheelchair rugby in Great Britain.