

Read the latest news from Goalball UK

Goalball Times

Issue 18 - January 2017

Welcome

It is with immense pride that I welcome you to the first newsletter of 2017 but also tinged with sadness as this will be my last intro piece. As you know, after some 6 years as your CEO I feel that the end of this 4-year funding cycle (March 31st) is the right time to hand over the reins. We are presently interviewing for my replacement and should have more on this in the next few weeks.

I feel very privileged to have had the honour of leading you over the last few years. We seem to have overcome a number of challenges ... and come out the other side in pretty good shape! One organization I must thank is Sport England who have recognized our extremely successful growth with a record funding award to Goalball UK for the next 4-year period.

There are far too many individuals within Goalball UK (including staff, coaches, officials, and volunteers) to mention here to thank for their valued input, delivery and tireless support. I will do this personally over the next few weeks. We are a small team that undoubtedly packs a big punch!

I will never cease to be amazed by what you achieve both on and off the court. Specifically, for Goalball players – you really are incredible. Your grit, determination and competitiveness linked with a really caring, sociable and personable approach is a true credit to you as individuals and to the whole Goalball community.

I wish you all a very happy and prosperous 2017 and beyond.

I, of course, will continue to follow you and monitor your progress in the future bigger and better I assume!

Cheers,

Mike
(CEO)

A Year to Remember



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Open Club Training Sessions & GB Roadshow

Starting in February 2017 Goalball Clubs across the UK will be organising and promoting 'Open Club Training Sessions'. These are quite simply training sessions that are completely open to the public. It is a great opportunity for members of the public to come to witness and experience a Paralympic sport, whilst possibly recruiting some new members along the way.

To go alongside the open training Goalball UK are organising a GB Roadshow. This basically means that for every open session we hope to get a GB player and/or coach to attend with the Euro C & Euro B trophies. They will be there to talk to players and members of the public and also to give players an opportunity to play against the best. To make the most of this occasion we would recommend you promote the session far and wide including at schools and with the local media. If you would like any advice on how to make the most of the session, and/or would like help promoting it please email chris@goalballuk.com.

2016 has been quite an extraordinary year for Goalball in the United Kingdom.

From a grass roots perspective the participation numbers have exploded with registered Goalball UK Members reaching record highs. This increase looks to continue thanks to the tireless work of clubs around the country, who this year have been organising taster sessions and community activities to help increase the reach of the sport. 2016 is the year that Goalball kicked off in London 4 years after the Paralympics. Croysutt Warriors based in London have gone from strength to strength, winning the Novice finals in their first season, starting their first Intermediate team and doubling their membership. Go north a few miles to Elephant & Castle and you'll find one of the newest Goalball Clubs in the country, the London Elephants. Set up in April there has now been over 60 unique participants. Since then the Club has gone from strength to strength, being selected as one of Access Sports Ignite Clubs ensuring support for the upcoming future, and gaining a few fantastic new volunteers who have been a huge part of the development of the club. The club entered their first tournament in December when they took part in the Region B Intermediate in Birmingham where they cemented their place by finishing 3rd!

From an International perspective it has quite simply been the most successful year in Great Britain Goalball to date! In June both the Men and Women's squads went to the 2016 FEDC Goalball Tournament in Madrid where they both came home with bronze. Then in October came the most important tournament, and their biggest challenge...the 2016 IBSA Goalball European B Championships. They rose to the occasion though with both the Men and Women gaining promotion to the highest level of elite Goalball competition the European A League, as well as winning the Silver and Gold medal respectively. For the Men it was only last year that they were promoted to the European B League after winning the European C Championships in February of 2015. For the Women it highlighted their massive potential finishing the tournament undefeated scoring 64 goals and conceding just 9.

Going above and beyond



In November, Sue Williams of Winchester Goalball Club along with friend Sandra Greenough took part in the "Go Commando" obstacle course at Heaver Castle. They kindly decided to make it a sponsored run in the hope to raise £500 for Goalball UK. When speaking to Sue to why she wanted to raise money she said "I love playing goalball and wanted to give something back to help the sport". Sue is blind and has partial hearing loss which means Sandra had to be her sighted guide. As you may imagine this adds a completely different and difficult dimension to an



Do you have what it takes to be an Official?

Goalball UK are looking to recruit and train some new Goalball Officials during the 2016/17 season. All the training is free, and tournament expenses are paid (travel/food). [Click Here to find out more.](#)



GB Women return from Finland with mixed emotions

From 19th – 22nd January our Great Britain women's team travelled to Lahti, Finland to compete in the Pajulahti Games as they begin their preparations for European A Championships which take part in September. Fresh from their dominance at the European B Championship the competition started positively with an emphatic 10-0 win over European A side Finland. Momentum continued as GB beat Israel 5-0 who are also a European A team and World Games 2015 Champions. This was the first time GB have managed to overcome them of late with results previously being very close between the two sides. Following these two wins GB also swept aside Spain 6-1 but lost against a strong Russian side 5-1. After dominating performances at the beginning of the competition a lack in match fitness and game competition became apparent and undid their hard work. GB failed to win in their last two games losing to Israel 6-2 in the semi-final and 3-0 to Finland in the bronze medal match. The squad demonstrated many frustrations with the way they ended the competition after starting so strongly but it was a positive display considering they

already challenging event. But despite this they completed the course!
 "The obstacles on the course weren't too bad but getting to the obstacles was more of a challenge. The amount of mud and slipping over was unbelievable" said Sue. Not only did they complete the course they raised a fantastic £610 in the process.

From everyone at Goalball UK we would like to congratulate Sue and Sandra for their incredible achievement. We would also like to say a massive thank you to them for generously raising money for Goalball UK. All money raised for Goalball is used to buy equipment and run tournaments.

If you would like to raise money for Goalball UK and would like some advice and support, please email chris@goalballuk.com.

GB Athlete Comes Runner up in IPC Para-athlete of the Month



Great Britain's Laura Perry was part of the Women's team that dominated the IBSA European B Championships finishing undefeated with 64 goals scored and only 9 conceded. Not only did she come away with Gold, she was also the tournament's top scorer with an eye watering 31 goals! This incredible achievement saw her nominated for the IPC Allianz Athlete of the Month. This prestigious international award has been won by such athletes as Great Britain's Richard Whitehead and the strongest Paralympian of all time, Siamand Rahman.

Laura came runner up to Italian wheelchair fencer Emanuele Lambertini who got gold at the 2016 U17 World Fencing Championship, and made it to the quarterfinals at the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

Away from the International scene Laura has been a mainstay in domestic goalball for the last 5 years. She is currently an elite player for RNC Hereford and a player/coach for Fen Tigers. Those who know Laura will know that she is a great Ambassador for Goalball. Not only is she fantastic on the court, but also off it. She is truly an inspiration within the Goalball Community!

Club Scene Progress Continues In Wales

One of dreams of Goalball in the UK is for there to be a Goalball 4 Nations Tournament. Slowly but surely this dream is looking more realistic. Scotland has the well established Glasgow Goalball Club which has been running for some years now. In Northern Ireland there have been regular sessions taking place since August run by Disability Sport Northern Ireland. The last nation remaining is Wales...until now!

Following a School Leaders course in September there are now goalball sessions taking place in Newport. On Saturday 14th January Development Officer Kathryn ran a taster session in Cardiff with an excellent attendance of 17 people, cementing the importance of a club in Wales. The interest continues with sessions and events booked in

currently have no UK Sport funding and have only had enough funds to train once as a squad since winning European B Championships back in October.

Tournament Winners

Region B Intermediate
 Birmingham, 17th Sept - Fen Tigers



Region A Intermediate
 Scarborough, 24th Sept - Scarborough Panthers



Region B Novice
 Birmingham, 15th Oct - NCW Wolves



Region A Novice

for Bridgend, Swansea and North Wales.



[Click here](#) to keep up-to-date with all our taster sessions, including locations and dates.

Safeguarding Update - Club Welfare Officers

A reminder that it is essential that any Goalball club that is providing Goalball to anyone under the age of 18 years and adults at risk appoints a Club Welfare Officer. The Club Welfare officer should be accessible to and approachable for children and young people, but should ideally not be the coach or volunteer with direct responsibility for coordinating or delivering the junior programmes at the club.

In addition there is plenty of safeguarding webinars on Child Protection Sports Unit which are very useful and informative. It is recommended that everyone leading on safeguarding within clubs views these webinars. You can view the webinars by [clicking here](#). More information will be sent out in due course.

For more information, please [Click Here](#). Alternatively contact Goalball UK Lead Safeguarding Officer via email: becky@goalballuk.com or tel. 0330 202 0281

Membership

If you or any members of your club are not currently members of Goalball UK then please sign up for free! You can become a member by [CLICKING HERE](#) and filling in the membership form. Please return completed forms to becky@goalballuk.com or to FAO Goalball UK, English Institute of Sport, Coleridge Road, Sheffield, S9 5DA.

Funding

Please contact your local County Sport Partnership (CSP) who will be able to help you find local funding streams. To find your local CSP [CLICK HERE](#). Please get in touch with Becky on becky@goalballuk.com if you would like help with funding bids and if you are planning to use Goalball UK as your reference.

Transforming People's Lives

Our video below really illustrates well the immense benefits to individuals of being involved in Goalball... not just as players but also family and the wider community. Please Share!

Sheffield, 15th Oct - Scarborough Panthers



National Elite League
Birmingham, 19th & 20th Nov -
Northern Allstars



Region B Intermediate
Birmingham, 3rd Dec - RNC
Academy



Region A Intermediate
Newcastle, 10th Dec -
Scarborough Panthers

Club Matters

Sport England have unveiled a new Club Matters tool that will provide Goalball clubs with support, learning, and guidance on all aspects of running your club whether it is large, small, formal or informal.

Club Matters offers free, simple, and bitesize support to all clubs through; online support, workshops, mentoring, and club improvement plan. Goalball UK encourages every club to look at the Club Matters website as it is designed to help you run your club.

To find out more information please [Click Here](#).

Tournament News

Results from all tournaments and future fixtures together with the league tables and top goal scorer stats can be found on the Goalball UK [website](#)

Tournament Results

Region B Intermediate, Birmingham, 17th Sept - Fen Tigers
Region A Intermediate, Scarborough, 24th Sept - Scarborough Panthers
Region B Novice, Birmingham, 15th Oct - New College Worcester Wolves
Region A Novice, Sheffield, 15th Oct - Scarborough Panthers
National Elite, Birmingham, 19th & 20th Nov - Northern Allstars
Region B Intermediate, Birmingham, 3rd Dec - RNC Academy
Region A Intermediate, Newcastle, 10th Dec - Scarborough Panthers

Upcoming Tournaments

National Elite, Birmingham	25th & 26th February
Intermediate Region B, Reading	11th March
Intermediate Region A, York	18th March
Novice Region A, Manchester	1st April
Novice Region B, Reading	1st April
National Elite, Birmingham	29th & 30th April

To view this season's fixture list, please [Click Here](#).

To view this season's regional breakdown, please [Click Here](#).

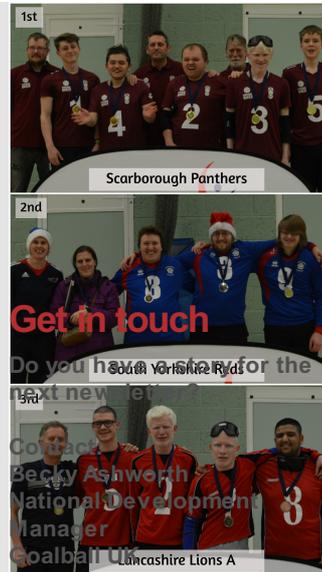


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