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# Goalball Times

Issue 1 - February 2012

## Welcome

Welcome to our new Goalball UK newsletter.

Since the AGM back last summer it has been a relatively busy time for Goalball and I have noticed that as a community we are not fully aware of what is happening across our great sport. Hence the idea of a newsletter to help keep you all more informed and fully engaged! 2012 is obviously an exciting year for sport generally in Britain and hopefully with your help and enthusiasm will prove to be a great positive year for Goalball in the UK.

If you have any news or stories you would like to be

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## Test Event

The Goalball test event was 3/4th December at the Handball Arena on the Olympic Park. The event was a great success with the women performing really well against the best women's teams in the world

considered for future editions please send them to Alex Bunney by [clicking here](#).

I hope you find it a useful read.

Cheers.

Mike Reilly, CEO

## New Goalball UK Patron



Rifleman Paul Jacobs (22) blinded by an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) in Afghanistan, and awarded the George Medal for his outstanding courage and action, has become our Patron.

including a 1-0 defeat to World champions China. The event saw good crowds attend with spectators enjoying the action especially the bronze medal game sudden deaths throws between Sweden and USA.

## Official News

Congratulation to the Great British officials that have been selected to officiate at London 2012. We would like to wish them all the best and we are sure they will do Great Britain proud.

Officials selected:

**Dina Murdie**

*Referee*

**Karen Luke**

*International technical official*

**Judith Oakley**

*International technical official*

**Susan Manton**

*International technical official*

**Eileen Smale**

*International technical*

Paul's first outing with Goalball UK was with the GB squad at the Deloitte Community games day on the 27th November. The event proved a great success with over 250 children experiencing Goalball for the first time.

Mike Reilly notes "Paul Jacob's involvement in Goalball is wonderful and inspirational to our sport. He will certainly help us raise the profile of Goalball in the UK and hopefully help us attract some additional funding and support."

## Club Scene

### Membership

If you or any members of your club are not currently members of Goalball UK then please sign up! You are required to be a member to play and officiate in all Goalball UK events. You can become a member by [clicking here](#).

### New Club

Wolverhampton is the latest new club to join Goalball UK. We hope to see them at a tournament very soon. Contact details and their training details can be found by [clicking here](#).

### Masterclass Dates

2012 sees the launch of the Goalball Masterclass programme for players and coaches run by the York St John

*official*

**Keith Lound**

*International technical official*



The Goal Judges will be announced by LOCOG shortly, with everyone involved in the Test Event hoping to be involved again.

### GB Performance Update

Back in November 2011 we made presentations to a panel at Paralympic's GB concerning London 2012. Their decision then was to defer whether either our men's or women's squad would be given slots in the forthcoming Paralympics. Since then both squad's have been training really hard and doing all they can to ensure "credible performance." We are due

Inclusive Activity Club. Planned dates are -

<b>Upper Intermediate</b>	1st April
<b>Under 16 Novice Player</b>	27th May
<b>Lower Intermediate Player</b>	17th June
<b>Adult Novice</b>	24th June

Look out for more detailed information coming soon to your club.

## Tournament News



Congratulations to the winners of the following tournaments

to present again to Paralympic's GB on March 13th and will be told shortly then whether we definitely have teams in or out of London 2012. Let's keep our fingers crossed for the positive outcomes we are striving and hoping for.

## A good cause

Our physio for the Women's GB Squad, Faith Cripps, is again running a marathon (Brighton-April 15th) with 4 others to help raise money for Goalball. You can read more and encourage friends and contacts to make a speedy donation by [clicking here](#).

## School Scene

### School Clubs

Goalball UK has been working closely with the Youth Sport Trust on a school club package focusing on developing Goalball Clubs within

Congratulations to the winners of the following tournaments so far this season:

<b>Novice</b> Sheffield (September 24th)	<b>Moor End B</b>
<b>Intermediate</b> Sheffield (October 15th)	<b>Rochdale A</b>
<b>Elite</b> Lutterworth (November 19th)	<b>London Sports A</b>
<b>Novice</b> Hull (December 10th)	<b>Nottingham</b>
<b>Intermediate</b> Rochdale (21st January)	<b>Moor End</b>
<b>Elite</b> Thames Valley (18th February)	<b>London</b>

## Upcoming Tournaments

<b>Hull intermediate</b>	24th March
<b>Nottingham John Oakley Novice</b>	28th April
<b>Mens Goalball Cup Rochdale</b>	19th May

schools. The package includes equipment, activity cards, DVD resource and a leadership voucher which allows schools to attend training to help run their club. 20 schools will initially receive the equipment in March with the package then being available for sale in the summer. For more information about the project please [contact me](#).

### School Visits

Goalball UK staff have recently attended a number of school Paralympic days providing fun taster sessions alongside other Paralympic sports and raising awareness of our fantastic sport. These visits provide a great opportunity to promote the sport to young people and raise our profile.

## Get in touch

Do you have a story for the next newsletter?



<b>York Novice</b>	16th June
<b>Birmingham Individual Entry All Levels</b>	7th July

The full results from each tournament together with news of the new pilot league system can be found on the Goalball UK [website](#).



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