



WheelPower

British Wheelchair Sport

Impact Report





WheelPower's year

When coming to terms with a traumatic spinal cord injury or when growing up with an impairment or illness that means traditional activities at school are not accessible, wheelchair sport can be life transforming.

WheelPower is dedicated to providing opportunities for disabled people to find a sport they love. Every year we see the impact that sport can have on the life of a disabled person. Whether it's simply joining in with friends at home, joining a team or representing Great Britain, WheelPower aim to help disabled people achieve their sporting dreams.

WheelPower have continued to organise a range of events and sports programmes for people of all abilities during 2014/15. Our programme to provide essential advice and help in accessing sport to recently paralysed people in Spinal Injury Centres has doubled in size this year with our staff advising 118 people.

Our sport camps have introduced 288 disabled children to sport in London, Birmingham and Glasgow and at our home at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

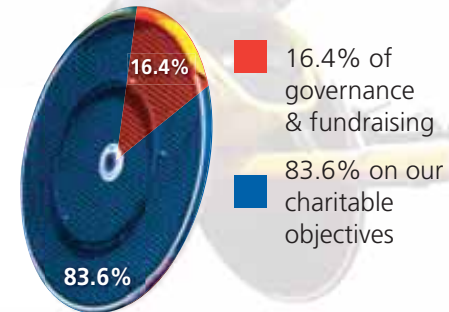
WheelPower's membership is growing daily and provides athletes of all abilities with information on the charity, inspiration, event invitations, plus handy tips on things like maintaining their sports wheelchair. It also provides supporters with updates on our work and new ways in which they can help the charity.

Our work has contributed to a rise in the number of disabled people playing sport in recent years. Currently 17.2% of disabled people play sport once a week, a rise of 224,700 over the last nine years.

Sadly this much lower than the 39.3% of non-disabled people who regularly play sport and much more needs to be done to enable more disabled people to play sport more often. I hope you will help us help more disabled people access sport in their local community.

Kevan Baker OBE
Chairman

How we spent every pound in 2014/15



We raise £5.19 for every £1 we invest in fundraising. This enables us to transform even more lives through sport.





A year in numbers...



482,155

people played sport at Stoke Mandeville Stadium

£46,000

raised from the Tour de Vale bike ride

17.2% of disabled people play sport once a week

45,214

disabled people played sport at Stoke Mandeville Stadium

103 sport sessions and workshops for

228 disabled gym members

4 legends added to the Stoke Mandeville Hall of Fame

85 recently paralysed people introduced to sport

566 sports wheelchairs provided since the launch of the Wheel Appeal

794 recently paralysed hospital patients

842,580 people reached on Facebook

1,527 people receive our monthly newsletter

288

disabled children introduced to sport at WheelPower Camps

450 new WheelPower members

7,794

disabled people from East London took part in the Paralympic Legacy programme Motivate East

4,110 followers on Twitter @WheelPower

642 school children were told the story of Stoke Mandeville/ took part in the Relay Challenge

122 disabled children attended the National Junior Games



Our work in spinal injury centres

When coming to terms with a spinal cord injury and going through the first stages of rehabilitation in hospital, patients commonly report that there is an overwhelming amount of information and priorities to deal with.

Inspired by Sir Ludwig Guttmann's pioneering work after World War II, WheelPower passionately believe that sport and physical activity provides a vital part of the rehabilitation process after a traumatic injury or illness.

Our network of Physical Activity Advisors began in 2014 providing practical support and expert advice at the London Spinal Injuries Unit, Stanmore and the Duke of Cornwall Spinal Treatment Centre in Salisbury. The project has been expanded to include the spinal injury centres at Pinderfields and Sheffield and we will shortly place Sports Advisors in Stoke Mandeville and Southport. We aim to offer advice to patients in all spinal injury centres within the next 24 months.

Over the year our advisors helped

92

patients find a specific sport to play

49

patients use or find out about accessible sport equipment

29

patients access funding to play sport

90

patients to use the gym

43

patients find local sporting activities

60

patients live a healthier lifestyle

25

patients with advice of sports wheelchairs



Overall our Physical Activity Advisors have provided sessions for 794 participants to enjoy a fantastic range of activities including Archery, Fitness, Table Tennis, Slalom races, and Wheelchair Rugby.



Why we do what we do...

“Using sport as a form of rehab in hospitals specifically in the Spinal Injuries Centre’s is a brilliant way to help people, deal with progressing in sports and extrapolate that throughout life.”

(Carl Griffith, Physical Activity Advisor programme)

“Stoke Mandeville Stadium is like a second home to me, and here I had a defining moment of my career choosing what sport I wanted to do.”

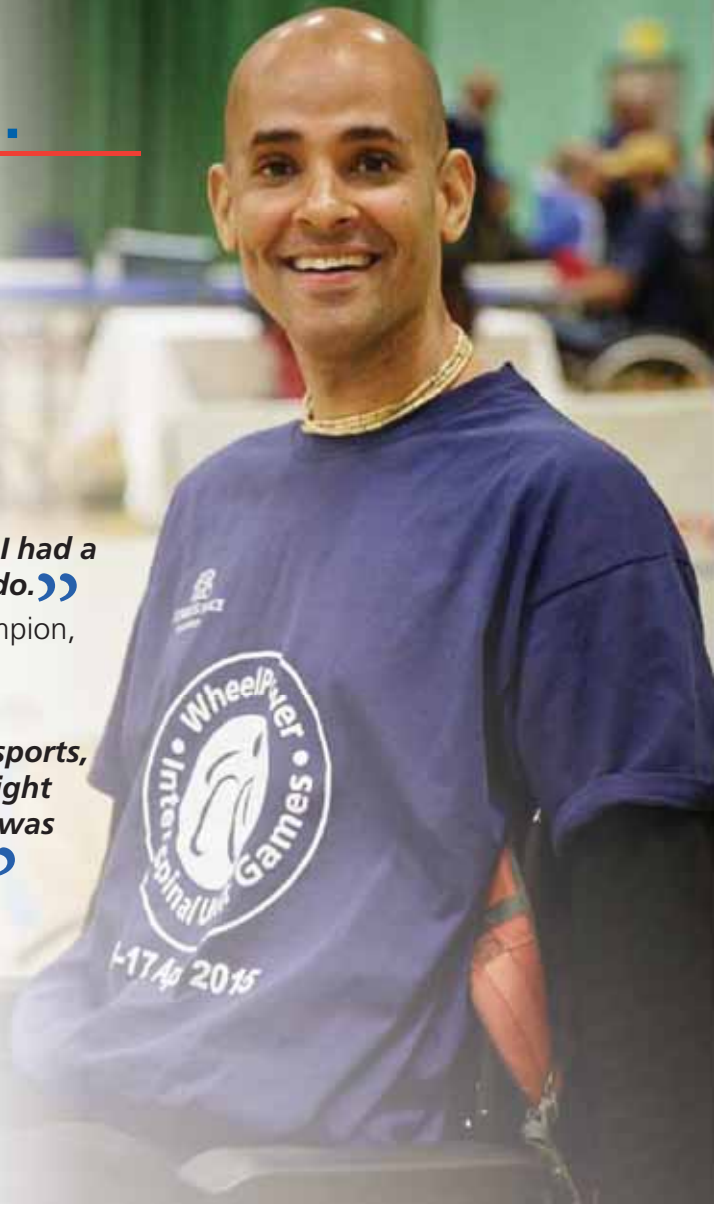
(David Weir CBE, Past Junior Games participant and 6x Paralympic Champion, inducted into the Stoke Mandeville Hall of Fame in April 2015)

“I went to my first WheelPower camp and I tried lots of different sports, but the last sport I tried was archery and I fell in love with it straight away! I felt that the whole experience of the WheelPower camp was amazing and without it I would have never had found archery.”

(Megan Fossberry, past participant aiming for Rio 2016)

“I’ve enjoyed doing nearly everything, some things I’d never even thought about doing.”

(Sam Moore, Inter Spinal Unit Games participant)



WheelPower
Stoke Mandeville Stadium
Guttman Road
Stoke Mandeville
Buckinghamshire HP21 9PP

T 01296 395995
E info@wheelpower.org.uk
W www.wheelpower.org.uk
t @wheelpower
f facebook.com/wheelchairsport



Transforming lives through sport

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