

ROTARY ROAD TO RIO

The Paralympic Games take place in Brazil in September 2016 and Rotarians can play a role in helping our Paralympians in Britain and Ireland on The Rocky Road to Rio (see pages 40–41 of the August/September issue of the “Rotary” magazine).

Many local Paralympic hopefuls have little or no funding and Rotarians can step in to help. Some Rotary Clubs are already helping to support their local Paralympians.

The British Paralympic Association still has a shortfall for the costs of getting teams out to Rio. Individual Paralympic sports are struggling, particularly sports that did not win medals in the London 2012 Paralympics and lost funding as a result.

For example, the British Disabled Fencing Association is unable to financially support a very successful fencing squad.



WHEELCHAIR FENCING

The top three athletes in the British Wheelchair Fencing team are:

Piers Gilliver (second from right in photo above), from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, who now has some UK Sport funding to help him qualify for Rio. He is 20 years old and has been ranked world number one in the qualifying standings for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, after winning gold in the individual epee and bringing home Great Britain’s first-ever gold medal in a Grand Prix or World Cup event.

Dimitri Coutya (far right of photo) is 17 years old and is still at 6th form. Dimitri, from Ealing, London, is ranked number two in Wheelchair Fencing. He does not receive any funding and his parents are endeavouring to fund his qualification and training costs.

Gemma Collis (far left of photo) is 22 years old, is a student at Durham University and comes from Ashton Clinton, near Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire. She receives no funding and is struggling to attend qualification competitions.

For more information and to find out how you can help, please contact Caz Walton, the Vice-Chairman of the British Disabled Fencing Association:

Email: caznbob@blueyonder.co.uk mobile: 07803 407260.

www.paralympic.org/wheelchair-fencing

GOALBALL UK

The Men's Goalball UK Team (featured in the "Rotary" magazine article) won the European Championships in Sweden earlier this year and were only able to take part because a single person sponsored them to attend.

Two of the team members, brothers Adam and David Knott, have been supported by the Rotary Club of Winchester.

The Goalball UK Women's Team are waiting to hear whether they will qualify for Rio, depending on how other teams do in the African Championships.

Goalball UK also plans a network of 50+ clubs by 2018, including one club per sport England County, and establishing the first clubs in Wales and Ireland as well as delivery of the first business Goalball games in 2016. They aim to double the number of junior players.

For more information, please contact the CEO of Goalball UK, Mike Reilly.

Email: reillymarketing@aol.com mobile: 07799 782558

www.goalballuk.com

GB SITTING VOLLEYBALL

The GB Sitting Volleyball Men's and Women's Teams are unfunded. They need help to improve their rankings and are working towards Paralympic competitions. Sitting Volleyball's head office is in Loughborough, with the teams training in Surrey and East London.

For more information, please contact:

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BRITISH PARALYMPIC ASSOCIATION

The British Paralympic Association is happy to put Rotarians in contact with individual Paralympians in their area: Please email: info@paralympics.org.uk (and copy to eve.conway@rotarygbi.org) and give your email the title: **Rotary/Local Paralympian**.

By providing help and support, your local Paralympian can also become ambassadors for Rotary, speak at and attend your district and club events, etc.

If you need more help or information: Please contact Eve Conway, RIBI Vice President on eve.conway@rotarygbi.org or mobile 07850 357842.