



The Equality Standard  
A Framework for Sport

# NEWS

Edition 76 July 2011

**Equality in Sport**

**A monthly e-news publication**

## **Welcome**

Hello and welcome to the 76th newsletter. When presenting the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) with their certificate for being the first organisation to achieve the Advanced level of the Equality Standard for Sport, Liz Nicholl, CEO of UK Sport, said that an important element of any such Standard is to share best practice and to work in partnership with all those in British sport to embed equality throughout. In an attempt to do this in just a small way, and wearing 2 hats: as editor of this newsletter and LOCOG's Equality Standard Advisor, below are just a few thoughts based on this experience.

I have been asked on a number of occasions how LOCOG managed to reach the Advanced level so quickly. This is partly due to them being a recently created organisation and therefore being able to embed the requirements of the Standard into the development of policies, etc, from the start and also because the organisation has a limited life span and, if it didn't achieve soon, it never would! However, far more significant, and something that can apply to every organisation, is the culture that ensures diversity and inclusion is embedded throughout, from the CEO attending every Diversity Board meeting and a range of senior managers acting as "champions" for various protected characteristics, to the understanding that those employed as school leavers had of the programme and their role in delivering it.

Buy in and ongoing commitment from the top, including from the Management Board, is essential to achieve long lasting change, but this must then be supported by the availability of sufficient resources (both in terms of numbers and knowledge/skills) to allow this commitment to be translated into successful delivery. The most sustainable way to achieve this is not to rely on just 1 or 2 people, after all, what then happens if they leave, but to develop an effective education programme for all staff and to ensure that responsibility for delivery is spread throughout the organisation. I appreciate this is easy to say, especially by someone not responsible for producing such a culture in a long-standing sporting organisation with 101 other high priorities to juggle, but if you determine from the start to achieve this, the business, moral and legal benefits will be numerous.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested, or get them to contact Roger Clifton at [roger@vagaassociates.com](mailto:roger@vagaassociates.com) if they would like a copy sent directly to them. The deadline for material for the next edition is Friday 12 August.

This edition contains features on:

- A round up of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) news
- New resource for Gymnastics
- Table Tennis for people with disabilities
- News of additional funding for disability sport in England
- A variety of general information of interest and new resources of use
- Achievements
- Calendar of forthcoming events.

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**VAGA**

## ***LGBT sporting success, lots of research and support from the Prime Minister***

### **Pride Games 2011 a great success**

Our thanks to Lou Englefield, Director of Pride Sports, for providing the news release below.

As the 2011 Pride Games closed in torrential rain, organisers were pleased to announce that the weather had held out for most of the week and the festival had seen a record 1,100 people take part. Particular highlights included:

- The first ever Pride Games Ride, a 50km/85km cycle circuit through the beautiful Peak District
- Women's Aquatic Meet Manchester (WAMM), one of only two Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) women's swim competitions in Europe in the last ten years
- The International Gay and Lesbian Football Association's (IGLFA) inaugural European Cup.

Northern Rebound, Manchester's LGBT squash club, also took over the running of the Pride Games squash tournament with great success. Chair and Founder of Northern Rebound, Roger Longden reports: "The tournament went incredibly well. Some of our visitors told us that it was the best squash tournament in Europe this year, that it was well run and that the standard of competition was excellent."

In addition to the international competitions which formed the finale to Pride Games, a week of fun sports activities and taster events took place. For example, Slam Dunkin' Divas, Manchester LGBT women's basketball club opened its doors to men for the first time. Divas Chair, Georgia Tsakiri explains: "We've had interest in the club from men since we launched three years ago, but still no men's team has started. We hope our taster event will kick start men's basketball in Manchester. The guys who came along were all lovely and we will be playing some street basketball with them over the summer"

Other new events included within the Pride Games programme this year were skiing and a 10km multi-terrain run. The infamous Bellboat Regatta, which traditionally closes the Games, also saw a women's final for the first time this year, which was won by a women's team from Greater Sport, Manchester's County Sports Partnership.

Trevor Burchick, Pride Sports Director sums up the event: "It has been a great week for LGBT sport in England. We hosted hundreds of international visitors in Manchester as well as competitors from all parts of the UK and have had overwhelmingly positive feedback from those who took part"

Results of all tournaments and competitions are available on [Pride Games](#).

Meanwhile, Slam Dunkin' Divas, the Manchester-based LGBT women's basketball team mentioned above, won their first ever medal at the beginning of July in Manchester Area Basketball League's (MABL) inaugural women's tournament. The competition, organised in conjunction with Greater Sport and England Basketball, was one of the first amateur women's basketball tournaments to have ever been organised in the region. Divas Head Coach, Anna Verges says of the event: "We were delighted to be part of this Women's Basketball initiative in the Manchester area.

Our bronze medal position shows that LGBT women's basketball in Manchester is on the rise and we are looking forward to taking part in the next local women's basketball initiative"

Despite their success however, Slam Dunkin' Divas is a club committed to including women with no previous experience of basketball. Newcomer Lorraine Mooney explains: "I joined the Diva's in March 2011. After playing competitive football for a number of years I fancied a 'change of pace'. I thought 'how hard can it be?' After all, I played netball for Ireland when I was 16. I was very wrong! Divas are a hardworking, dedicated, loyal group of passionate sports women. The atmosphere within the team is truly incredible. I scored my first points in a competitive game for us in the tournament at the weekend. It was amazing!"

Check out more about the team at [Slam Dunkin' Divas](#).

## **A survey looking at homophobia in sport**

Our thanks to Lindsay England, author of the [Just a ball game](#) blog, for the following information.

Further to the publication of the "We're not Homophobic" report, featured in May's edition of this newsletter, Just A Ball game is inviting sportspeople, particularly those that identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Intersex (LGBTQI) to participate in a survey looking at homophobia in sport. It will only take around 2 or 3 minutes of your time to complete and this can be done up until 1 September. You can complete the survey whether you are active in a sport or leisure activity or even if you only watch live sport as a fan. There is no limit to how many times you can take the survey so you are able to fill in details on the 17 questions, as a sports participant and then do so again as a spectator if you wish too. To participate, click on [Survey](#).

## **Football fans would accept gay players as long as they play well, new research shows**

Our thanks to Funke Awoderu, the Football Association's Equality Manager, for highlighting this research that challenges the belief that homophobia is rife within football.

Four fifths of football fans are relaxed about the presence of gay footballers in the English leagues and less than a fifth of the fans were committed to the view that football is no sport for homosexuals. This is according to researchers at Staffordshire University, who dispute the popular assumption that football is seething with homophobia.

A pilot online study of 250 football fans on homophobia was carried out, prior to the full results of the project being published later this year in the Journal of Sport and Social Issues. Ellis Cashmore, Professor of Culture, Media and Sport, said initial findings indicate that fans believe that as many as one in ten professional players are hiding their homosexuality and says: "Fans are surprisingly blasé about this. What irks them is the lack of honesty: no fan believes every player is heterosexual."

In February, the Professional Footballers' Association Chief Gordon Taylor withdrew support for an anti-homophobia campaign, explaining that the supporters were not ready for such a development. "Taylor is out-of-touch," says Cashmore, "Fans understand that, as in any sport, football has many gay players, yet it remains one of the last remaining areas of society where homosexuality remains taboo"

“In many other sports, including rugby, athletes have come out,” says co-researcher Dr Jamie Cleland, Senior Lecturer in Sociology. Yet publicist Max Clifford recently advised gay footballers to disguise their sexuality because football “remains in the dark ages, steeped in homophobia”. Cleland argues against this: “Fans encourage footballers to come out. As one fan put it, ‘someone needs to do something heroic, and step forward before it [homophobia] can become a thing of the past’.” And Cashmore adds: “Football fans are more educated and enlightened than Clifford supposes. Even fans who personally may not agree with homosexuality will respect it, as long as the player performs well on the field of play.” A fan in the pilot study said, “we couldn’t care less: as long as they do the business on the pitch, that’s all that matters.” Another fan commented: “I don’t have a problem with gay players. I only have a problem with a player that doesn’t give his all for my club.”

Regarding the “coming out” of Anton Hysen, covered in March’s edition of this newsletter, Ellis Cashmore also told us that, in his view, the fact Hysen has a famous father who played for Liverpool has created the media interest: “If he had played under a different name, we wouldn’t have heard about him. I think the Hysen case has been amplified unnecessarily, by the way. He is a part-time professional in a lower tier of Swedish football. It’s as if a Sunday league player over here decided to come out: nobody would take any notice. We will know more about the fallout when a well-known player from one of the leading European leagues comes out. Hysen is not the test case many are looking for.”

## **Prime Minister supports initiative to rid sport of homophobia and transphobia**

Leading LGBT sports stars, as well as national governing bodies of sport, met the Prime Minister, David Cameron, in No 10 recently to celebrate the Government’s Charter Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Sport. Present at the event were stars such as rugby player Gareth Thomas and multiple Wimbledon champion Billie Jean King. Mr Cameron spoke of the pride he feels in what the last government and this government has done/is doing in the field of LGBT rights, and at the UK being recently voted most gay friendly country in Europe. He celebrated the governing bodies signing up to the charter for action and urged them to continue to make their sports safe and welcoming for participants.

Home Secretary, Theresa May, said the event sent a “very clear signal” that the government and national sporting associations took the issue seriously and “wanted to make a difference”.

Billie Jean King, who shares the record for the most Wimbledon titles, said athletes should be given the space to talk openly about their sexuality when they felt ready and not feel pressurised into doing so. While homophobia was still a real issue in sport, she said there had been progress in the 30 years since she was outed. “I lost all my endorsements in 24 hours, I lost a lot of money. Today that would not happen. When Amelie Mauresmo came out she did not lose any endorsements - in fact she got extra ones.” While attitudes were changing, she said homophobia was still “very much a problem” in sport. “Just look at how few sports people have come out,” she said.

The Government Equalities Office has told us that the following sports have signed up to the charter: Football, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Swimming, Athletics, Cycling, Baseball / Softball, Volleyball, Triathlon, Archery, Roller Derby, Angling, Rounders, Orienteering, Martial Arts, plus all of the clubs in Rugby League’s Super league.

Via the [GEO](#) Facebook page, there are around 2,200 individuals and organisations that have signed up.

### **British Gymnastics increases their commitment to equality**

British Gymnastics (BG) is pleased to announce the appointment of Patrick Bonner in the new position of Equality and Standards Manager.

The overall purpose of this role is to provide leadership and direction for equality within BG. Patrick will play a vital role in ensuring that BG staff and the wider workforce within gymnastics is educated and supported to understand and develop more inclusive provision, resulting in increased participation by under-represented groups in gymnastics.

An important part of the role will see Patrick leading BG in the attainment of the Intermediate level in the Equality Standard for Sport. Working through this important equality framework will ensure that BG further integrates inclusive practices right across the organisation, enabling the sport to be recognised as one which can be enjoyed and participated in by all.

As a former Acrobatic Gymnastics World Cup Champion and with a background in coaching gymnastics, Patrick has a wealth of experience in the gymnastics world. Patrick also comes with a successful history of working in disability sport and equality at both the English Federation of Disability Sport and Tees Valley Sport.

Over the course of the next two years, as well as working to increase the diversity of the organisation and making improvements to the way they tackle equality, BG will make a significant impact with a range of interventions designed to increase the diversity of participants in gymnastics. They will be investing considerable resource and focus in the following key areas as part of their commitment to equality:

1. Educating coaches: All BG coaches will have access to equality education via online learning tools and all Coach Education Courses.
2. Inclusive resources: Development of fully inclusive Gymnastics Proficiency Awards Schemes to engage more disabled people in the sport.
3. Gymnastics for All Programme: A fully inclusive programme that offers foundation and grass roots opportunities within all gymnastic disciplines. The programme will incorporate specific marketing approaches to engage more under-represented groups in gymnastics.
4. Club Development: Supporting gymnastics clubs to engage with more disabled people by using the GymMark 'i' (Inclusion) scheme.
5. Competitive opportunities: Developing the Gymnastics and Movement for People with a Disability (GMPD) pathway to provide more opportunities for disabled people to enjoy competition at the level of their choice.

Patrick says, "I am thrilled to be working again in a sport which I am so passionate about! Gymnastics has so much to offer everyone in our society and I am very pleased to be part of an organisation that is committed to ensuring it provides opportunities for all."

For more information about the Equality work of British Gymnastics, please contact Patrick Bonner on:

[patrick.bonner@british-gymnastics.org](mailto:patrick.bonner@british-gymnastics.org)

Mobile: 07585 900722.

## ***The World's favourite racket sport***

Our thanks to Mike Smith, Secretary of the (British Table Tennis Association for people with a Disability (BTTAD) for the article below.

Table tennis is the world's favourite racket sport – hundreds of millions play it in over 200 countries so why should not those with disabilities enjoy what so many others enjoy?

In a sports hall at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, every week day you can see the extra challenge of developing into being truly elite sportspeople being accepted. It is the base for the Great Britain Disability Table Tennis squad organised by BTTAD, the National Governing Body for Disability Table Tennis as recognised by UK Sport.

Up to 17 disabled players in this squad practice for the honour of being selected for Great Britain at the Paralympic Games in London in 2012. Under the watchful eye of Gorazd Vecko- the Performance Manager brought across from Slovenia 2 years ago – and his coaches – Greg Baker, Matt Kenny and Neil Robinson – all international players - the squad are put through their paces. The squad has played in events across Europe in recent months with success in International Open events in Italy, Slovenia, Holland, Slovakia, Romania and Germany. Many medals have been won and indeed all the squad players who have played international Open events in the last year have won medals.

September 14-17 2011 sees the players competing at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield in the British Open Para Table Tennis Championships - 38 different classes in team and singles events reflecting classification according to the type and nature of the disability; 300 players from 40 countries are expected - come and see the fun – its free! Then onwards to the European Championships in Split, Croatia where Great Britain hopes to build on its successes in Genoa in 2009 and then to the Paralympic Games in London.

Peter Taylor, chairman of BTTAD, said: “We haven't had a big disabled table tennis event in Great Britain since the early 1990s so this is a great opportunity to showcase how much standards have improved and just how talented our players are. The event will raise the profile of disabled table tennis and drum up interest in the lead up to London 2012, while giving the GB Team a chance to play against other first-class players from around the world.”

Who will be the players to watch? Many as Great Britain has 2 players - Will Bayley and Robert Davies - in the top 4 in the world, 4 more – Sue Gilroy MBE, Jane Campbell, Sara Head and Cathy Mitton - in the top 8 and a further 6 more - Kim Daybell, Paul Davies, Paul Karabardak, David Wetherill, Dzaier Neil and Scott Robertson in the top 16 – making a total of 12 in the top 16 in their class in the world!

Other young stars in the squad are Ross Wilson, Joe Stotesbury, Aaron Mc Kibbin, Jack Hunter–Spivey and Ashley Facey-Thompson.

Cathy has won gold at European and World plus a bronze at Paralympics. Sue has won Commonwealth gold twice and European gold as well, while Jane and Sara were Bronze medallists in the team event at the last Worlds and Europeans. Will has made 3 consecutive Open finals recently, coming away with silver each time, but won in Brazil; and with Paul Karabardak won team gold in Germany. Kim has won singles gold in Slovakia and Germany

this year, plus 2 team golds as well, one with Ashley Facey–Thompson. Robert has won 2 team golds this year – one with Paul Davies, while Scott won team gold in Slovenia. New additions to the squad are Adam Thompson and Victoria Bromley, who are both gearing up for the involvement of Class 11(Learning Disabilities) in the European Championships and then the Paralympic Games, following the recent international agreement to reinstate this class and integrate it into the international circuit.

These are players to admire for their skill and determination; they look forward to even more success in the next year and onwards.

To find out more about this event, click on [British Open](#).

### ***Disabled sport in England gets funding boost***

Disability sport has been given a boost as Sport England revealed that £2.6m worth of investment is being made available to help increase the number of disabled people playing sport and make grassroots sport more inclusive.

For the first time Sport England will be directly funding five disability sports organisations to advise, support and guide other sports bodies as they create opportunities for participation by disabled people. In total these organisations will receive £1.1m of National Lottery funding. In addition, the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) has been awarded £1.5m of Exchequer funding to accelerate its strategy to increase sports participation by disabled people.

Currently one in 15 disabled adults play sport regularly compared to one in six of the overall population. Sport England's chair, Richard Lewis, said: "Our goal is to get many more disabled people playing sport and we can only achieve this through a changed approach – one where sports bodies integrate the sport on offer to disabled and non-disabled people as far as possible. The investment we're announcing today will ensure that those on the frontline of grassroots sport have easy access to the expertise they need to make this happen'.

The five disability sports organisations to benefit from the investment are:

- British Blind Sport
- Cerebral Palsy Sport
- Dwarf Sport Association UK
- British Wheelchair Sport
- UK Deaf Sport.

EFDS Chair, Dame Tanni Grey Thompson, added: "The investment recognises the incredible passion and expertise which underpins the disability sports organisations. Together, we will be able to help those involved in delivering sport to engage more disabled people so that they can gain the very real and often life changing benefits which sport can bring. The timing could not be better to make sure disabled people will get the chance to benefit directly from the 2012 Paralympics and beyond. I know from my own experience that disabled people can benefit tremendously from sport and physical activity if the conditions are put in place to make sport genuinely inclusive.

To improve the way expertise on disability sport is shared, EFDS will now act as a single point of contact for national governing bodies of sport and other sporting groups. Meanwhile, more than £100 million of Lottery and Government funding is being injected into the School Games in England over the next three years. The new national School Games competition, aimed at years 3 to 13 and being launched in September following 9 pilot events, will use the inspiration of 2012 to get more young people playing competitive sport, and will build up to a national final in the Olympic Stadium in May 2012. Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport, Jeremy Hunt, has set out his plans to use the School Games to drive a step change in school sport for disabled children. A new action plan has been put in place to boost disability sport in schools, which includes:

- Measuring, for the first time, participation rates of young disabled children in competitive sport through the Taking Part survey, in order to establish a baseline picture of exactly how many young disabled people are taking part in competitive sport.
- Increasing the number of sports for disabled children - next year's School Games finals will also include sports specifically for young disabled athletes.
- Providing more direct guidance and support for schools, teachers and coaches to deliver the highest standards in disability sport - 450 School Games Organisers will gain further training in how to develop and run the most effective sporting leagues, fixtures and events, ensuring they are accessible to young disabled people.
- Identifying the top 50 trailblazing schools to pioneer new and innovative ways to develop further sporting opportunities for young disabled people.
- From September there will be a new competition in 30 sports for schools to use that are inclusive for all young people. This will give schools the option for disabled and non-disabled pupils to participate alongside each other. For young people with high support needs or complex or multiple barriers, pan-disability formats in disability specific sports and in mainstream sports will be developed.

Jeremy Hunt said: "The School Games will revive competitive sport in thousands of schools up and down the country, and will be a key part of the sporting legacy of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. And we are going to level the playing field for young disabled athletes by giving them more opportunities to play sport. Maria Miller, Minister for Disabled People, said: "The School Games are designed to increase the number of sports for disabled people and showcase their talents. But they will also help to challenge outdated perceptions of disabled people in competitive sport and act as a catalyst for our sporting talents of the future." And Baroness Sue Campbell, Chair of the Youth Sport Trust, the body delivering the School Games, commented: "Competitive sport teaches young people a range of life skills - from confidence and self esteem to respect and friendship - all of which will support them as they continue to progress through school and on to future careers. Improving sporting opportunities for young people with disabilities is a key focus for the Youth Sport Trust and the School Games is an excellent opportunity to give them much greater access to competitive sport."

Schools can sign up to take part at the [School Games](#) Website.

## ***A selection of general information of interest***

This section contains information that may be of interest as well as useful new resources.

### **The Open, or in some people's view the "not so Open"!**

The Royal St George's Golf Club in Sandwich, Kent, host of the Open over the last weekend, is still one of a handful of clubs in Britain that admit only male members. Women are free to play the course as guests, use its facilities and drink in the bar, but they are not allowed to play at weekends. Not surprisingly, this stance has caused controversy, with a variety of comments over the last few days. local Tory MP, Laura Sandys, who was a guest at the Championship, said: "Surely it's in their interests to open up membership to as many people as possible rather than excluding 50 per cent on a gender basis. But they're a private club and they make their own decisions." Sue Tibballs, chief executive of the women's sport and fitness foundation, said: "The Open is a highlight of the sporting calendar and has the ability to send a real message about equality in sport. It's disappointing that in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century half the population are excluded from playing at certain golf courses just because of their gender. It's time for the R&A to make a progressive stand on this issue, and bring golf into line with other, more enlightened, sports. In doing so the R&A could open up the sport to a new generation of female followers and the sponsorship opportunities this brings with it."

But Peter Dawson, Chairman of the Royal and Ancient, who regard themselves as guardians of the game, defended their continued use of men-only venues for the Open: "Quite frankly, it is a matter for clubs what their membership policies are. There are very few single sex clubs in golf in Britain today - far less than half of one per cent. We are aware of the issue. But I also believe people have a right to determine their own freedom of association. If it was a huge thing in Britain and was really hampering growth of the game and the introduction of more women playing the game, I would be concerned about it. But I'm quite sure it's not doing that. I think it is a generational thing. As new people come through, they will have to take a view about how they want their club to be run."

Royal St George's wouldn't give any details of the diversity of their male membership and the captain of the club, Edward Demery, revealed they had been discussing membership rules but said: 'I see no reason for change'. Tory MP Tim Yeo, who resigned as Minister for the Environment from John Major's Government is a member of Royal St George's. But he said he was too busy entertaining his guests at the golf to answer any questions.

### **Draft Equality Act Specific duties update**

Draft Equality Act Specific Duties regulations, created to assist public authorities in the better performance of the Equality Duty, were laid before parliament on 27 June 2011. They were debated in the House of Commons on 11 July. The debate in the House of Lords is expected to take place in September 2011 and the specific duties will come into force following parliamentary approval (replacing the previously stated intention to have them in force before the summer recess). The regulations require public authorities in Great Britain to publish:

- Equality objectives, at least every four years, and initially by April 2012
- Information to demonstrate their compliance with the Equality Duty, at least annually.

Although the Equality Duty is Great Britain-wide, Scotland and Wales are able to set their own specific duties. The specific duties in Wales came in to force on 6 April 2011 and specific duties that will apply to Scottish public bodies are still being decided. For more information, visit [Ministerial statement](#) or [Home Office](#).

## **County Sports Partnership proactively developing disability sport**

Northamptonshire's County Sports Partnership, Northamptonshire Sport, is working with a range of partners throughout the County to develop a variety of sporting opportunities for people with disabilities. You just have to look at the weekend of 16-17 July for 2 practical examples of this coming to fruition. On Saturday 16 July, in conjunction with Action for Blind People and Northamptonshire Association of the Blind, a multi-sports event was organised to teach young visually impaired people new skills and to inspire participants through the power of the Olympics and Paralympics. The following day saw the presentation of a Clubmark certificate to a local disability sports club, Disability Inclusive Sports Club (DISC), as they became the first disability specific sports club in Northamptonshire and the second in the East Midlands to gain the accreditation. For more information on Northamptonshire Sport's disability sports work, please contact their Disability development Officer, Graeme Wilson, on 01604 237953 or at [GWilson@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:GWilson@northamptonshire.gov.uk).

## **UK-wide advice on physical activity and fitness levels**

New advice as to how people of all ages can maintain fitness levels and stay or get healthy, has been launched as part of the first UK-wide physical activity guidelines by the four nations' Chief Medical Officers. A key new element is a more flexible approach for adults to get their 150 minutes of activity a week. The guidelines build on previous advice but reflect the growing body of knowledge about physical activity levels and links to reducing the risk of serious diseases like heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Key new elements are:

- Recommendations for weekly physical activity being more flexible for busy lives. Adults can get their 150 minutes of activity a week in sessions of ten minutes or more and should aim to be active every day. 30 minutes five times a week is just one way this can be achieved
- More emphasis on vigorous activity and muscle strengthening through, for example heavy gardening, group sports such as volleyball and basketball or swimming. There is good evidence this stimulates bone formation and maintains muscle mass
- Advice tailored to every age group including – for the first time – guidance for parents for under-fives; and reducing and minimising periods of sedentary behaviour.

The guidelines can be viewed at [Physical activity](#). Also, of interest on this topic might be the BHFNC 11th Annual Conference - Translating the evidence: What works for physical activity, 17 November 2011, East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham. This conference will bring together the latest evidence on the most effective approaches to promoting physical activity across the life course and explore how to use this information to develop evidence based physical activity interventions and funding applications. For further information on keynote and workshop sessions, visit [BHFNC](#).

## **Street Elite sports programme to help 1 Million 'NEET' young people**

'Street Elite', launched at the House of Lords on 5 July, is a new 3 year national initiative that will be run by leading youth charities, Cricket for Change and The Lord's Taverners, with the core funding being provided by The Berkeley Group. It has been specifically designed to harness the power of cricket, rugby and football to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people. Street Elite's primary focus is on using sport to help tackle disadvantage. The initial phase in London will give 4,000 young people living in 12 housing estates in 6 boroughs the opportunity to work as a team, play by the rules and make positive choices about their lives. The programme is also designed to create a workforce of young coaches and will specifically develop and train motivated young coaches to run projects in their local communities. Recent government figures (Feb. '11) show that there are 1,026,000 young people in the UK not in education, employment or training ('NEETS'). 'Street Elite' is one of the first times that a multi-sports programme has been used to create pathways out of poverty for these young people. Andy Sellins, Chief Executive of Cricket for Change, said, "This programme, using multi-sport, is a fantastic way of engaging young people who have disengaged from mainstream education. It allows them to gain new skills and improve their prospects".

To find out more about Cricket for Change, visit [CfC](#).

## **Life and legacy of pioneer to be celebrated**

A question sometimes used in equality-related quizzes is: "who was the World's first black professional footballer?" The answer is Arthur Wharton and his life will now be captured and celebrated through the award of a £117,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund. He played in goal for Darlington, Preston North End, Rotherham United and Sheffield United. But his talents extended much further, also making some outfield appearances as a winger, but most notably setting the world record of 10 seconds for the 100 yard sprint in 1886 at the Amateur Athletics Association championship. He was also a keen cricketer and cyclist. To learn more about this project, visit [Arthur Wharton](#).

## ***Achievements***

Many congratulations to the following organisations that we have been told have achieved the foundation level of the Standard since the compilation of the last newsletter:

- GB Boxing
- Mountaineering Council of Scotland
- Scottish anglers National Association
- Scottish Federation for Coarse Angling
- Somerset County football Association
- Tennis Wales.

A full list of those that have achieved a level of the Standard can be found at [Achievements](#) and a total of the number of organisations that have achieved each level of the Standard can be found by clicking on [Total](#).

## **Calendar of forthcoming events**

Dates for your diary include:

- 27 June-1 July National School Sport Week, throughout the UK
- 22-24 July London 2012 Open Weekend throughout the UK
- 18-27 August CPISRA Boccia World Cup, Northern Ireland
- 1-4 Sept UK School Games, Sheffield
- 15-18 Sept European Women and Sport conference, London
- 17 Nov BHFNC annual conference, Nottingham
- 3-4 Dec Goalball Paralympic test event, Handball arena
- 3-10 March Swimming Paralympic test event, London Aquatics Centre
- 2-6 May Wheelchair Tennis Paralympic test event, Eaton Manor
- 4-6 May Archery Paralympic test event, Woolwich
- 5-7 May Boccia Paralympic test event, Basketball Arena
- 8 May Athletics Paralympic test event, Olympic Stadium
- 29 Aug-9 Sept 2012 Paralympic Games, Various venues.

## **How to Get the Most Out of this Newsletter**

Hopefully you have enjoyed the variety of information in this newsletter. You can contribute! Do give us some information about your governing body, home country, sporting organisation or project. Our schedule is:

<b>Production Date</b>	<b>Deadline for Contributions</b>
22 August	12 August
26 September	16 September
31 October	21 October
28 November	18 November

Please e-mail any contributions or comments to [roger@vagaassociates.com](mailto:roger@vagaassociates.com).