

## Wigan's First Greater Manchester Disability Games Hailed A Success

Disabled youngsters from Wigan, Oldham and Rochdale won gold at the inaugural Greater Manchester Disability Games on Wednesday 8th of July. Organised by Wigan Sports Development and held at Leigh Sports Village, it's the first time Wigan Borough has hosted the event.

More than 180 young disabled people aged 11-16 took part, with teams from Bolton, Rochdale, Oldham, Salford, Tameside and Wigan competing in Table Tennis, Athletics, Boccia, Tag Rugby and Football to be named number one in the region.

Greg Warburton, 12, from Westleigh High School triumphed in the Table Tennis while Rochdale's Redwood School won both Football competitions – for severe and moderate learning difficulties. Oldham's New Bridge School won gold in Boccia and Tag Rugby while Oakfield High School in Wigan were crowned Athletics champions.

Adam Blezard, Sports Development Officer said: "This has been a great day for the region's young disabled athletes. Almost 200 youngsters took part and we are, of course, particularly pleased that the Wigan schools taking part did so well.

"It has been a fantastic day and we hope to build on this, making it an annual fixture in Wigan's sporting calendar, in which all ten districts of Greater Manchester compete. Grass roots events such as this



highlight the depth of talent we have and hopefully will continue to do so in coming years."

The event was supported by Greater Manchester's Competition Manager Network and Disability Sport Development Group and on the day by local sports clubs from the Wigan Borough. For more information on the GM Disability Games please get in touch.

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### Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Sports Development Newsletter.

As valuable partners of our team we aim to keep you up to date with our latest initiatives and good news stories on a regular basis and hope this provides you with a valuable insight into our service.

In this issue we focus on a dazzling array of high profile activities that have taken place in the borough over the past few months including the first ever Greater Manchester Disability Games.

Take a look at our spotlight feature on the new Champions Challenge and read about how talented young people from Wigan performed against neighbouring boroughs.

We also have the regular Coaching Corner detailing the launch of our Wigan Active Coaches Association and in recognition of our thriving sporting fraternity we are giving clubs the opportunity to be part of our newsletter and update you on local successes.

Lastly, we are proud to announce a new award titled 'Sports Development Star of the Season'. This is awarded to an individual within our team to recognise and reward excellence in their role – turn to the back page to find our first winner!

If you have anything to say about the newsletter – good or bad – we'd love to hear from you. You can email me at [sdu@wct.org](mailto:sdu@wct.org)

As always thank you for your ongoing support.

**Lynsey Johnson**  
Principal Sports Development Manager

## COACHING CORNER

### Coach Education 2009/10

Once again, the Wigan Sports Development Coach Education programme is receiving excellent support from the sporting community of the Borough. Since its launch in April just under 30 courses have been offered covering a wide range of sports from Football & Badminton through to less mainstream courses such as Dodgeball & Ultimate Frisbee.

### Wigan Active Coaches Association

A NEW scheme to raise coaching standards across Wigan has now been launched.

Wigan Active Coaches Association (WACA) hopes to inspire casual coaches across the borough to further their development and qualifications.

The scheme will reward and encourage coaches to enrol on courses and will ultimately benefit the young people they coach. The overarching aim of WACA is to increase the standard of local coaching by rewarding Sports Development casual coaching staff for the time and energy they put in to developing themselves. Once registered coaches can accrue credits for qualifications they gain at conferences and seminars they attend. Once they reach specified milestones they will receive various rewards via the WACA reward and recognition scheme. In order to be eligible to register with the scheme you must have been an active coach working on Sports Development programmes for at least 3 months.

### Recruit into Coaching

The Recruit into Coaching programme aims to increase the number of qualified frontline coaching staff working within their local communities. The main objective of the scheme is to recruit 8,000 adult volunteers into coaching over the coming three years. The scheme offers people new to coaching the opportunity to gain a free NGB Level 1 qualification in return for 15 voluntary coaching hours within a club or community setting. If you or anyone you know are interested in getting involved in coaching but currently have no coaching qualifications then get in touch.

### Coaching Opportunities

If you would like to register as a casual sports coach with Wigan Sports Development to gain experience and develop your skills then get in touch. Following the Get Active this Summer programme opportunities will be available on our Get Active in your Community programme as well as through the numerous events that take place throughout the year.



## New Springs Lions ARLFC Achieve Gold!



New Springs Lions Amateur Rugby League Football Club has just become the first amateur club in the Wigan Borough to achieve the Sport England Clubmark Gold Award through the Rugby Football League. The club are just about to celebrate their 10 year anniversary and are thrilled about their new gold status.

The club first achieved Clubmark accreditation in 2007 and were keen to achieve the higher accreditation level in 2009. Sharon Shaw, Club Welfare Officer said "We wanted to achieve Clubmark Gold as it reflects the way we run our club. We take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously. The club is very family focused with an emphasis on fun, learning and developing Rugby skills, especially in our younger players. This philosophy reflects the RFL's strategy for amateur rugby, including the RESPECT campaign and the 100% me Anti-doping message. We have been able to work closely with the RFL and the Wigan Sports Development Unit to achieve this. The Clubmark Gold management system has also helped us improve policies and procedures to safeguard our young players, families and our volunteers".

Clubmark Gold Accreditation has brought a new found status to the club and has helped the club to secure grant funding, as funding bodies are now looking for this type of accreditation as part of their eligibility criteria. The Gold status is viewed very positively. Clubmark Gold has underpinned the development of the club over the last year as a vital part of the club development plan. Through their partnership programme "Come and Play with Lions" New Springs has also increased the number of teams by recruiting new members. The club are currently linked with four local schools and hope to extend this further in the next year. Clubmark Gold has also allowed the club to develop its volunteers through new qualifications and workshops.

Sharon also explained that the excellent support of the Wigan Sports Development Unit through John McMullen, Rugby League Service Area Co-ordinator, has been vital in helping the club to achieve the accreditation. "John mentored me through the process showing me how to find and present information to Sport England. He gave excellent advice where needed and was always available and willing to help. The club has developed a good working relationship with Wigan Sports Development and we are very grateful for their support".

Also congratulations to Leigh East ARLFC on achieving their Clubmark Gold Accreditation.

## NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF...

The London 2012 Open Weekend is a series of events across the UK enabling access to excellence in arts, culture and sport. It also marks three years to go until the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.



More than 130 youngsters from across Wigan Borough took part in a "festival of sport" to mark the countdown to the London Olympics. Youngsters from summer camps in Hindley, Beech Hill and Leigh competed in cricket, tag rugby, volleyball and athletics at the event at Leigh Sports Village.

Organiser Craig Anthony from Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust's Sports Development Unit said: "This is about creating a legacy of sport. Increasing the number of children accessing sport and participating in physical activity. We'll be holding lots of events as we lead up to the Olympics to create a lasting sporting legacy beyond 2012."

## Spotlight On... Wigan's Young Sports Stars Are Just Champion!

Wigan's young sporting champions took on the best in the region in a new sports competition which took place on Saturday 27th June at Wright Robinson Sports College in Manchester.

The "I Love Me" Champions Challenge placed the elite sporting youngsters from each borough in Greater Manchester against one another to find out the "champion borough".

Over 600 young athletes, aged between 12 and 14, contested the seven sports that the event had to offer, which included badminton, netball, girls football, rugby union, table tennis, cycling and rowing. Team Wigan had more than 60 youngsters competing at the event with the team finishing 6th in the overall medal table, out of the ten borough's competing. Trafford topped the medals league with 91 points.

Wigan triumphed with a brace of medals in the cycling. Hannah Moore, 13, won gold in the



500m sprint. While Sophie Myers, 12, was awarded silver in the 2,000m endurance trial. Team Wigan's under 14's girls rugby union team also won gold beating Stockport 9-8 in the final of the seven-a-side competition.

Helen Browne from the Sports Development team said: "We are really proud of all the winners from the borough and everyone who competed."

"Each individual sport is aligned to a sport specific talent pathway, so talented athletes from the event can be identified and supported by performance coaches who can further their development."

"Hopefully, it will inspire them to further their sporting ambitions."

The competition was organised by GreaterSport working in partnership with the Manchester United Foundation.



## Schools Coaching Service

Wigan Sports Development Unit officially launched the Schools Coaching Service in June 2009. The service is a first class package designed to support and compliment Wigan's Primary Schools in the delivery of high quality PE and School Sport.

With 10 mainstream primary schools and 5 Pupil Support Centres across the borough already buying in our professional coaching service for the academic year 2009/10, schools will receive a unique package that meets individual requirements for specific Key Stages or the whole school, whilst allowing teachers to take their allocated PPA time.

The Schools Coaching Service encompasses a team of full time, Level 2 qualified sports coaches; skilled to deliver multi skills, sport specific and extra curricular activities in line with the National Curriculum and the Wigan Schools 'PE Scheme of Work'. Whilst also offering additional opportunities to forge close links with community sports clubs and activities, take part in local, regional & national competitions and access funding for talented athletes. Schools can also access tailored sport specific and leadership training opportunities for both teachers and pupils as part of their package.

For further information on the Schools Coaching Service our online brochure is available to download at [www.wlct.org/sdu](http://www.wlct.org/sdu) or [www.wbsc.org.uk](http://www.wbsc.org.uk).

## NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF...

### High Quality School to Club Link Programme

The High Quality School to Club Link Programme is a formal link between clubs and schools. Congratulations to all the clubs and schools who have made the formal links. Visit [www.wbsc.org.uk](http://www.wbsc.org.uk) for a full list.



## Welcome to get set for wigan 2012 Don't Get Left Behind!

Has your school registered to the Get Set 2012 website?

Get Set is about involving children and young people in the excitement and inspiration of the Games.

The Values of 2012 are: Friendship ; Courage ; Determination ; Excellence ; Equality ; Respect ; Inspiration.

The main focus of Get Set is...

- To involve as many children and young people as possible in the excitement of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- To take the magic and inspiration of the London 2012 Games out to classrooms, playgrounds and into the lives of young people across the UK.
- To support children and young people across the UK in the development of their leadership, personal, thinking and life skills.
- To enrich the programmes schools and colleges are already running in order to achieve their existing aims and objectives.

Registering your school on the Get Set website is simple to do, just log on to [www.getsetlondon2012.com](http://www.getsetlondon2012.com) and get blogging. Schools in the borough already taking advantage of this free resource are:

Abraham Guest High School  
Canon Sharples Primary School  
Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Primary School  
Shevington High School  
St John Fisher Catholic High School  
St Josephs RC Primary School  
St Marks CE Primary School  
St Marys RC High School  
St Peters Catholic High School

## NEWS IN BRIEF... NEWS IN BRIEF...

### Playground to Podium

The school year 08/09 saw the first year of Wigan's 'Playground to Podium' Programme.

A Youth Sports Trust national strategy, the P2P programme aims to identify, develop and support young disabled athletes through appropriate pathways - taking youngsters from PE, through participation, to high level performance and competition. Locally, this has been labelled Active8, delivered by Sports Development and the School Sports Partnership's Competition Manager Programme.



The year has seen 3 Active8 events, ultimately acting as talent identification days, held in the sports of Football, Athletics and Table Tennis. Attracting over 120 youngsters aged 8-16 years, SDU have subsequently signposted athletes to represent the Borough at the next stage of competition - within county, regional, and national settings.

### Community Badminton Networks

Community Badminton Networks (CBN's) are the latest initiative from Badminton England, as the national governing body looks to link up school, club and coaching activity and aims to grow participation in the sport.

Wigan has been selected as one of only three CBN's in the North West resulting in a number of new projects being introduced. These include rusty rackets pay and play sessions for adults, an open age/mixed sex singles league (the 1st of its kind in the North West) and the confirmation of Wigan's first Badminton Bonanza in October 2009.

### Get Active Get Volunteering

Throughout the summer months Wigan Sports Development have seen an influx of young people wanted to volunteer in sport. The Get Active Get Volunteer scheme has continued to grow since its re-launch in April 2009, with over 40 young volunteers now registered on the scheme.



Get Active Get Volunteering offers local people, aged 16 plus, the opportunity to support to the provision of sports activities across the borough whilst developing skills in leadership and sports coaching. So far 8 volunteers have gained nationally recognised sports qualifications as part of our Reward & Recognition scheme.

### Quest Maintenance Assessment

The Sports Development Team underwent a Quest Maintenance Assessment in July. The purpose of the visit was to ensure the Team is continuing to improve on last years assessment where they were successfully awarded 87% equating to 'Excellence Status'. The feedback was encouraging and stated that the Team demonstrated a positive direction of travel across all management issues. The Management Team has been selected to give a presentation at the National Quest Conference at Luton in September, outlining the innovative work and good practice being delivered by the Service. The Team will undergo a further assessment next year with aspirations of becoming the top performing Team in the UK.

## MIDNIGHT FOOTBALL LEAGUES 2010

Wigan Sports Development in partnership with the Coalfield Regeneration Trust are bringing back the popular Midnight Football Leagues in 2010. Running from January to April local communities will be challenging for the right to represent Wigan at the NW Regional Finals and hopefully as per last year at least 1 lucky team will qualify for the National Finals in Doncaster in May. The 2009 league attracted over 250 young people aged 12-16 each week for 10 weeks.

Sports Development is encouraging partners (old and new) to get in touch to support the 2010 project. Planning gets underway in September 2009 with all input welcome no matter how small. In 2009, Greater Manchester Police provided a guest team, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service attended with a fire appliance, Youth Services, Housing Trusts & Wigan Athletic Football in the Community provided support to local young people who might not otherwise have participated.

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For key responsibilities of Sports Development staff please visit [www.wbsc.org.uk](http://www.wbsc.org.uk) or [www.wlct.org/sdu](http://www.wlct.org/sdu).

## Sports Development Star of the Season - Rob Burrows

Rob's main responsibility is to lead Coach Development in Wigan. Nominated by his colleagues Rob has excelled over the past few months and worked tremendously hard to launch the popular Wigan Active Coaches Association (WACA). He has managed the most successful Coach Education programme to date and planned an effective training week for Sports Development Coaches to ensure the team is continuously improving the standard of coaching being delivered in our schools and community. Rob's drive and enthusiasm for the role is exemplary and he fully deserves the recognition from his peers.



For more information contact Wigan Sports Development on 01942 404982 or visit [www.wbsc.org.uk](http://www.wbsc.org.uk) or [www.wlct.org/sdu](http://www.wlct.org/sdu)  
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