

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **WheelPower appoints new Chair**

WheelPower, the national charity for wheelchair sport based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, today announced the appointment of Rob Wilson as their new Chair of Trustees. Rob succeeds Kevan Baker OBE who retires as Chairman after more than 20 years in the role.

Former Member of Parliament for Reading, Rob Wilson has a wealth of experience and joins WheelPower at an exciting time during the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the first Stoke Mandeville Games which sparked the Paralympic Movement.

Outgoing Chairman, Kevan Baker said, "I am delighted to be handing the reigns of WheelPower over to Rob who is an experienced businessman and entrepreneur, being a former Government Minister with strong management, communication and relationship-building skills Rob brings the exceptional leadership the charity needs to deliver its objectives in the future."

Rob said, "I am honoured to be given the opportunity to take on the role of Chair and build on the tremendous work that the charity has done to transform lives through sport. I hope to work closely with the Board, executive team and wonderful supporters to deliver more opportunities for disabled people to play sport and be physically active. I am keen to help WheelPower deliver its vision to increase participation in sport as well as develop our facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the National Centre for Disability Sport, which has such an incredible heritage."

He added, "WheelPower's Values are closely aligned to my own and as an organisation we want to be open, innovative, forward thinking so we can inspire more disabled people to be active through our Pushing Forward strategic plan."

Martin McElhatton, chief executive added, "With Rob joining as Chair it is the start of a new chapter for WheelPower and we are excited to benefit from his skills, experience and knowledge of the civil society and business to work with new and existing partners to deliver more opportunities in the future."

-Ends-

*Transforming lives through sport*

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## NOTES TO EDITOR:

### About WheelPower

WheelPower have been providing opportunities in sport for people with physical impairments for nearly 70 years.

Based in Stoke Mandeville, the home of the Paralympic movement, WheelPower is at the heart of wheelchair sport.

From first-timers to Paralympic medallists, WheelPower support and promote participation at all levels. We have seen how playing sport can enrich lives, offering tremendous physical and psychological benefits, whatever your age or ability.

Each year, WheelPower supports over 100,000 disabled people to participate in sport and activity across the country.

Join us in this mission as a participant, supporter or volunteer and together we can help transform lives through sport.

### About Pushing Forward

Pushing Forward is WheelPower's Strategic Plan for the period between 2017 and 2021 and aims to move the organisation forward building on its heritage, traditions and people to provide opportunities which will enable more disabled people to lead healthy and active lives.

Pushing Forward will deliver our Mission to 'Transform Lives Through Sport' and is based on our core values as an open, inspiring, forward looking and innovative organisation.

Pushing Forward will:

- Increase participation in sport and physical activity
- Provide iconic and inclusive facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium
- Ensure WheelPower is a credible and robust organisation
- Inspire people through our work, our heritage and the power of the Paralympic Games

Pushing Forward will create opportunities to encourage inactive wheelchair users as well as those already taking part and is an exciting new chapter for WheelPower.

### Photo



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