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# **RECRUITMENT PACK FOR NEW TRUSTEES**

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**Welcome Letter**

Many thanks for your interest in becoming a Trustee of WheelPower – British Wheelchair Sport.

WheelPower, officially the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation Limited was established in 1972 although our roots go back to the introduction of sport to disabled people by our founder, Professor Sir Ludwig Guttmann in the 1940’s at Stoke Mandeville. The charity exists to transform lives through sport for disabled children and adults.

You can read more about the governance of WheelPower in this pack and on our website www.wheelpower.org.uk.

WheelPower has recently appointed a new Chair of Trustees and we are now looking to appoint up to three independent Trustees to help us achieve our strategic plan, Pushing Forward which aims to: Increase participation in sport and physical activity; Provide iconic and inclusive facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium; Ensure WheelPower is a credible and robust organisation; and Inspire people through our work, our heritage and the power of the Paralympic Games.

We are seeking Trustees to bring new skills to the Board with particular experience in commercial property, finance, fundraising and disability sport. We are keen to recruit Trustees who share our passion to provide disabled people with opportunities to participate in recreational and competitive sport and lead healthy active lives and share our values to be open, inspiring, forward looking and innovative in achieving this.

Whatever skills you bring, we want to be clear about what we are looking for from you and this pack is designed to help you understand more about us, and the role, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Rob Wilson, Sue Wolstenholme OBE and Nigel Roberts**

Nominations Committee on behalf of The Board of Trustees

**Your application and the recruitment process**

Please find below details of the selection process, to assist you in completing and tailoring your application.

In order to apply you should submit:

* An up - to - date CV which shows your full career history – we recommend that this is no longer than three pages;

Please send your application, by email to martin.mcelhatton@wheelpower.org.uk

**Closing Date - Applications should be received by Friday 29 November 2019**

You will receive an acknowledgement and we suggest that if you don’t receive this you should contact us to confirm your application has arrived.

**Interviews will take place in December 2019.**

Interviews will be carried out by a Nominations Committee acting on behalf of The Board of Trustees including Rob Wilson, Chair, Sue Wolstenholme OBE, Nigel Roberts and supported by Martin McElhatton, Chief Executive.

We very much see these as a two-way opportunity for us to find out more about each other and there will be an opportunity for you to meet members of WheelPower’s staff team

Please do contact us if you wish to have an informal discussion about the role and organisation or if you have any other questions to help you decide whether to apply.

You can contact:

Martin McElhatton, Chief Executive on 01296 395995 or by email martin.mcelhatton@wheelpower.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

**About Us**

WheelPower’s origins are from the inspiration of our founder, Sir Ludwig Guttmann. His pioneering work introduced sport as part of the rehabilitation of people with spinal cord injuries at Stoke Mandeville in the 1940’s. Our work supports the development of sporting opportunities for wheelchair users (especially people with a spinal cord injury), young disabled people, disabled people who use a wheelchair for sport along with other physical/locomotor impairments

WheelPower delivers opportunities at grass roots level to introduce people to sport and physical activity and create pathways into recreational and competitive sport for people of all ages and abilities. As a Registered Charity, WheelPower is able to deliver these opportunities thanks to the support of charitable donations, fundraising, corporate partners and grants.

Sport and physical activity can be truly transformational in the lives of disabled children and adults. Whether it is a child born with a disability or someone paralysed through a road traffic accident, sport has the power to inspire them to lead healthy, active lives and through sport achieve greater confidence, self-esteem and enjoyment. The physical benefits of sport are well known but the improvements in wellbeing and mental health of people with physical impairments through physical activity are just as important and can often be the catalyst to reducing isolation and increasing social inclusion for disabled people. By removing barriers to participation,

WheelPower opens doors to new friendships, skills and opportunities in life.

**We are seeking to appoint Independent Trustees to strengthen the Board.**

Over the next 5 years WheelPower aims to:

* Provide life transforming sporting experiences for disabled children and adults through a range of programmes and events
* Provide and develop accessible and inclusive facilities at Stoke Mandeville Stadium
* Promote opportunities for disabled people to lead healthy active lives
* Use the power of the Paralympic Games to inspire disabled people to participate in sport and be more active

WheelPower is supported by voluntary fundraising income and a small level of grant funding through Sport England.

For more detailed information about WheelPower and a list of the Trustees, please visit our website www.wheelpower.org.uk.

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**About the role**

**Skills and Experience**

We are looking for Trustees who have skills and experience in Fundraising

A track record of leadership and operating at Board level in the private, public or voluntary sector is helpful but not essential.

**Key responsibilities (jointly with other Trustees):**

1. Ensuring that WheelPower has a clear vision and strategic direction and is focused on achieving these.
2. Being responsible for the overall performance of WheelPower and for its values.
3. Ensuring that WheelPower complies with all legal and regulatory requirements.
4. Acting as a guardian of WheelPower’s assets
5. Ensuring that WheelPower’s governance and probity is of the highest possible standard.

**Person Specification**

1. A strong and visible passion and commitment to WheelPower and its aims and ambitions.
2. A broad understanding of the sporting landscape in the UK, including the political environment, at national and local level, would be ideal.
3. A knowledge of and experience in disability sport.
4. A knowledge of the trust and foundation landscape in the UK in order to support the fundraising needs of WheelPower.
5. The ability to develop and maintain WheelPower’s strategic focus and direct the organisation towards its future.
6. Be able to make a commitment to WheelPower and devote the necessary time.
7. Have strategic vision, independent judgement, an ability to think creatively and a willingness to speak your mind.
8. A clear commitment to improving diversity and equality.
9. Have knowledge of good governance and commitment to highest standards.

**Time and commitment**

Trustees are expected to attend each of the four Board meetings per annum, which take place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. In addition, Trustees are expected to support the Board Sub Committees and also encouraged to meet with funders and stakeholders as required.

Trustees will be encouraged to attend events to increase the awareness in and profile of WheelPower and our work.

**Terms**

The appointment is for a three-year term, and up to three consecutive terms can be served.

The independent Trustees are appointed by the Board through an open recruitment process led by a Nominations Committee made up of Trustees.

The role is voluntary. Travel and other reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

**Commitment to equality and diversity**

We value diversity throughout our organisation and through our Equality and Diversity Policy we are striving for a diverse Board of Trustees.  We are specifically looking to improve ethnic diversity of our board as well as maintaining the gender balance and representation by disabled people. As well as welcoming applications from everyone, we are therefore particularly keen to encourage candidates from the BAME community to apply.