



Martin McElhatton

Martin McElhatton is the CEO of Wheelpower, and for nearly 30 years Mr McElhatton has dedicated his life to transforming the lives of other disabled adults and children by providing sporting opportunities through the charity. After a spinal cord injury in 1979, Martin began playing wheelchair sport as part of his rehabilitation at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. He was selected for the Great Britain wheelchair basketball squad in the 1984 Paralympic Games held at Stoke Mandeville. Martin is the longest serving Board member of Leap, and his achievements include overseeing a £10.5m fundraising project and redevelopment of Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The national disability sports centre which is owned by WheelPower now enables around 40,000 disabled to take part in a range of different sports including opportunities for young and newly disabled people through to Paralympic training and national and international competitions.

In 2014 Mr McElhatton was influential in the Heritage Flame Ceremony which saw the first ever international leg of the Paralympic Torch Relay for the Sochi Winter Games being held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. Televised worldwide, the ceremonial event paid tribute to WheelPower's founder Sir Ludwig Guttmann and his work which led to the creation of the Paralympic Movement.

Naomi Riches MBE

Naomi Riches was part of the Great Britain Para-Rowing team for a decade, where she competed in the Mixed Coxed Fours, until she retired in 2013. Her legacy includes winning medals at national, world and Paralympic level during her time in the sport, including a bronze at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and a gold at the London 2012 Paralympics. Naomi was awarded an MBE in the 2013 New Year's Honours List for her 'Services to Rowing'. Naomi lives in Buckinghamshire and still rows with Marlow Rowing Club. Now working for Bucks-based Thomas International, she also works for Sky Academy and the Youth Sport Trust. Not many people know that Naomi is actually a trained Silversmith at Bucks New University and makes jewellery in her spare time.



Alistair Patrick-Heselton

Paralympic Silver Medallist, Alistair Patrick-Heselton was one of the county's most promising schoolboy footballers playing for Wycombe Wanderers F.C. While being lucky enough to have a private education, he was then approached by scouts from Q.P.R. He went on to be signed by the club and developed well, playing in the youth and reserves from the age of 17. He had a loan spell with Oldham Athletic (as QPR went into Administration), starting well there but for a torn cruciate ligament halting his progress.

After an 11 month recovery he went on to play in Holland in the Dutch 1st Division, after playing for a few semi professional sides it was ended in 2006 while playing at Wingate and Finchley. Alistair was his front passenger in a fatal car crash, where he and his best friend (also a professional footballer) both went through the windscreen. After two months in a coma and being told he may not walk again, he thought football would be something he had lost forever. Alistair will recount his amazing story which now sees his post-Paralympic career working with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust and working with Sky's Living For Sport project.

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