

Case Study



Project

National Disability Curling Development Officer

Organisation

Royal Caledonian Curling Club

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Contact

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Contacts details

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About the Organisation

The Royal Caledonian Curling Club was established in 1838 and has affiliates all over the world.

Wheelchair curling was first introduced in Scotland by the vice president of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club in 1999. The first World Championship in wheelchair curling was held in 2002 and it became a Paralympic sport in 2006.

Project overview

The aim of the project is to expand and sell the sport of Curling to young people with disabilities and develop athletes of the future, and specifically to:

- Get more people involved as a whole;
- Create a competition structure;
- Increase coach numbers and improve coaching standards; and
- Create a long-term player development pathway.

What has it achieved?

The project has engaged with 15 young people so far. These numbers are well below the target figures as the number of wheelchair users had been overestimated in the application.

Despite this the project has managed to engage with young people and potential athletes have been identified. All of the participants have to provide their own transport and this can often be a barrier as Curling facilities are often based in largely rural areas with limited transport options.

How did the project get people involved?

The project advertised free classes and 'Come N Try' sessions which proved quite popular. There have been problems attracting wheelchair curlers so the project broadened its focus to include visually and hearing impaired young people.

What was innovative and what worked well?

All the coaches involved in the project are volunteers. These people have been specifically trained to understand the needs of players with disabilities. For example coaches experience playing from a wheelchair and have to navigate through the facilities to understand the difficulties and how long movements take.

Through widening the target group to include visually and hearing impaired young people the project has made connections with other disability groups. This resulted in a steering group from the central belt clubs for visually impaired players. The project has also built links with Deaf Connections and Deaf Action.

There is a strong social side to Curling and this helps to draw people in and keep them coming along.

The future....

The Caledonian Curling Club is pleased with the way the project has developed despite the early difficulties and the plan is to seek further funding to retain the post after the project completion in September 2009.

