



## News and Resource Update May 2015: Your guide to what's happening around the world

We want to hear about what you and your related organisations are doing and the information you are producing. You can send your information and news to any member of the executive board for inclusion in the 'Update' each month – [view their contacts details](#)

### Keep right up to date with our news

We have set up social media accounts to share all our latest news with you:



You can now follow us on Twitter - [take a look](#)

**facebook**

We're on Facebook too - [view our page](#)

### IAPESGW 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress, Barry University, Florida, USA 17 – 21 May 2017

There is now a website for our event being hosted by Barry University at:

[www.barry.edu/iapesgw](http://www.barry.edu/iapesgw)

### Joining IAPESGW – Special membership offer extended

We are pleased to advise colleagues of the special rate of \$50 Canadian for a membership covering 2015 to 31 March 2017 – please encourage your contacts to take up this offer.

[Visit 'Joining IAPESGW' to take advantage of the offer](#)

### International Conference in Abu Dhabi

Professor Tansin Benn was invited to present, on behalf of IAPESGW, at the International Conference, Sports for Women, at the Emirates Palace Hotel, Abu Dhabi, May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

The title of the Conference was - **SPORTS WITHOUT BARRIERS.**

It was a privilege to attend this conference for three reasons: the opportunity to bring IAPESGW and our work to this country for the first time, focusing on the dimension of our work with Muslim Women; the opportunity to meet so many outstanding people including Olympic and Paralympic gold medallists; and for the opportunity to experience the generous and outstanding hospitality offered.

The key factor to the success of the developing profile of women in sport in Abu Dhabi is the enthusiasm of the young women and their male supporters. Most significantly they have the full backing of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, Chairwoman of General Women's Union, "Mother of the



Nation”, who in 2010 gave the directive to establish the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Sport’s Academy (FBMA) under whose patronage the International Conference was held. The purpose of the Academy ‘... is to prepare qualified female personnel to work with individuals and teams, which will support the progress of women’s sport in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)’. The UAE Women’s Sports Committee recognised that the designation of an academy demonstrates the importance H. H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak places on advancing the issue of female participation and development of skills in sport. The vision of the FBMA is *‘To encourage Emirati females to actively participate in sport through education, training and competition’*.

The emphasis of the event was on breaking through barriers predominantly by inspirational talks from Olympic and Paralympic medallists with messages of the journeys, the hopes, dreams and motivation that makes champions. Women from the IOC also contributed to the conference, recognising the problems still facing women in leadership positions in sport, including in the IOC. Alongside this were presentations and workshops from social science and psychology, health, physiological and medical practitioners.

The country is aware of the need to develop a social infrastructure to support these aspirations and is working on education and media influences. A photographic exhibition ran alongside the event and stalls advertising clubs and achievements in their principle sports such as women’s football and jui jitsu. There were interesting debates on how traditions, cultures and values of the Islamic country UAE fit in with modern sport and I think much more will be done to continue to tread sensitively in this direction.

**Tansin Benn**

**IAPESGW Executive Board – Chair of the Committee of Consultants**

### **IWG Annual Meeting 2015**

The IWG annual meeting took place in La Jolla - California (USA) between Sunday 26th - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May . It was a good 2 days meeting in a very good environment and the new board, together with the two IWG Chairs managed to developed all the items of the agenda.

The participants in the meeting were: Ruth Maphorisa and Carole Oglesby (Co-Chair), Matilda Mwaba (Regional Representative, Africa), Karen Morrison (Regional Representative, Americas & Caribbean), Etsuko Ogasawara (Invited expert from Asia, but was agreed to appoint her Asia Regional Representative), Kristina Thurée (Regional Representative, Europe), Susie Yee (Regional Representative, Oceania), Terhi Heinilä (co-opted Expert), Hajera Kayee (Co –opted Expert), Game Mothibi (IWG Secretariat), Boitumelo Kenosi (IWG Secretariat, Marketing and Communications Manager), Boingotlo Baebae (IWG Secretariat, General Office Assistant), Kari Fasting, (NGO Representative, WSI) and Rosa Lopez de D’Amico (NGO Representative, IAPESGW).

The meeting was hosted by NCAA thanks to the good contact with Karen Morrison and we appreciate all their hospitality, we also acknowledge the very kind support from Carole Oglesby, who as a local from California was able to support us in several ways. Besides the agenda, we also have the short but efficient participation of Sarah Axelson (Advocacy and Program Manager for Women’s Sports Foundation) and Maria Stefan, a representative from American College of Sports Medicine.

The first fliers of the 7th IWG Conference on Women and Sport in Gaborone – Botswana 2018 started to circulate. There was great enthusiasm in the board meeting related with the preparation for the event.



**A report from IAPESGW President Rosa Lopez de D 'Amico (*pictured far left in the above photograph taken at the meeting*)**

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## **International**

**FIFA Women's World Cup starts in Canada on 6 June** - there will be a month of great attention on Women's soccer.

There will be many conferences with a women's sport focus:

### **The Conversation 2015**

June 9 -12, Quebec City

### **Girl Power at Play**

June 18 -19, Ottawa

### **Canadian Sponsorship Summit with some women in sport focus**

June 4 -6, Edmonton

**Alberta Soccer will host a Women in Soccer Conference with CAAWS women in leadership workshops along with coaching and referee sessions**

June 4 – 6, Edmonton

### **Karin Lofstrom**

**Executive Director, CAAWS** - Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity

**8th Peace and Sport International Forum  
25 – 27 November 2015, Monaco**

This unmissable event for all stakeholders of peace through sport will bring together more than 500 leading figures from the international sports movement, the private sector and NGOs, as well as political leaders and Champions for Peace.

Held under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Forum has become the key annual event for peace-promoters around the world.

Registration opens in July

[View more details](#)

**Inside the games reports (27 May 2015)**

**Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa celebrates 100 days to go**

In just 100 days, the fifth edition of the [Commonwealth Youth Games](#) will get underway in the Samoan capital Apia, where up to 1,000 athletes aged 14 to 18 will represent their country and compete for 107 gold medals in nine sports.

The Games, due to take place from September 5 to 11, will feature five days of action across two sporting complexes that will play host to swimming, archery, athletics, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby sevens, squash, tennis and weightlifting.

Like the senior version, all athletes stay in Athletes' Village-style accommodation and events comply with the relevant International Federation's technical rules and regulations, giving many competitors their first taste of an international multi-sport Games.....

[View the full news item](#)

**British Gymnastics ( 8 May 2015)**

**International Disability Gymnastics - A Success Story**

We are world renowned and recognised by the international gymnastics federation for our disability gymnastics programme that ensures gymnastics is adapted to meet the needs of each gymnast.

A team of our experts recently spent time in South Africa to help introduce disability gymnastics. We've been working with them since 2007 and have achieved some amazing things together which now sees them running a self sufficient programme. Watch our exclusive feature released today that follows the team during the final phase of the programme. We'd like to thank the FIG, UK Sport and SAGF for their backing and support.

[Watch the short video](#)

**Buzz Feed News (22 May 2015)**

**Experts Slam Sports Policies That Ban Women With High Testosterone**

There's no good reason to exclude female athletes based on their hormone levels, researchers argue in a controversial new paper.

The so-called “sex gap” in testosterone — the typical difference between men and women in blood levels of the hormone — shouldn’t be used to determine who is and isn’t a female athlete, according to a [commentary](#) published Thursday in the journal Science.

Testosterone is the sole marker used to categorize men and women in professional sports. The rules of the two major international sports organizations say that in cases where a female athlete’s sex is in question, those with unusually high levels of testosterone aren’t allowed to participate in women’s competitions.

But that policy is deeply flawed, according to the authors of the new report. When it comes to elite athletes, they say, extraordinary biology is always the norm.

“It’s a cultural anxiety,” Katrina Karkazis, a medical anthropologist at Stanford University and lead author on the new paper, told BuzzFeed News. “This actually isn’t really a scientific question — it’s a social question on how to think about human variation.”

There have been only two large studies, both published last year, looking at testosterone levels in elite athletes. At face value, they seemed to have come to wildly different conclusions.....

[View the full news item](#)

### **BBC reports (28 May 2015)**

#### **FIFA 16: EA Sports game to feature women for first time**

International women’s teams will feature in football video game Fifa 2016 for the first time in its history.

England captain Steph Houghton and her team-mates have been included with 11 other women’s sides for play in one of several game modes.

Until now only men’s teams have featured on the popular EA Sports game which was first released in 1993.....

#### **The women’s teams on Fifa 16**

Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the United States of America.

[View the full news item](#)

### **European Commission – Sport (20 May 2015)**

#### **Launch of the European Youth Monitor**

The European Commission has published [41 statistical indicators](#) on the state of young people in the European Union, including information on the levels of [participation in sports clubs](#).

[View the Youth Monitor](#)

## **Inside the games reports (16 May 2015)**

### **Netherlands awarded 2019 European Games**

The Netherlands was today officially awarded the 2019 European Games, which will be the second edition after the inaugural event in Baku, due to start next month.

The unanimous decision to approve the nationwide bid from The Netherlands was taken at an Extraordinary General Assembly of the European Olympic Committees here.

It followed a meeting on Thursday (May 14) when the EOC's ruling Executive Committee decided to put forward The Netherlands as the only candidate.....

[View the full news item](#)

## **Specific countries**

### **AUSTRALIA**



#### **About the Campaign**

In 2014 Vicsport initiated the Are You On Board? (AYOB) Campaign to support conversation and action around gender diversity on Victorian SSA boards. In 2015 Vicsport has developed three further campaign videos to raise awareness and assist sports to disseminate messages on the benefits of diversity and inclusion to Victorian grassroots sport organisations.

As part of the Campaign, Vicsport created and compiled tools to help SSA CEOs, Presidents and Board Members to put gender diversity on the agenda and take action. Since its release, the initial AYOB clip has been viewed hundreds of times and is now embedded into all Vicsport board training offerings. The 3 new videos follow on from the initial campaign and highlight the benefits of diversity and inclusion through:

The benefits of diversity on committees in grassroots sport (below)

The benefits to clubs and associations of strengthening welcoming and inclusive practice (below)

The benefits of being involved in sport for people with a disability (coming June 22)

As with the initial Campaign, each clip will be supported by a Call to Action outlining simple steps that clubs and associations can undertake to initiate or continue their inclusion journey.

This next phase in the campaign aims to provide an impetus for grassroots sporting organisations to initiate or continue the conversation around diversity and inclusion by clearly outlining the benefits for individuals, sport and the community.....

[View 3 videos that support the campaign](#)

**Clearinghouse for Sport, May 2015. Community Sport Coaching. Author - Dr Ralph Richards, Senior Research Consultant, NSIC/Clearinghouse, Australian Sports Commission**

**Introduction**

The effective delivery of community sport programs relies upon the recruitment, engagement, and ongoing development of coaches. Coaches play a central role in organising sports participants, teaching sports skills and strategies, as well as improving athlete fitness and motivation to train and compete.

Overall, the coach-athlete relationship forms a key component in a participant's rationale for entering, and then continuing in a sport. The quality of coaching also contributes to a participant's satisfaction with his/her sporting experience and continued performance development.

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[View the full article](#)

**Clearinghouse for Sport, May 2015. Cultural Diversity and the Role of Sport. Author - Chris Hume, Senior Research Consultant, NSIC/Clearinghouse, Australian Sports Commission**

**Introduction**

Sport can play an important role in building inclusive communities. With one in four Australians born overseas and a further one in five having had at least one overseas-born parent (Migration, Australia 2013-14), [Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) (Catalogue No. 3412.0, 2015, Canberra), sports participation in Australia should be as equally culturally diverse and representative.

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[View the full article](#)

**Sydney Morning Herald (21 May 2015)**

**Australian Sports Commission missing its own female board representation target**

The Australian Sports Commission finds itself in the unfortunate position - even if temporarily - of failing to meet the same women-on-boards target it has mandated for national sports bodies.

As part of a much-publicised gender equity plan, the ASC says 40 per cent of directors' positions on sports boards should be filled by women. Yet on a soon-to-be transformed board that, as it stands, has seven voting directors and eight members in total, only one – former

Winter Olympic champion Alisa Camplin – is female, and her term to help steer the ASC is set to expire next month.

The office of federal health and sport minister, Sussan Ley, informed Fairfax Media on Wednesday that five new candidates for the ASC board have already been approached and are expected to soon be approved by cabinet.

In a written statement, Ley said the majority of those appointments would be women and that a number of new directors would be announced "in the next few weeks".....

[View the full news item](#)

## BARBADOS

### **Inside the games reports (24 May 2015)**

#### **Barbados Olympic Association host workshop aimed at development of women in sport**

A "Play Like a Girl!" Women and Sport Athlete Workshop has been hosted by the Barbados Olympic Association's (BOA) Women and Sport Commission, with the event hailed a resounding success.

The event, staged over two days, was aimed at motivating young Barbadian athletes and carried a theme of "It's not the Victory; it's the Struggle".

Around 40 girls aged between 14 and 18 attended the workshop, which involved various seminar sessions, interactive activities, goal-setting lectures and discussions concerning topics such as leadership and sport, mapping the female body, anti-doping, nutrition and sexual harassment in sport.

They were also treated to a tour of the National Olympic Museum at the Barbados Olympic Centre and it is hoped the sessions will inspire the youngsters to success in their future sporting careers.....

[View the full news item](#)

## CANADA

### **Vancouver Sun (24 May 2015)**

#### **Women in sports: Gender equity remains elusive**

Men still dominate in positions of authority, but a slight shift is occurring

There's no chance that the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup will be played on grass, like the men. But after the turf war retreats into history, Karina LeBlanc wants another issue placed in the gender blender for discussion: Parity at the coaching and management level.

The veteran goalkeeper of Canada's national soccer team believes the day is coming when the gap between men and women is breached in the boardroom and in front of the players' bench. The current World Cup team could play a role.

"Definitely, I see on this (Canadian) roster the next national team coach," LeBlanc says.

"Definitely, I see the next president of the CSA (Canadian Soccer Association) on this team."

The declaration is ambitious, but it's the next logical step in the evolution of Canadian women's soccer, LeBlanc believes.....

[View the full news item](#)

## ITALY

### **BBC reports (20 May 2015)**

#### **Coppa Italia Women cancelled after 'gay comment from official'**

The final of the Coppa Italia Women has been cancelled after a football official allegedly referred to female players as a "bunch of lesbians".

The comment was included in the written minutes of an amateur football meeting last week.

However, Felice Belloli, president of Italy's amateur football association, who is accused of making the statement, has denied doing so.

Brescia were due to face Tavagnacco in the final on Saturday.

There have been protests at female matches since the alleged comments were first reported.

Luisa Rizzitelli, president of Italy's national association for female athletes, said: "To be honest I thought it was a joke but when we realised it wasn't a joke we immediately wrote to the federation to ask for an immediate investigation.

"It's hugely damaging. We have a women's football movement with 11,000 athletes in Italy, you can imagine we have one million playing men's football.

"All the players have said to the federation that they don't want to play the final, so now the game is not going ahead. If he (Belloli) resigns the game could still be played."

The Italian Football Federation has said it is investigating the claim.

[Source of information](#)

## **JAPAN**

### **Inside the games reports (27 May 2015)**

#### **University of Tsukuba in Tokyo - Anti-Doping, Paralympics and women in sport latest topics examined at Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies short programme**

Challenges facing modern sport, including doping, improving the representation of women in sport, as well as the future of Paralympic sport, were discussed by students at the Tsukuba International Academy for Sport Studies here today.

The participants in the TIAS programme travelled to the University of Tsukuba, allowing them the opportunity to hear first-hand from top professors based at the University and take in the campus and its surroundings.....

Following the anti-doping talks, students then participated in sessions on 'Sport and International Development', which included a lively discussion led by Lila de Soysa, a University of Tsukuba researcher and member of the International Working Group for Women and Sport, on how to improve women's representation in sport.....

[View the full news item](#)

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

### **Inside the games reports (25 April 2015)**

#### **South Africa stage Women and Sport Working Group Session to further females role in sport**

The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) have staged the inaugural Women and Sport Working Group Session at Olympic House in Johannesburg.

Attended by more than 60 women from business, Non-Governmental Organisations and sporting groups, the session attempted to outline the role the women should take throughout society, particularly within sport.

SASCOC President Gideon Sam opened the session and encouraged women to support each other in moving into administrative roles within sport and claimed that at future assemblies strides made by women in National Federations, Provincial Confederations and any other sporting bodies should be noted.

“Women are here to strategise and are going to negotiate their rightful place in sports administration,” Sam said

“There is reluctance on the part of women sport administrators to support one another to get seats.

“Few women stand out and contest these positions.

“Some of the reasons could be issues of patriarchy in our society, cultural norms of the place women should take and therefore we totally ignore the constitutional dictates and carry on with life as usual.”.....

[View the full news item](#)

## **TURKEY**

### **Inside the games reports (3 May 2015)**

#### **Turkish Olympic Committee launches Active Kids project to tackle lack of physical activity**

The Turkish Olympic Committee (TOC) has announced a new “Active Kids” project aimed at addressing concerns over the lack of physical activity among young people.

In collaboration with Nike Turkey, the TOC launched the project with two pilot schools on the western and eastern sides of the capital Istanbul.

The project is inspired by Designed to Move, a framework for action which Nike co-developed in 2012 with more than 70 expert organisations aimed tackling inactivity throughout the world.

Taking place on weekends the programme will encourage children to be more active by allowing them to take part in a range of fun sporting activities under the supervision of qualified instructors at local schools.....

[View the full news item](#)

## UK

### **sports coach UK (26 April 2015)**

#### **Hundreds of female coaches inspired through Project 500**

A pilot campaign to boost the number of females in coaching has helped hundreds of women in the South East of England. Project 500, a successful two-year initiative to increase female coaches and participants in sport, has been supported by sports coach UK and delivered by the seven south east County Sport Partnerships (CSPs) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport.

Project 500 has trained and up-skilled more than 500 women as well as providing financial support for qualifications.

In addition to directly supporting 500 women coaches, a further 1,400 women have registered with Project 500 to date, with one third being new to coaching.

The project also tapped into the power of social media by creating a network of coaches on Facebook, promoting a culture of mentoring and co-coaching.

In March sports coach UK, the country's leading agency for coaching, launched its Women into Coaching campaign to highlight how encouraging more women into coaching would offer more choice and more coaches, which means more women participating in sport. **Check out our [handy guide to getting started in coaching](#).**

sports coach UK has identified that lack of appropriate female coaches is one of the main barriers preventing women taking part in sport. Although women coaches account for 30% of the workforce overall, the number of qualified female coaches drops to 17%.....

[View the full news item](#)

### **sports coach UK (28 - 29 April 2015)**

#### **Blogs – from women coaches:**

[Lead Talent Development Coach at England Hockey, Demy Dowley, discusses her journey into high profile coaching \(29 April 2015\)](#)

[Performance Athletics Coach and Paralympic Specialist Alison O'Riordan discusses the challenges she's faced in a male dominated industry \(28 April 2015\)](#)

[England Women's Cricket Under 19 Head Coach Salliann Briggs \(@salliannbriggs\) offers advice to aspiring female coaches \(28 April 2015\)](#)

### **Health Club Management reports (28 April 2015)**

#### **Women make up two thirds of fitness workforce: study**

More than two thirds of the UK fitness sector's workforce is female, according to the Working in Fitness Survey 2015.

The research – which saw SkillsActive and the Exercise, Movement and Dance Partnership (EMDP) survey 35,000 members of the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs) – found that 67 per cent of the workforce is female, with the industry's flexible hours highlighted as a prime factor in attracting more women.

“The fitness industry offers great benefits in terms of working flexible hours, which is probably why the sector attracts predominantly women,” said Jade Moulden, insight lead at EMDP.

“With 67 per cent of the fitness workforce consisting of women, it is an ideal career for those with families who can’t afford to have a regimented nine to five schedule and want the freedom of working for themselves. It offers excellent career opportunities.”

The survey also revealed that the average full-time salary in the sector is £22,700, with full-time working women earning 97 per cent of a full-time male salary. Though far from ideal, the industry's gender pay gap is far narrower than the overall UK average – which reflects a difference of 9.4 per cent between male and female full-time earnings across all sectors.....

[View the full news item](#)

### **ukactive (28 April 2015)**

#### **Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson confirmed as ukactive Chair as she sets vision for an active Britain for all**

Crossbench Peer Tanni Grey-Thompson was today announced as the new independent Chair of not-for-profit health body ukactive.

Baroness Grey-Thompson will turn her seasoned campaigning voice to the crucial issue of turning the tide of physical inactivity over the coming years and ensure that the next government turns rhetoric into action on the inactivity crisis.

Within the announcement that Baroness Grey-Thompson, who is one of the most successful British athletes of all time, set out clear objectives to drive ukactive's campaign to get Britain more active to the heart of future government policy.

These are:

- For the government to have created a long-term, cross-department strategy for the establishment of physical activity best practice across all public bodies
- For the existing work of the physical activity sector to be recognised by government as a key driver of health and wellbeing for the nation
- For the prioritisation of skills and a 'wellbeing workforce' to be recognised and actioned by the relevant government departments
- For physical activity to be a top-tier priority for Public Health England, and for preventative health, led by activity policy, to be a key priority for the Department of Health
- For local authorities and schools to have individual physical activity plans spanning the areas of active travel, leisure provision, active aging and to be supported by central government in the development of these strategies but also to be held to account by government

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[View the full news item](#)

## **British Universities and Colleges Sport (29 April 2015)**

### **This BUCS Girl Can Week [short report on events during the week]**

To support universities in capitalising on the conversations that Sport England's 'This Girl Can Campaign' started, BUCS asked its members to run some activity which was focused around female participation as part of the #ThisBUCSGirlCan week.

There were initially 12 institutions that registered their interest with a range of talks, sessions, workshops, female only gym space to name a few. By the end of the week 30 organisations were on board and using the #ThisBUCSGirlCan on twitter to promote their activities.....

[View the news item and access some videos of activities](#)

## **England Golf (7 May 2015)**

### **New help for golf clubs to target more women**

There's new help available for golf clubs to attract more women to play the sport and to become club members.

England Golf has produced a range of factsheets, supported by the findings from focus group research, golf clubs, other sports and other relevant insight.

Women account for only 15 per cent of golf club members in England and, on average, there are 50 vacancies for women per club. In major European countries women account for around 30 per cent of golf club members.....

The factsheets cover key areas including recruitment, retention, playing opportunities, membership, websites and social media, club environment and volunteers. Guidance on marketing and communication will be available shortly.

The key messages are underlined by focus group research carried out for England Golf by SPORTS MARKETING SURVEYS INC. This showed that:

- Women prefer to learn golf in a group where everyone is new to the game. They feel uncomfortable making their first attempts in the presence of people who are already competent.
- The social side of golf is very important to women. Introductory sessions should include time for a chat over coffee or a glass of wine.
- Taster sessions should highlight the fun side of the game.
- Equipment should be available so women can try the game and without spending much money.
- It's vital to challenge the view that golf clubs are not welcoming. Many women and young people are staying away from golf because of the misconception that clubs are elitist
- Flexibility is all-important, whether it's flexible membership packages or flexible ways of playing the game which take advantage of shorter formats.

To view a summary of the focus group research, please [click here](#).

.....  
The factsheets can be viewed and downloaded by clubs on England Golf [Clubhouse](#) or alternatively are available by [clicking here](#).

[View the full news item](#)

## **Community Sports Network (7 May 2015)**

### **First ever female to be elected onto RPA players board**

World Cup winning centre, Rachael Burford is the first ever female representative on Rugby Players' Association (RPA) Board.

Rachael Burford – who has 56 caps for England, was named The Sunday Times England Women's Player of the Year at the RPA Players' Awards 2014 and member of the victorious Women's Rugby World Cup squad – has been elected as the first professional female representative on the Rugby Players' Association (RPA) Players' Board.

The RPA Players' Board is made up of representatives from all 12 Aviva Premiership clubs, the most recently relegated Premiership club, England Sevens, and now following Burford's appointment, England Women.

The England Women's Sevens squad turned professional in August 2014 with 20 players being given full-time contracts, 12 of whom were members of the 15-a-side squad who lifted the World Cup.....

[View the full news item](#)

## **sports coach UK (14 May 2015)**

### **Blog: Gender equality in coaching – to feature strongly at the UK Coaching Summit Day 2, 3 June**

.....The forthcoming UK Coaching Summit at The Vale Resort in Cardiff (June 2-3) has a really positive focus on gender equality in coaching. Day 2 (June 3) has three sessions dedicated to this very subject:

Following a keynote from Toni James, adventurer and motivational speaker, the day kicks off with a debate focussing on women in coaching. The panel will present their thoughts in this area and then open up the floor to discuss the issues and identify ways forward.

This will be followed by an interactive seminar from Dr Leanne Norman and Dr Faye Diddymus (Leeds Beckett University). They will be presenting the findings of their ground breaking research around the careers, lives and wellbeing of female coaches.....

To whet your appetite and as a starter for 10, sports coach UK has created a couple of short films which highlight the importance of having more women coaching:

[Women in Coaching: The facts](#)

[Women in Coaching: The Ambition](#)

We all want more people playing our sport and being more active. Finding solutions to the retention of females in participation and increasing the numbers in our coaching family helps us all. Let's work together to recognise the current issues and find the solutions that really work.

All that is left is for you to take action: I look forward to seeing you in Cardiff. We have less than a month so please make sure you [book now](#) to avoid disappointment.

[View the full blog](#)

## **Women's Sport Trust (15 May 2015)**

### **Powerful impact of women's sport recognised at inaugural #BeAGameChanger Awards**

Women's sport was firmly in the spotlight last night as a high profile audience, including some of the country's leading athletes, politicians, journalists and corporate leaders, gathered in central London to celebrate the Women's Sport Trust #BeAGameChanger Awards.....

#### **Full list of #BeAGameChanger Award winners:**

Sporting Role Model sponsored by the Gym Group - Nicola Adams MBE

Ambassador of Women's Sport sponsored by Matrix Fitness - Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson

Inspiring Participation sponsored by Inclusion@Lloyds - This Girl Can

Inspiring Initiative - Wembley match – England v Germany

Media Organisation of the Year sponsored by the 30 Percent Club - BBC Sport

Imagery of the Year sponsored by KPMG - Skate Girls of Kabul

Journalist of the Year sponsored by Promote PR - Jessica Creighton

Sponsorship of the Year sponsored by activbod - Newton Investment Management and the Women's Boat Race

Outstanding Contribution to Women's Sport - Sue Mott

[View the full news item](#)

## **Women's Sport Trust (18 May 2015)**

### **Inclusion, Diversity and the Power of Sporting Role Models**

The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games provided many powerful role models from diverse backgrounds. It was great that athletes like Jessica Ennis-Hill, Mo Farah, Christine Ohuruogu, and Hannah Cockroft were celebrated but the common conclusion that this "proved" Great Britain was at ease with diversity was a fantasy.

Despite the positive black, Asian, brown, LGBT and disabled sporting role models on the field of play, off the field this representation only goes so far. If we want to achieve genuine equality then inclusion must be about representation at all levels. Research from Sporting Equals is startling; only 2 out of 45 individuals on National Governing bodies are black and minority ethnic people, with 35 white males and 8 white females.

Sport has a huge cultural and global presence and therefore provides a platform to shine a light on inequalities in a way few other cultural practices can. So sport itself comes to be seen to represent wider societal values, just as elite sportswomen and men become responsible as powerful role models.

As a woman of colour, racism and sexism doubly affect my own opportunities, so when an athlete of colour decides to take a stand about something beyond sport it is hugely inspiring to me. As demonstrated when Nicola Adams came out as bisexual long before other high profile athletes and to less media coverage.....

[View the full article](#)

## **The FA (21 May 2015)**

### **Rachel Brown-Finnis backs FA changes to mixed football**

From next season the age limit at which boys and girls can play football in the same teams has been raised.

The resolution to increase the mixed football age limit from U16s to U18s has been approved this week by The FA shareholders at an AGM after The FA board, FA executive and FA council agreed the proposal.

The move has been welcomed by former England goalkeeper Rachel Brown-Finnis, who hung up her gloves this season focus on coaching and a media career.....

The change will come into effect for the forthcoming 2015-16 season and will enable The FA to conduct further research into mixed football at this older age group.....

[View the full news item](#)

## **Women's Sport Week 1 – 7 June 2015**

Women's Sport Week is an opportunity for everybody involved with playing, delivering, leading or working in sport to celebrate, raise awareness and increase the profile of women's sport across the UK.

The week is being led by Women in Sport, supported by National Governing Bodies, Sky Sports, the BBC, Sport England and supporters from across the sport sector.

Keep an eye out below for some of the highlights of Women's Sport Week, and join the conversation on social media using #WSW2015

[Source of information](#)

## **Leeds Beckett University (26 May 2015)**

### **Study to investigate barriers to women becoming football coaches**

A Leeds Beckett University researcher has received £15,000 of funding from the English Football Association (FA) to investigate the career pathways and the experiences of women football coaches.

Dr Leanne Norman, a Senior Research Fellow at the University's Research Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure, will lead the research study, focusing on the experiences of women coaches moving from the middle levels of the coaching pathway into more elite levels of the profession.

Dr Norman will also examine the experience of women as tutors and coach educators. She aims to identify the barriers and facilitators to women's progression and their intent to remain as coaches and tutors within football. The work will also put any findings into the wider context of gender equality.

There are around 1400 women qualified at level one of the football coaching pathway and this then steadily decreases by around 70% when progressing through each of the five levels of the coaching qualifications. This has a knock-on effect for the identification of women as football tutors (coach educators) as individuals cannot become tutors until they reach level three (UEFA B license) of the coaching ladder.....

It is hoped that the findings of the study, which will begin in September and run for six months, will underpin some of the FA's strategies and policies towards promoting and retaining women

as football coaches and tutors. Dr. Norman will be working with a number of individuals within the FA to deliver the project and will be assisted by AJ Rankin, a research assistant at Leeds Beckett.

[View the full news item](#)

**What sways women to play sport? Using influencers to unlock opportunities that positively impact women's sport behaviour. Women in Sport, April 2015 (19 pages)**

What influences women's sporting participation? Who are the key influencers when it comes to women's sporting participation?

This landmark new research report, funded by Sport England and based on research conducted by The Behavioural Architects uses a behaviour change model to identify opportunities for sport to better make use of influence figures.

[Download a copy](#)

**Surveying your female students: Finding out their thoughts. Women in Sport, April 2015 (19 pages)**

This document forms part of the Further Education resources hub and is designed to help education sport deliverers engage female students in a way that will help them build physical activity habits for life.

[Download a copy](#)

**Physical Activity Statistics 2015. British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention. Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. British Heart Foundation, dated February 2015, released May 2015 (128 pages)**

This publication is an update to the supplement we published in 2012 on physical activity. The new report highlights the importance of physical activity in cardiovascular health, and takes advantage of the opportunity to align our statistics with the UK Chief Medical Officers' recommendations on physical activity published in 2011. Despite these recommendations providing more flexibility towards achieving physical activity goals, our data show that there has been little change in the proportion of individuals reaching the recommended activity levels and recent figures still highlight the differences found between sexes and across ages.

Currently, individuals are able to meet the physical activity recommendations but still spend most of their time sedentary. This is a concern as evidence is gathering that sedentary behaviour, that in which energy expenditure is very low, is strongly associated with poor health, independent of overall physical activity levels. Our data suggest that levels of sedentary behaviour remain stubbornly high in the UK. The BHF endorses Public Health England's (PHE) recent report Get Everybody Active Every Day. We must find ways to make physical activity an important part of everyone's daily routine. This is particularly important for children where the data show a rapid drop-off in activity levels in girls in their teenage years. It is a concern that there is less focus on physical education and sport in secondary schools than in primary, with considerable variation between schools and regions.

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## YEMEN

### **BBC UK reports (20 May 2015)**

#### **Why some people are blaming war for...women on bikes**

War is tearing Yemen apart, and the news is unrelentingly grim. But some Yemenis have been raging not about fighting, airstrikes, or severe food shortages, but instead about... women on bikes.

[Bushra Al-Fusail](#) is a young female photographer who's pushing one solution to severe petrol shortages caused by the conflict in Yemen: bicycles.

"In 2011 when there were fuel shortages we could still find petrol in the black market," she explains, "but things are so bad right now that we can't even find a black market." Last week Al-Fusail launched a campaign to encourage Yemeni women and girls to hop in the saddle with [a Facebook event called "Let's ride a bike."](#)

Unlike in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, women in Yemen can drive and it's common to see women in cars zipping around the capital Sanaa. But female bike riding is almost unheard of - many conservative Yemenis believe it's immodest or shows off too much of a woman's body.

"I see men cycling everywhere," Al-Fusail says. "So I thought, why can't we ride bikes too? After all, it's not illegal, it just needs bravery."

Hundreds hit the "I'm attending" button on the Facebook event, but when the day came only 15 women actually joined the ride in Sanaa on 16 May. "Most girls in Yemen don't know how to ride a bike," Al-Fusail explains, "and many of those who could were either afraid or not allowed by their parents or husbands."

But while the response to the event itself was small, as soon as pictures of the girls riding bikes were shared online, they were met with a wave of rage - mostly from men who were sharing the photos with captions along the lines of: "This is what this war has brought.".....

[View the full news item](#)

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