

2016 Rio Paralympic Games Athlete Profile: Stephen McGuire



Date of birth	18 August 1984
Home town	Hamilton, South Lanarkshire
Occupation	Full time athlete with GB Boccia Federation
Sport	Boccia
<u>Classification</u>	BC4
Events	BC4 Individual and BC4 Pairs
Club	Scottish Disability Sport
Coach	Claire Morrison

Personal Bests

- Double silver at 2010 World Championship in Lisbon
- Double 2009 & 2013 European Champion in Povoá
- Two 4th places at 2012 London Paralympics
- Nine times British Champion in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 & 2015

How and when did you become involved with your sport?

My dream was to become a Paralympic athlete. In 2005 I set out to trial sports which could get me there and came across the Head Coach of Scottish Boccia and GB Boccia, Jacqueline Lynn. Jacqueline invited me to join the Scottish squad and within six months I was participating at the European Championships. Under her guidance and support I was able to make an impact within the initial few years.

Jacqueline retired after her team won gold at the Beijing Paralympics in 2008 and I then was extremely fortunate to be coached by Jim Thompson who took me into the medal zones of European and world level events. I was then able to sustain a level and attained my dream of participating at a home Paralympic Games as World No 2, achieving two fourth place finishes. I've been fortunate enough to be coached by some of the world's best and attain my dream of attending a Paralympic Games. I've been fortunate enough to win multiple world and European medals and my focus now shifts to winning a Paralympic medal.

Sporting Highlights

I've managed to win ten major international medals with available ranking points. My first success was winning gold at the 2009 Europeans in the Pairs event alongside my brother and London Paralympic partner Peter. The following year was my most successful, winning two world championship silvers. Since then I've managed to achieve:

- Silver in the 2011 European Cup in Norway
- Two fourth place finishes at the 2012 London Paralympics
- Gold in the 2013 European Championships in Portugal
- Bronze at the 2014 World Open in Montreal
- Double silver medal in the 2014 World Open in Portugal
- Silver at the 2015 European Cup in Barcelona
- Silver at the 2015 European Team & Pairs in London

Sporting Goals

My focus has shifted to achieving a Paralympic medal. After I finish competing I'd like to move into coaching boccia, finding talent and nurturing players to fulfil their sporting ambitions.

One piece of advice for an aspiring athlete?

Age, gender and disability are no barrier; the limitation you have comes from your mind. Think positive, dream big and you can achieve it.

Contact your local council, research sporting opportunities and don't be afraid. There are opportunities for everyone at multiple levels.



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