



Claire is a passionate, committed, conscientious and inspirational coach, developing high performance boccia players in the world arena. She is totally solution-focussed, ensuring that her players always come first and foremost. She has nurtured players to the highest performance level with considerable medal success and she is without doubt a very talented and able coach.

### **Coaching Career and Background**

In July 2013 Claire became the first full time paid GB coach. Up until this time, Claire coached boccia at a Scottish and GB level in a voluntary capacity. Over the past 13 years Claire has been integral to the coaching fabric of boccia in Scotland. She coaches full time across Great Britain and Northern Ireland involved in week-long coaching camps, mini camps and individual sessions held for GB squad members. She still maintains her voluntary role as Scottish National Coach, and works with three squad coaches to develop and build the Scottish team.

Claire has made a major contribution to boccia coaching over the past four years. She has been instrumental in creating the Level 2 UKCC qualification and is in the process of driving forward a boccia curriculum, player and coach pathway and creating the underlying principles for boccia coaching in the UK as part of a working group.

She is the lead trainer for boccia at Levels 1 and 2 and led the pilot Level 2 course in August 2013. She supports and nurtures a number of boccia coaches, hence she has a huge impact on the boccia coaching, education and development programme.

Claire, by her enthusiasm, positivity, determination and commitment, inspires a multitude of coaches and key personnel - officials, event organisers, volunteers and players - to perform at their optimum and give of their best. Claire has a significant impact on the local, national and GB boccia worlds.

### **Paralympic and International Coaching**

Having attended the 2012 Paralympic Games as an assistant coach, Claire will be coaching the GB BC4 Pair and individual BC1, 2 and 4 throwers at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

At the recent World Individual Championships, there was gold medal success for Stephen McGuire in the BC4, and a bronze medal for David Smith in the BC1. There is real medal potential for boccia players in Rio 2016, and with Scotland having six out of the 10 players within the GB squad it is an exciting time for Scotland. Claire has coached each of the Scots at different stages of their career.

## Successes

The achievements of the players Claire has coached over the past Paralympic cycle are impressive.

- March 2016 - World Individuals in Beijing: BC1 individual bronze; BC4 individual gold
- June 2016 - World Open in Portugal: BC1 individual gold; BC2 individual bronze; BC4 individual bronze
- April 2015 - Continental Cup in Spain: BC4 pairs silver; BC1 individual bronze; BC2 individual gold; BC2 individual silver; BC4 individual gold
- 2015 - World Open in Poznan: BC1 individual silver
- 2015 - European Team & Pairs in Surrey: BC4 pairs silver
- 2014 - World Open Championships in Montreal: BC4 pairs bronze; BC1 individual bronze
- 2014 - World Open in Povoas: BC4 pairs silver; BC1 individual bronze; BC4 individual silver
- 2014 - World Championships in Beijing: BC1 individual gold
- 2013 - European Boccia Championships in Portugal: BC1/2 team gold; BC 4 pairs gold; BC1 individual gold

## Sporting Goals

For the athletes to achieve their medal potential in Rio.

## One piece of advice for an aspiring coach?

Never stop learning and enjoy the moments, as they come and go so quickly.

## What inspires you?

To be the best that I can in order to get the best out of the athletes.

## Who motivates you?

The players.

## What next?

Rio ... then Tokyo ...