

SPORT



NEW CHALLENGE: Charlotte Colburn in training and on the water

Charlotte is ready to make waves in rowing

By Lauren Barclay

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A ROWER from Oldham has her sights set on representing Great British Rowing at the Paralympic Games.

Charlotte Colburn, who has lived in the town all her life, is currently training on the British Rowing Paralympic pathway and hopes to represent her country in one of the future Games.

"I would love to make it to the Paralympic Games, but I know that's quite far away," said the 26-year-old.

"I would like to this year maybe go to Henley Women's with the women's squad at Agecroft."

Charlotte started rowing just over two years ago after wanting to take on a new challenge.

Discussing why she chose rowing in particular Colburn said: "In the past, I did CrossFit, I even went to the CrossFit Games, and I also did a bit of body building before that which was fun."

"I fancied a challenge of starting a new sport and I really enjoyed going on the rowing machine, so I thought I would message British Rowing and see if they had anything for me."

She currently trains in Salford Quays at Agecroft Rowing club, where alongside her GB para-program she is part of the women's squad.

Training 12 times a week, often two sessions a day, being part of a team gives Colburn the motivation needed to get through the sometimes-gruel-



CROSSING SPORTS: Charlotte Colburn took part in the Crossfit Games before switching to rowing

ling training program.

She said: "I sometimes have to train alone, but I am also part of the women's squad. It's nice to be part of a team and have others around to motivate me during training."

Rowing made its Paralympic debut at Beijing in 2008. The GB team has been hugely successful winning 50 per cent of the gold medals awarded

in Paralympic rowing since its introduction. British Rowing are always on the lookout for new athletes to join their para-squad and several rowing clubs across the country now offer adaptive rowing.

British rowing are ambassadors that rowing is for everyone, regardless of any disability.

Colburn hopes that her jour-

ney in the sport will inspire others with disabilities to give rowing a go.

"I don't think there are many other rowers, missing a hand or with a limb difference or anything, and I didn't think I would be able to do it at first."

She added: "So, I hope in some way its inspiring, or at least inspires people to have a go because you never know."

Cup final promises to be a cracker

SADDLEWORTH Rangers will play Waterhead Warriors in what promises to be a classic Standard Cup Final at Oldham RU Club's Manor Park ground at Bardsley on Good Friday, April 15, kick-off 11.45am.

In an action-packed day for rugby league fans, Oldham RLFC play derby rivals Rochdale Hornets at the Crown Oil Arena with a 3pm kick-off on the same day.

The Oldham Players' Association, chaired by Mike Elliott and mainly administered by Joe Warburton (secretary), John Watkins and Ray Hicks, will have a presence at both games.

Saddleworth Rangers are in division One of the National Conference, while Waterhead Warriors operate in Division Three.

Having strengthened their squad this year with the recruitment from Roughyeds of Gareth Owen, Phil Joy and Danny Bridge, Waterhead old boys returning to where it all began, they are fancied to win promotion from Division Three.

They have underlined their billing by winning through to the final of the BARLA National Cup.

As a curtain-raiser to the final, the under-11s from both clubs will go head-to-head in the Johnny Blair Memorial game, kicking off at 10.30am.

Linda, the late Johnny's wife, will present the boys with commemorative medals after the game.

Admission to both games will be £5 for adults and £3 for concessions and children.

The Oldham Amateur League will give out free tickets to the under-11s at all member clubs which run youth and junior teams.

Said league secretary Phil Bradbury: "Former winners of the Ben Powell man-of-the-match trophy in the Final also get free tickets."

"The Final is the highlight of the local rugby league grassroots scene and, as such, is well supported. This year, with the attendances currently being generated by both the Warriors and the Rangers, we are hoping for a cracking crowd."

There may be one fan travelling 12,000 miles to be at the big showdown. Roy Jewitt, twice a winner of the Ben Powell Trophy in the 1990s, is hoping to make it from his home in Australia.