

Rochdale Goalball Club

Paul Jackson

26 year-old Paul from Rochdale has been playing goalball for 13 years. He started in 1995 when still at school but took some time to get accustomed to the game. Nevertheless, he has since developed into a nationally recognised player and was rewarded with a call-up to the GB men's squad in 2007.



Paul is perhaps the most dedicated and enthusiastic player in Rochdale Goalball Club. Prior to breaking his leg last year he had not missed a single training session or tournament since he started playing and always gives of his best.

Paul has recently been invited to join a GB select team to participate in an international invitational event to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in early February.

Emma Jones

22 year-old Emma from Middleton has been playing goalball since she lost her sight as an 11 year-old in 1996. From her first tournament in Bradford in 1996 to the present day she remains as committed and enthusiastic as ever.



Emma started with Rochdale Goalball Club as a complete novice but over the years she progressed until she came to the attention of the GB national coaches in 2001. In this year she was selected to represent the GB junior ladies in an annual tournament in Florida USA but the event had to be cancelled due to the terrorist attack of 9/11. Nevertheless, Emma retained her place in the squad and was rewarded with a recall to the team the following year. The girls won the event in 2002 and were runners-up the following year.

Emma then started at college and pressure of work meant that she was unable continue with GB goalball. She continued to represent Rochdale at national events whenever possible and has helped the club win numerous tournaments over the years.

On leaving college in 2007 and following some impressive displays for Rochdale in national events and during an international invitational event in Holland, Emma earned a call-up to the GB senior ladies squad. Her performances in training have led her to be selected to represent her country again in international events in Finland and Sweden in early 2008, as part of the long build up to the 2012 Paralympic games.

For more information on Goalball visit www.rochdalegoalball.co.uk