

## News and Resource Update December 2016: 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:



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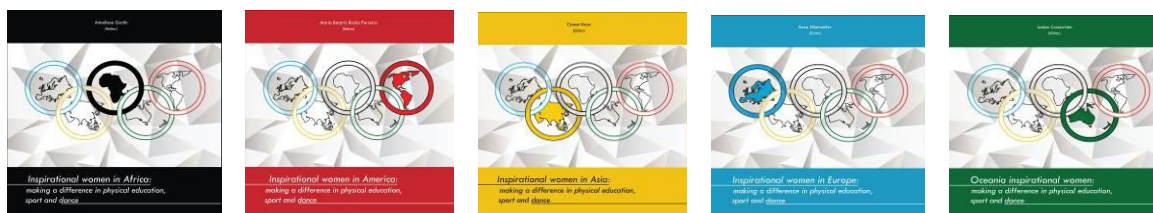


*It has been another busy year for IAPESGW, with members attending many key conferences and international events.*

*We have also been finalising details for our 18th Congress at Barry University, Florida - we hope to see you all there in May 2017!*

*Our sincere thanks to all those involved in delivering events, representing us at key conferences and supporting our work around the world.*

*Season's Greetings and best wishes for a healthy, active and happy New Year.*



**IAPESGW Five Continents Series of Books - launched at the ICSEMIS Conference in Santos, Brazil on 2 September 2016:**

- **Inspirational women in Africa: making a difference in physical education, sport and dance. Edited by Anneliese Goslin (258 pages)**
- **Inspirational women in America: making a difference in physical education, sport and dance. Edited by Maria Beatriz Rocha Ferreira (198 pages)**
- **Inspirational women in Asia: making a difference in physical education, sport and dance. Edited by Canan Koca (276 pages)**
- **Inspirational women in Europe: making a difference in physical education, sport and dance. Edited by Rosa Diketmüller by (256 pages)**
- **Inspirational women in Oceania: making a difference in physical education, sport and dance. Edited by Janice Crosswhite (243 pages)**

Please access the books via:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B441cCHT7g1hcmFzejdTUkUtWHc>

**IAPESGW 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress - *Women and Girls in Sport: Research to Action*  
Barry University, Florida, USA 17 – 21 May 2017**

Themes:

- Pedagogy of Physical Education, Sport, and Dance
- Lifelong Physical Activity for All
- Global to Local Initiatives and Assessment
- Sport Sciences

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN - to book your place on our 18th Congress please [visit the booking website](#) - early bird rates are available up to 20 January 2017**

**IAPESGW Website - the current position (December 2016)**

**Editor / web manager** - Firstly, I must apologise to any members experiencing difficulties accessing the IAPESGW website over recent weeks, this has been due to the site hosts 'taking down' the site due to hacking activities beyond their and our control.

The site has experienced previous malicious 'hacking' activities that we have been able to cope with and repair any damage caused. However, the site is currently managed through an old system that is very vulnerable to attack and we have had to look at resolving this problem in the long run. So, we are in process of transferring the site to a more up-to-date, safer management system - but this will take a little time. **Currently, you can view both the \*old**

and new sites - the old site having the address at: <http://www.iapesgw.org.uk/>; the new site, under development, at: <http://www.iapesgw.org/>

I hope you will bear with us whilst we make these important changes that will offer IAPESGW a more secure website for future use.

**\* Currently my computer's security service warns that this is not a 'safe site' to visit even though it does still seem to be available. I assume that our site host will react to this by taking the site down very soon.**

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## International

### Inside the games reports (1 December 2016)

#### Tennis star Williams hits out at inequality and urges focus to be on achievements not gender

Serena Williams has hit out at gender inequality and criticised how she is described as one of the "world's greatest female athletes" in an open letter, published by the Women's Tennis Association.

The American, a 22-time Grand Slam singles champion, wrote the letter as part of Porter Magazine's 'Incredible Women of 2016' issue and claimed she was frustrated by the issue of pay in the men's and women's game.

"When the subject of equal pay comes up, it frustrates me because I know first-hand that I, like you, have done the same work and made the same sacrifices as our male counterparts," Williams wrote.

"I would never want my daughter to be paid less than my son for the same work.

"Nor would you."

The topic was a subject of controversy early in 2016, when former Indian Wells chief executive Raymond Moore claimed that the women's game "rides on the coat-tails of the men".

On the eve of the tournament in March, he stated that "if I was a lady player, I'd go down every night on my knees and thank God that Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal were born, because they have carried this sport".

His comments were fiercely criticised by Williams as "mistaken and very, very, very inaccurate", with Moore ultimately resigning from his post as a consequence of the controversy.

Serbia's Novak Djokovic had claimed the statements were "not politically correct", but suggested that men could be paid more prize money on the basis that more people watched the men's game and that money could be distributed based on "who attracts more attention, spectators and who sells more tickets".

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[View the full news item](#)

### Inside the games reports (6 December 2016)

#### Peace and Sport's Champions Club recruits 11 new members

Eleven athletes from the world of sport have joined the Peace and Sport "Champions for Peace club" - becoming role-models, heroes and a source of inspiration for young people

throughout the world as they use their fame to serve projects which use sport to tackle social issues.

Launched in 2009, the Champions for Peace club provides athletes with a structure for action, so that the impact of their commitment to peace through sports projects reaches the widest possible audience.

Their combined action and their determination helps to demonstrate that sport can be more than performance alone and play a genuine role to serve society.

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Professional squash player Maria Toorpakai of Pakistan has also joined the club.

She comes from a region of the world where girls are not allowed to practice sport and was forced to disguise herself as a boy for the first 16 years of her life to play competitive sport.

Toorpakai defends the rights of women in Pakistan and has set up a foundation encouraging families to educate girls and allow them to play sport.

Algerian athlete Nouria Benida-Merah has also been made a champion for peace. The Olympic Champion in the 1,500 metres at Sydney 2000, Benida-Merah is committed to helping women in her country and is part of the Algerian National Olympic Committee.

France's Marlene Harnois, the London 2012 Olympic bronze medallist in taekwondo, was another new member of the club. Since the end of her career Harnois has worked to promote the values of sport and education, particularly in West Africa.

She supports young people practicing taekwondo in the Ivory Coast, two of which were recent medallists in the Rio Olympics.

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[View the full news item](#)

*For awareness of the initiative - not promoting donations.....*

### **Beyond Sport reports (5 December 2016)**

#### **Skateistan pushes for girls empowerment through their latest fundraising campaign, Give Her Five!**

[Skateistan](#), the non-profit organization which uses skateboarding and education for youth

empowerment unveils a new fundraising campaign, "Give Her Five". The campaign highlights the positive impact Skateistan is having on the lives of girls in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa. It launches with an inspiring animation called "[Her Story](#)" about an Afghan girl empowered by skateboarding and education.

From December 5th, Skateistan is asking the public to [Give Her Five](#) by donating \$5 in a bid to raise \$100,000 by December 31st. Skateistan believes girls have an equal right to be safe, play sport, go to school, have confidence and become leaders. 50% of their students are girls. At their Skate Schools in Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa, girls are skateboarding and learning together in much-needed safe spaces. Since 2009, skateboarding has proven to be a powerful tool for girls to access education, with Afghanistan being home to the highest percentage of female skateboarders in the world.

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[View the full news item](#) - *and view the short animation*

## **British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health in the UK reports (5 December 2016)**

### **Bangkok declaration on physical activity**

Delegates at the [International Society for Physical Activity and Health \(ISPAH\) conference](#) issued a declaration on physical activity to achieve global health and sustainable development.

This declaration outlines six strategic areas for investment and action at country, regional and global levels, which if implemented in all countries, would advance progress towards achieving the 2025 target of increasing levels of physical activity by 10%.

The declaration identifies the specific sustainable development goals that reducing inactivity would contribute to, including healthy lives and promoting wellbeing, quality education, **gender equity**, reduced inequalities, inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities, climate change and peaceful and inclusive societies.

The declaration calls upon international agencies, governments, policy makers, donors and stakeholders to raise the priority, investment and implementation of effective actions to increase physical activity and reduce sedentary behaviour, and to work together to maximise the potential of their combined resources to meet the 2030 Agenda's health and sustainable development goals.

This includes six strategic areas for investment and action:

1. Renew commitments to invest in and implement at scale and pace policy actions to decrease physical inactivity across the life course as a contribution to reducing the global burden of NCDs and achieving 2030 Agenda goals.
2. Establish national multi-sector engagement and co-ordination platforms.
3. Develop workforce capabilities.
4. Increase technical assistance and share experience.
5. Strengthen monitoring and surveillance.
6. Support and promote collaboration, research, and policy evaluation.

[DOWNLOAD: The Bangkok declaration on physical activity for global health and sustainable development](#)

### **Source of information**

## **The Conversation (12 December 2016)**

### **Women are missing in sport leadership, and it's time that changed - article from [Johanna Adriaanse](#) , Adjunct associate, University of Technology Sydney**

Women's leadership reached a historic milestone in 2016: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister Theresa May lead two of the world's top economies. Elsewhere, Christine Lagarde, head of the International Monetary Fund, and Janet Yellen, chair of the board of governors of the US Federal Reserve, are in charge of major global financial institutions. This represents a significant shift in gender dynamics in the political and economic realms, even with Hillary Clinton falling short of becoming the first woman president of the United States.

While women have seats at the table where major economic and financial decisions are made, they have not yet reached the top leadership positions in sport. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIFA, football's international governing body, widely regarded as the most prestigious and influential sport organisations, have never been led by a woman. Since the IOC's inception in 1894, its president [has been a man](#); FIFA has similarly had [a man in charge](#) since its establishment more than a century ago.



My latest research, based on the [Sydney Scoreboard Global Index](#) for Women in Sport Leadership, shows that women chaired only 7% (5 of 70) of international sport federations in 2016 (see table below). This is the same as in 2012, so no positive change has been achieved in the past four years. Women occupied 19% (12 of 64) of chief executive positions in 2016, up from 8% in 2012.

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[View the full article](#)

#### **Inside the games reports (13 December 2016)**

##### **Japan's Olympic women's doubles champions earn BWF Female Player of the Year honour**

Japan's Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi were jointly named Badminton World Federation (BWF) Female Player of the Year here this evening, while Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei earned the men's honour.

Matsutomo and Takahashi were recognised for a superb series of displays throughout the duration of the season at the BWF Players of the Year Awards Gala, which proceeds this week's Dubai World Superseries Finals.

The pairing top the women's doubles rankings and claimed gold at Rio 2016, with their Olympic final victory over Denmark's Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl providing the highlight of their year.

Matsutomo and Takahashi also became the first Japanese women's doubles players to win the All England Open since 1978, while they secured a further three Superseries titles in India, Indonesia and Japan.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Inside the games reports (6 December 2016)**

##### **Muay thai and cheerleading provisionally recognised by IOC Executive Board**

The International Cheer Union (ICU) and the International Federation of Muaythai Amateur (IFMA) have been provisionally recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Both bodies were accepted following a discussion at today's IOC Executive Board meeting here.

Sixteen International Federations (IFs) applied.

The successful duo will now be eligible for IOC development funding and will become members of the Association of IOC Recognised International Federations (ARISF).

It means there are now 37 full or provisional ARISF members.

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Their provisional membership lasts for up to three years, and they can only be made full members by an IOC Session - so at Lima in September 2017 at the earliest.

They cannot be considered for the programme at any form of the Olympic Games until then.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Inside the games reports (24 December 2016)**

### **Former British Open winner appointed first Player President of Ladies European Tour**

Former British Open champion Helen Alfredsson has been appointed the first Player President of the Ladies European Tour (LET).

The 51-year-old Swede will be an ambassador for the LET in the newly-created role.

She will work closely with the Players' Council, chief executive Ivan Khodabakhsh and chairman Mark Lichtenhein, who is another new appointment.

Together they will aim to promote the organisation, acting as a bridge between the Board and members.

Alfredsson, a life member of the LET, joined the Tour in 1989 and competed for 25 seasons before stepping away from competitive play at the 2013 Helsingborg Open in her homeland.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **[J Sports Sci.](#) 2016 Nov 21:1-7. [Epub ahead of print] Low fundamental movement skill proficiency is associated with high BMI and body fatness in girls but not boys aged 6-11 years old. Duncan, M J et al**

#### Abstract

This study examined differences in children's body mass index (BMI) and body fatness (BF%) as a function of gender and fundamental movement skill (FMS) proficiency.

Following ethics approval and parental consent, 248, 6-11 year-old children (112 boys, 136 girls) underwent assessment of 7 FMS: sprint run, side gallop, hop, kick, catch, throw and vertical jump. FMS tertiles ("high", "medium" or "low" FMS) were created based on the summed components of the FMS. Skinfold measures were used to calculate BF%. Physical activity (PA) was assessed using pedometry and maturation predicted using anthropometry. Data were analysed using a 2 (Gender) × 3 (FMS tertile) ways analysis of covariance (ANCOVA), controlling for age, maturation and PA. Age ( $P = .001$ ) and maturation ( $P = .006$ ) were associated with BMI.

Girls classified as high FMS proficiency had significantly lower BMI compared to girls with low and medium FMS proficiency. Age ( $P = .0001$ ) and maturation ( $P = .007$ ) were associated with BF%. BF% was also higher for girls with low FMS compared to those with medium and high FMS. BF% and BMI were not different across FMS tertile in boys.

Such findings suggest focusing on FMS may be especially important for healthy weight, particularly in girls.

[Source of information](#)

## **Specific countries**

### **AFGHANISTAN**

#### **Beyond Sport (5 December 2016)**

#### **Kabul's 1st Female-Only Fitness Club Part Of The Movement Of Women's Empowerment In Afghanistan**

In a world where there are many countries which don't afford women the same rights as men, there are other outlets that have become the "loophole", if you will, for women to speak out and exert their power in a different way. One of those outlets is sports. In many conservative

nations, women are forbidden from publicly playing or competing in sport, let alone against the opposite sex.

In Afghanistan, under the Taliban rule women were prohibited from playing sport, but under the democratic government since 2001, women have competed in the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic games. On an international front, that is a major step forward. But the real change happens when women in every community around the nation has the freedom to participate in an athletic activity without the fear of being shunned, ostracized, or threatened.

In the capital city of Kabul, the first ever female-only fitness club has opened a few months ago by a young businesswoman determined to instill courage and empowerment in women. Tahmina Mahid Nuristani, 20, opened Blue Moon Fitness Club and told the media she wants to promote a healthy lifestyle and sports among women despite the prevailing patriarchal culture.

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[View the full news item](#)

## AUSTRALIA

**ABC News (19 December 2016)**

**Brittany Carter: Top 10 moments in Australian women's sport in 2016**

Who ever thought it would be considered cliché to use 'watershed' and 'women's sport' in the same sentence?

Female athletes themselves will tell you how incredible the influx in attention and support has been over the past two years, and yet I find myself struggling to pick the very best from an endless list of achievements Aussies have tallied up this year.

Here we relive 2016's top 10 moments where sportswomen defied the odds, forced their way to centre stage and demanded the recognition they have so long deserved.

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[View the full news item](#)

## CANADA

**Inside the games reports (7 December 2016)**

**Commonwealth Games Canada announce three new board members**

**Martha Deacon**, Simon Farbrother and **Karen Hacker** have been elected as members of the Board of Directors at Commonwealth Games Canada (CGC).

The trio were elected to the positions at the CGC's Annual General Meeting, which took place in Edmonton, Alberta.

Deacon is a well-known Canadian sports leader and acted as Canada's Chef de Mission for the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games, as well as being involved as a coach or team leader at five editions of the Games and the Olympics.

The Canadian Olympic Committee Executive Board member has a background in badminton and is currently consulting in organisational excellence.

She is joined by Farbrother, who in his former role at the City of Edmonton was involved in attracting high profile sporting events.

This included the FIFA Women's World Cup and Olympic qualifiers, while he was also the vice-chair of Edmonton's bid to host the 2022 Commonwealth Games, before falling oil prices brought an end to the effort.



Hacker was the third member elected to the board, with the lawyer coming fresh from spending five years working on the Toronto 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games Organising Committee.

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[View the full news item](#)

#### **Inside the games reports (7 December 2016)**

##### **North Bay awarded 2018 World Women's Curling Championship**

The 2018 World Women's Curling Championship will be held in North Bay in Canada, the World Curling Federation (WCF) has confirmed.

The tournament will be staged at the North Bay Memorial Gardens in the Ontario city, which will be hosting its debut WCF event, between March 17 and 25.

The venue can seat just over 4,000 fans for ice hockey games when the Ontario Hockey League's North Bay Battalion are in action.

"It is my pleasure to confirm that we will be taking the Ford World Women's Curling Championship 2018 into new territory in Canada, with North Bay, Ontario, the host city," said Kate Caithness, President of the WCF.

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[View the full news item](#)

**Karin Lofstrom** - I recently worked on this project in Canada and a final report has been produced which will be of interest to some readers:

**Cragg, S., C. Costas-Bradstreet, J. Arkell & K. Lofstrom. *Policy and program considerations for increasing sport participation among members of under-represented groups in Canada*. Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 2016 (71 pages)**

[It is now available to download](#)

## **INDIA**

#### **Inside the games reports (13 December 2016)**

##### **Nehwal eager to learn after honour of becoming IOC Athletes' Commission member**

Indian badminton player Saina Nehwal has claimed it was a "great honour" to be named as a International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission member and will aim to learn as much as possible to be a success in the role.

She was among four new representatives appointed to the 20-strong body in October, although they are not full members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Argentinian basketball star Luis Scola, Egyptian modern pentathlete Aya Medany and Jordan taekwondo ace Nadin Dawani were also selected.

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[View the full news item](#)

## ITALY

### **Inside the games reports (29 December 2016)**

#### **Vio crowns superb year with Italian of the Year by Catholic Award**

Wheelchair fencing star Beatrice Vio has been named Italian of the Year by Catholic weekly magazine Famiglia Cristiana.

The 19-year-old sensation enjoyed a sublime year in 2016, the highlight of which came when she won the gold medal in the foil B category at the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Vio was also chosen to attend the final state dinner hosted by Barack Obama at the White House in October, when the President welcomed former Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Famiglia Cristiana editor-in-chief Antonio Rizzolo told Italian news agency ANSA that Vio was given the award "for her explosive vitality, for her courage and even her taste in accepting the challenges life has set before her".

Rizzolo also praised Vio for revolutionising "any preconceived idea on disability".

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[View the full news item](#)

## MEXICO

### **Beyond Sport reports (13 December 2016)**

#### **A Mexican NGO is on a mission to empower Indigenous women**

After starting a revolution in her own community, Guadalupe García, Mulyd founder, took football to address the challenges faced by indigenous women, in particular Mazahua women, including poverty, violence, marginalisation and discrimination, lack of opportunities and poor education.

"I started to play football as an act of rebellion, my brothers saw it was something wrong, but to me it was empowering" said Guadalupe.

"We know that violence is very common in Mexico. However, the situation is worst when it comes to indigenous women. First because we are women, then because we are poor and third because we are indigenous. There is a lot of violence and sexism within the communities and this often leads to the death of many women." said Guadalupe.

Through football sessions and workshops Guadalupe and Mulyd are helping Mazahua girls strengthen their leadership skills, increase the knowledge of their sexual and reproductive rights and increase the levels of awareness of gender-based violence and discrimination.

In only seven years, the multiplying effect of the project has seen its first three players receive bursaries to study and practice football at the highest level in Mexico, created new opportunities for girls, and took the NGO to new heights.

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[View the full news item](#)

## NEW ZEALAND

### **Inside the games reports (27 December 2016)**

#### **Double Commonwealth Games medallist lands new role at Squash New Zealand**

Double Commonwealth Games medallist Shelley Kitchen has been appointed as high performance programme manager at Squash New Zealand (SNZ).

The Kiwi, who reached a career high of sixth in the world during her playing days, won Commonwealth silver in the women's doubles alongside Tamsyn Leevy at Melbourne 2006.

She also won bronze in the individual event, as well as gold alongside Leevy at the World Doubles Championships in the same year.

Kitchen won four New Zealand titles in a row from 2005 onwards and was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Sport in 2011.

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[View the full news item](#)

## RUSSIA

### Inside the games reports (7 December 2016)

#### Isinbayeva appointed to key RUSADA role

Double Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva has been appointed as the head of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA).

It means she will withdraw from the race to become President of Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF), an election she had been widely expected to win.

The vote is due to take place in Moscow on Friday (December 9).

The 34-year-old, a vocal critic of the treatment of Russia since allegations of state-sponsored doping in the country emerged, will head RUSADA's ruling Supervisory Board.

"I thank my colleagues for their trust," she said after taking over a role at an organisation which remains non-compliant with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code.

"We all understand that the fight against doping is today one of the most important issues on the agenda of world sports.

"The effectiveness of this fight in Russia will depend on how soon RUSADA is reinstated in its rights.

"This is our main task and we will exert maximum efforts to achieve it."

Isinbayeva was elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Rio de Janeiro in August as one of four new additions to the Athletes' Commission.

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[View the full news item](#)

## UK

### Inside the games reports (6 December 2016)

#### Taekwondo gold medallist Jones wins Welsh Sports Personality of the Year award

Double-Olympic taekwondo gold medallist Jade Jones beat footballer Gareth Bale to claim a second BBC Cymru Wales Sports Personality of the Year prize.

The 23-year-old collected the award, which she also won in 2012, during a ceremony at the Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff after a public vote put her ahead of Bale, who helped Real Madrid win the UEFA Champions League and Wales reach the semi-finals of the European Football Championship.

Cyclist Elinor Barker, part of the gold medal winning women's team pursuit team at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, finished in third place.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Inside the games reports (7 December 2016)**

### **Lewis appointed as Commonwealth Games Scotland aquatics team manager for Gold Coast 2018**

Lindsay Lewis has been named as Scotland's sport team manager for aquatics at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia.

Lewis' appointment was announced by Commonwealth Games Scotland and Scottish Swimming, with her wealth of experience as a team manager key to the decision.

She has acted as a team manager for both the 2015 and 2016 Scottish Swimming training camps in Australia, with the latter forming a key part of preparations for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Additionally, Lewis worked as British Swimming's team manager for the inaugural European Games in Baku in 2015 and at multiple European Junior Championships.

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[View the full news item](#)

## **Sport England (8 December 2016)**

### **[Active People Survey] Record number of women get active**

Figures show surge in the number of women playing sport and getting active.

More than 7.2 million women now play sport and do regular physical activity – 250,000 more than when we launched our [This Girl Can](#) campaign. It means the gender gap, which once stood at over two million, has narrowed to 1.55 million.

The latest figures from our Active People Survey shows more people than ever are getting active. The number now stands at 15.97 million people over the age of 16 playing sport weekly. That's up 229,400 from 12 months ago.

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Keep fit sessions and going to the gym remain hugely popular, with the number of people taking part every week reaching 7.10 million, up 286,400 in the last 12 months.

Exercise classes, like spinning, pilates and boxercise, continue to attract large numbers of people, especially women. Independent data from a recent industry report by [The Leisure Database Company Open in a new window](#) supports this trend, showing that more space in local authority leisure centres is being dedicated to studios. Almost half (44 per cent) of all gyms are owned by local authorities.

## **Demographic groups**

In addition to the increase in women getting active every week, more people from black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds (2.92 million) are playing sport. This means you're more likely to be active if you're from these communities (37.5 per cent) than if you're white British (35.9 per cent).

Young people are also slightly more active, with 3.83 million 16 to 25 year olds playing sport once a week. This is a modest increase of 3,700 compared to 12 months ago and 151,200 higher than in 2006.

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Find out more about our latest figures:

[National picture](#)

[Local picture](#)

[Breakdown by sport](#)

[Also, view the Women in Sport news item](#)

### **Leisure Management reports (8 December 2016)**

#### **Schools not supporting girls who want to play football, says FA women's participation chief**

A large proportion of schools in England are not giving girls the opportunity to play football despite the growth of the women's game, according to Rachel Pavlou of the Football Association (FA).

The governing body's national participation manager for women's football told delegates at the International Sport Convention in Geneva that insight carried out showed there was a lack of support at primary and secondary school level.

She said that primary school teachers were "predominantly female" who "didn't feel comfortable" taking football sessions, while secondary school PE teachers were guilty of reverting to hockey and netball.

While the FA has made great strides with female participation and the launch of the Women's Super League, Pavlou conceded that the body "still has a lot of work to do in schools".

"Around 95 per cent of boys in England play football by the age of 10, while only 41 per cent of girls play," she said.

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[View the full news item](#)

### **BBC Sport (8 December 2016)**

#### **Laura Kenny named Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year**

Four-time Olympic gold medallist Laura Kenny has been named the 2016 Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year.

The Great Britain hockey side who won gold at Rio 2016 have been named Team of the Year.

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The other awards handed out were:

- Olympian of the Year: Helen Glover & Heather Stanning (rowing)
- Paralympian of the Year: Kadeena Cox (athletics & track cycling)
- Young Sportswoman of the Year: Siobhan-Marie O'Connor (swimming)
- Helen Rollason Award for Inspiration: Hannah Francis (a teenage eventing rider, who died in August after losing her battle with a rare bone cancer)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Professor Celia Brackenridge (researcher and activist)
- Community Award: Kirsty Cameron (founder of Ladies Leisurely Cycles Facebook group)

[View the full news item](#)

### **Leeds Beckett University (12 December 2016)**

#### **New research to explore women as volunteers in sport**

Academics at Leeds Beckett University will carry out a national in-depth study to understand how women engage with volunteering in the sport sector.

The £60,000 study has been commissioned by Women in Sport – the UK's leading charity dedicated to transforming sport for the benefit of every woman and girl in the UK – with the aim of developing the sport sector's understanding of female volunteers, to enable them to support, encourage and ensure they have a positive volunteering experience in sport.

Despite sport being the third most common sector for volunteering, and equal numbers of men and women volunteering generally, only 16% of women actually volunteer in sport compared with 30% of men. Where a lot of research has been done into sports volunteers as a whole, we know very little about female volunteers in sport.



The research, led by Dr Leanne Norman, Senior Research Fellow within the Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure at Leeds Beckett, will:

- Bring together existing research on women as volunteers.
- Uncover the difference between general volunteering and sports volunteering and why women are less likely to choose sport.
- Investigate the range of volunteering roles that women currently participate in (both formal and informal) and how this compares with men.
- Understand what motivates women to volunteer in sport.
- Learn more about the experience for women volunteering in sport and the role they play in enabling women and girls to play sport.
- Work with the Insight and Policy team at Women in Sport to develop ways to support women volunteering in the sport sector.

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The study, which will be completed in January 2017, will be used to inform the work of Women in Sport as well as Sport England's strategy on volunteering.....

[View the full news item](#)

### **Women in Sport (12 December 2016)**

#### **Women in Sport response to call for reform at the Football Association**

Women in Sport supports the call for change to the governance structures and practices of the Football Association (the FA).

"We want to take this opportunity to stress the importance of change that enables women to play a full role in the leadership of football.

Women in Sport has undertaken an audit of the number of women in leadership roles in sport, both paid and voluntary, including women on the Board since 2009. Sadly, the lack of women involved at the highest levels of decision making in the FA is not a unique situation. Across sport we see Governing Bodies run by men, with out-dated governance structures preventing women from reaching the top. The glass ceiling in sport continues to be made of reinforced glass.

Our next leadership audit results of Sport England and UK Sport funded bodies will launch on International Women's Day (8 March 2017). These will show the FA is joint second from bottom out of 69 governing bodies for the number of women on its Board.

Women in Sport has called for years for there to be a clear target of 30% women on the board, as the evidence from business is that this is the level required for decision making to improve and for gender balance to become sustainable. We were pleased to see this recommendation adopted in the new Sport England and UK Sport's Governance Code for sport which will come into effect in April 2017.

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### **Brunel University, London (16 December 2016)**

#### **First football sex abuse investigator finally 'vindicated'**

The woman who first shed light on child sex abuse in football has won a lifetime achievement award.

Professor Celia Brackenridge uncovered widespread problems in the game 15 years before the scandal erupted last month.

**Now the Brunel academic, whose 2002 investigation was dropped when the FA pulled funding, has won the Sunday Times Sportswomen of The Year Award for lifetime achievement.**

Professor Brackenridge, 66, is having treatment for leukaemia and too unwell to lead the current investigation. But speaking from her Hertfordshire home, she said she finally feels 'vindicated' the issue is in the open.

Frustrated at being too ill to get involved in putting the record straight, she described the award as 'bitter-sweet'. "Many researchers never see their work have an impact on society. But I am fortunate enough to have seen mine produce a seachange in sport," she added.

"I kept going through the tough times when I was being rebuffed and ridiculed. I hope this leads to a permanent positive change in the welfare of athletes and the overall culture of sport."

Professor Brackenridge, OBE, was England Lacrosse captain before turning to teaching and academia. Interested in sport sociology, she became Professor of Sports Sciences at Brunel, started the Women's Sports Foundation and later, Brunel International Research Network for Athlete Welfare [BIRNAW](#).

Speaking at the Sunday Times Sportswomen of The Year Awards, Dr Anita White, former chair of the women's sports foundation said: "Celia led the way where others feared to go. She was a visionary. She has made a huge impact on the way sport has to do with young people, both boys and girls."

In 2001, Prof Brackenridge began, with FA backing, a groundbreaking five-year project to look at child protection. Her team spoke to 189 children plus officials and coaches. But people in the game were reluctant to talk. The enquiry was scaled back and funding pulled.

Prof Brackenridge never dropped the issue and has released countless reports since, looking at athlete welfare, child protection and equality in sport, with two key books, Spoilsports and Child Welfare in Football.

[Brunel Special Collections](#) houses a record of the academic's life-time research, which she said means "researchers following me can see how a social justice issue can be investigated and think about the importance of record-keeping in social research".

[Source of information](#)

### **Ladies' Golf Union (19 December 2016)**

#### **The Ladies' Golf Union and the R&A complete merger**

The merger of the Ladies' Golf Union (LGU) and The R&A has been finalised and will come into effect from 1 January 2017.

The heads of agreement between the two organisations was signed in June leading to the integration of the LGU's business operations and its members of staff into The R&A group of companies. An agreed governance structure has also been implemented to give LGU Board members representation on relevant R&A Committees.

The R&A will assume responsibility for staging the LGU's championships and international matches next year, offering leading women's professional and elite amateur golfers opportunities to play in a world class series of events. The Ricoh Women's British Open will continue to be managed by IMG in 2017 under the existing agreement with the LGU.

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## **England Netball (21 December 2016)**

### **Back to Netball changing lives**

This year Liverpool John Moores University have conducted some fantastic in-depth research for England Netball focussed on Back to Netball (B2N).

Running since 2009, B2N has engaged over 60,000 participants. The aim of the programme is to provide a gentle re-introduction to netball for people who have played in the past and want to re-engage with a sport they love.

You may have noticed some quotes and statistics popping up on our social media channels the past couple of weeks and these have all come from the research.

The report identified that B2N clearly meets three key government objectives of Physical wellbeing, Mental wellbeing and Social and Community development.

In addition a fantastic 98% of all participants in the programme would recommend it to others! We definitely like the look of those numbers!

### **Participants identified the following benefits of their Back to Netball experience:**

- Physical well-being – 97% of all participants surveyed reported that B2N helps them to become physically active and lead to healthier lifestyles. In addition, participants identified a desire to participate in physically challenging activities.
- Social well-being – 86% of participants reported to feeling welcome in B2N sessions and felt that they interacted well with others. It was also found that 70% of participants did not know anyone before starting B2N.
- Mental well-being – 76% of participants reported that participating in B2N helped them to feel good about themselves. Both improved confidence and aiding relaxation were also identified.

Over half of the women spoken to during the survey were mothers – 52% of all participants reported having at least one child under the age of 18.

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If you'd like to read the full report in full depth then please email: [insight@englandnetball.co.uk](mailto:insight@englandnetball.co.uk)

[View the full news item](#)

**Women in Sport - Ezine, December 2016 - [available to view](#)**

## **USA**

### **Inside the games reports (13 December 2016)**

#### **Papandrea re-elected President of USA Weightlifting**

Ursula Garza Papandrea has been re-elected President of USA Weightlifting after she was installed as a replacement for CJ Stockel earlier this year.

Papandrea was selected to complete the rest of Stockel's term at the helm of the governing body in February.

It came after USA Weightlifting's Board of Directors opted to remove Stockel from his position at the helm of the organisation "without cause".

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