

Last weekend I spent the afternoon at Aylesford Sports College watching Kent's only wheelchair basketball team beat Leicester. I hardly watched any of the 2012 Paralympics due to being away but I knew that the game would be as intense and as competitive as the able-bodied game. However what I didn't realise was just how skilful and entertaining it would be.

The Maidstone Warrior-Rebels were phenomenal. They play national level disability sport and are currently on top of the second division hoping for promotion at the end of the season. And yet they do so with incredible challenges. Unlike other sports they receive no funding, have no sponsors, receive little coverage, are often limited in their quest to advertise and are crying out for extra players to join the team.

What a shame. Because they are really good!

I had a quick go in a chair after the game had finished. I was able to do so because one of the team is not disabled but otherwise it would not have been possible due to the team being unable to afford a spare chair. It was harder than I thought. It isn't a case of just wheeling yourself along and throwing a ball into the normal height hoop...although trust me that was hard enough. The chairs are fast, light, agile and getting them to go in a straight line was difficult for this novice. During the game the men and women from both teams were marking, racing, throwing, stopping, turning...it was incredible and all in the name of sport.

It is 40 years since the wheelchair basketball league was formed and I think it is fantastic that Kent has a team competing at a high level. I have pledged to help them raise their profile and hopefully I can do so. Please let me know if you can help.