



Press Release

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Polyco provides hand protection for 2012 Paralympic hopeful

One of Europe's leading glove companies, Polyco, is lending its support to Great Britain wheelchair rugby player and 2012 Paralympics hopeful Aaron Phipps by providing him with over 120 pairs of gloves to wear in his matches and training sessions.



At the age of 15, Aaron contracted meningococcal septicaemia which led to both of his legs being amputated as well as parts of his fingers. However, now at the age of 28, Aaron is a successful wheelchair rugby player with the 2012 Paralympics firmly in his site.

Aaron comments: "I've been playing wheelchair rugby for over two years and simply love the sport. I mean, where else can you knock people out of wheelchairs legally! Since I started the sport it has brought a new dimension to my life, I can't imagine not playing the game now and the people you meet along the way are fantastic."

Until recently, Aaron had always found hand protection for playing wheelchair rugby a problem, he explains: "Wheelchair rugby is a rough sport and as such is very intense on the hands, therefore good protection is vital. In the past I wore a variety of brands of builder gloves, however, the gloves did not offer the level of protection I required and in many instances were ripped apart in minutes during a match. I then came across Polyco and found a type of glove that was suitable for my requirements that included good grip and durability. Due to my hand shape I need to make a couple of alterations to the finger lengths but besides that the gloves provide the protection I need. It is nice to be able to wear hand protection that I can rely on."



The technical & innovation team at Polyco is currently exploring options to design and manufacture gloves especially for Aaron that will fit his hand perfectly whilst still providing him with optimum protection. Sarah Bridge, Deputy Managing Director at Polyco, comments: "The battles that Aaron has had to overcome in his life are inspiring and we are delighted to be able to provide him with gloves that are suitable for his needs. After all, the last thing players need to be concerned about is whether their hand protection is adequate! We will continue to strive to make Aaron the perfect glove that will help him on his way to the 2012 Paralympics."

Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby (GBWR) Chief Executive, David Pond, comments: “I had the pleasure of visiting Polyco and was hugely impressed with the people I met and the products I saw. It is great that Polyco is supporting Aaron in this way and I hope that GBWR can build a lasting partnership with the company.”

Described as a fusion of basketball, handball and ice hockey, wheelchair rugby is a unique sport. Players score by carrying the ball across the goal line. For a goal to count, two wheels of the player's wheelchair must cross the line while the player has possession of the ball. Wheelchair rugby is a sport that involves great physical fitness and cunning tactics that must be developed through rigorous training.

For further information regarding Polyco please visit www.polyco.co.uk

To find out further information concerning Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby visit www.gbwr.org.uk

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Notes to editors

About BM Polyco Ltd

Founded in 1979, BM Polyco is the UK's market leader in designing, developing and supplying high quality hand protection to the industrial, consumer and medical sectors and is now one of Europe's leading glove companies. BM Polyco's underlying success is based on the simple principal of continuous improvement including innovation, quality and service. In July 2010 BM Polyco acquired Bodyguards. The merger of these businesses has formed the largest supplier of industrial and medical hand protection in the European market.

The industrial product division, Polyco, offers a comprehensive selection of gloves including: cut resistant, general use, hot and cold handling, chemical resistant, disposable, critical environment, as well as specialist and niche products. Its commitment is to find cost effective solutions to customers hand protection needs with the ultimate glove solution providing 'Enhanced Manual Dexterity' – the ability to work better, faster and safer with BM Polyco gloves than without.

With the benefit of advanced and independently audited testing facilities on site, Polyco's Quality Systems surpass any regulatory requirements and furthermore Polyco's gloves are retested at point of distribution. Polyco is accredited to ISO9001; 2008 for PPE in conformity with the Personal Protective Equipment Directive 89/686/EEC.

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