



## Press Release

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015

### **Charlotte Evans MBE takes time out from ski race guiding.**

Charlotte Evans MBE has today announced that she is taking a season out from competition to pursue other ventures and take stock, in this non-major championship year, to decide whether she wants to commit again to another Paralympic Games cycle.

Charlotte was thrust into the limelight at the Sochi Paralympics when she guided Northern Irish visually impaired skier Kelly Gallagher, to Britain's first ever gold medal in a snowsport discipline.

The British public took to their achievement by voting them into fourth place in the 2014 BBC Sports Personality of the Year. As Paralympic athletes, only Tanni Grey-Thompson has ever placed higher in the public pole, coming third in 2000.

The resulting interest in the pair has meant both have been able to raise awareness of disability sport to a wider field and highlight how accessible snowsports can be to those with a disability.

In an unfortunate training accident this January, Charlotte suffered severe concussion which resulted in her being unable to guide Kelly at this year World Championships.

Commenting on her decision to step back from her role as a guide Charlotte said "It has been an amazing experience and one that I will always treasure. However, working on youth ski camps and being able to inspire youngsters has reminded me how much I also enjoy coaching and making a difference to these children's outlook and I will be focusing on this for the coming year."

Commenting on her guide's decision to take some time out from the sport Kelly Gallagher said "I know it has been a weighty decision for Charlotte to step away from competitive sport and I have been happy to support her in her decisions, as we have strived successfully to be a team in everything we do. It is with great pride that I reflect on Charlotte and my accomplishments. I look forward to continuing to succeed in the sport I love and wish the best for Charlotte in everything she endeavours."

GB Performance Director Duncan Freshwater added "Charlotte will be very hard to replace. She brought a great deal of experience to being a guide, both as a former athlete and as a coach. I have no doubt she will be a great success at what she does next and I hope that after a bit of time out of the limelight Charlotte might be willing to reengage with the team in the future as her knowledge will be greatly missed."

ENDS

### **Notes to Editors**

For all the latest news on the team, follow us on Twitter @britdisabledski or view our website at <http://www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk/What-We-Do/British-Disabled-Ski-Team.aspx>