

**#GMinspire  
(January 2016)**

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**Geoff Sheelan**

**What Role Does the Volunteer Play?**

Geoff is a prominent figure at the Westhoughton Lions Rugby Club becoming ‘Mr Go-to’. Geoff delivers various sessions taking place on a Monday, Tuesday and also a Thursday. On Saturday he coaches the under 6 cubs followed by an open training session. To further his commitment he will also be found behind the bar in the clubhouse on a Sunday. Geoff is a highly regarded committee member who helps in every way possible including, cutting grass and maintaining the aesthetics of the club.

**How Committed is the Volunteer to Their Role?**

Geoff can regularly be found delivering his coaching roles each week to his own impeccable standard, and this year has also given up to 10 extra hours a month working on the new clubhouse. This included many meetings with architects, surveyors and also gaining the planning consent. Geoff gives almost 20 hours a week to his community and refers to it as his second job!

**How Does the Volunteer Benefit Their Community?**

Geoff has helped many people who were not involved with the club become part of the Westhoughton Lions Rugby family. He has engaged with both children and adults some of whom have difficult home lives. An example of this is the free fitness sessions that he holds, he saw this as a necessity in his community, which has now been extended to other local communities outside the club.

**How Does the Volunteer ‘Go the Extra Mile’?**

Geoff’s hard work for the club has helped his team grow from 14 players 12 months ago into a large group of 34 players that are now challenging to be promoted to the division above. His enthusiasm, reliability and general passion for the sport and club is inspirational. The dedication that he has for the club and its members is a massive part in the success of the organisation as a whole.

**How can I get involved in volunteering?**

If you are interested in sport volunteering opportunities within Greater Manchester visit [www.greatersport.co.uk/vip](http://www.greatersport.co.uk/vip) to sign up to the Volunteer Inspire Programme (VIP).

