



## SPINAL INJURIES CONFERENCE: The Client Journey

### Speaker bios

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**Warren Maxwell**  
Partner, Stewarts

Warren represents claimants in high-value and complex personal injury claims arising from road traffic collisions, accidents at work, equine and sporting accidents. Before training as a solicitor, Warren served for five years in the Coldstream Guards and has a particular understanding in relation to claims brought by past and present HM Forces personnel.



**Ben Bradley**  
Barrister, Outer Temple Chambers

Ben's personal injury practice cuts across a number of core sub-specialisms, with a particular expertise in cases where individuals have suffered life changing injuries. His primary focus is in spinal cord injury and brain injury claims (acting both with leading counsel and alone). He also regularly acts for victims of historic child abuse, for former members of the military who have suffered career-ending injuries, and represents some of the country's leading race trainers and riding schools to defend personal injury/equine claims.



**Chris Smith**  
Partner, Stewarts

Chris joined Stewarts in 2014 and represents claimant's in complex and high-value personal injury cases. Prior to qualifying as a solicitor, Chris was called to the Bar in 2008. Chris acts in cases involving a wide range of catastrophic injuries including spinal injury, brain injury and amputation and limb loss arising from complex road traffic accidents, accidents at work and public liability claims. Since joining Stewarts, Chris has recovered damages in excess of £78.5m for his clients.



**Mr Pradeep Thumbikat**  
Consultant Surgeon and Clinical  
Director, Sheffield Spinal Unit

Pradeep is a Consultant Surgeon in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation at STEPS Rehabilitation and the Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre, which is based at the Northern General Hospital, a part of the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust. His work encompasses all aspects of spinal cord injury management. Areas of special interest include surgical management of pressure ulcers and management of the tetraplegic upper limb.

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**Dr Liz Iveson**

**Consultant Stroke and  
Neurorehabilitation Physician.**

Dr Liz Iveson is an experienced Consultant Stroke and Neurorehabilitation Physician with a background of Elderly and General Medicine. Her interests and expertise are in stroke, elderly care and neurological rehabilitation.

**Matthew Phillips KC**

**Barrister, Outer Temple Chambers**

Matthew Phillips KC practises in Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Sport Injury. Matthew's personal injury practice revolves around high value spinal and brain injury claims arising out of road traffic and workplace/industrial accidents. Matthew is also experienced in handling fatal accident claims and the calculation of damages pursuant to the Law Reform Act and Fatal Accidents Act.

**Lucy Wright**

**Head of Therapies, STEPS  
Rehabilitation**

Lucy qualified as a Physiotherapist from Sheffield Hallam University in 2007. She has an MSc in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice, is an ATACP aquatic therapist accreditation, and is AACCP registered to practice acupuncture. She joined STEPS in 2017 and became Head of Therapies in 2020, a role that involves managing an interdisciplinary team. In recent years she has been involved in the growth of research and development at STEPS and is excited to be able to collaborate with innovative tech companies, universities, and other rehab sites to shape the future of rehabilitation.

**Konstantinos (Kostas) Falidas**

**Senior Physiotherapist, STEPS  
Rehabilitation**

Kostas qualified as a Physiotherapist in 2014 and completed an MSc in Advancing Physiotherapy Practice at Sheffield Hallam University in 2017. Prior to joining STEPS in 2020 he worked in both NHS and Private settings but made the move to specialise further in neurological rehabilitation. He is closely involved in the use of robotic equipment as a tool to enhance neurorehabilitation and has seen first-hand the positive outcomes it can have for individuals with upper and lower limb dysfunctions due to a spinal cord injury, stroke or brain injury.

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**Stephen Ruffle**

Director, Thor Technologies

With over 20 years' experience in the Medical Device industry working with Specialist products including Powered and Manual Wheelchairs, Special controls and home integration plus Robotic Exoskeletons and Assistive devices, THOR Assistive Technologies are looking to bring a range of Rehabilitation Robotics and related technology to the UK



**Kevan Baker OBE**

Chief Executive of SPINE and Former Paralympic Athlete

Kevan has been Chairman of WheelPower for 25 years . As an athlete Kevan is a two time bronze medal winning Paralympian in Discus and has been a great role model for people with spinal injuries. A former World Record Holder, he also won Gold on 3 occasions at International Wheelchair Games at Stoke Mandeville.



**Hannah Cockroft**

Paralympic Gold Medallist

Hannah Cockroft OBE, PLY, DL, is seven-time Paralympic Champion, and one of Britain's best-known para-athletes. Hannah made her senior debut for Great Britain at 18 years old, representing her country at the World Championships in New Zealand in January 2011. Hannah became double World Champion in the T34 100m and 200m. Hannah represented Team England in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. She brought home gold in the T34 100m in front of a roaring home crowd, completing the set of gold medals at every major athletics championships.



**Nathan Maguire**

Commonwealth Champion and Paralympic Athlete

Nathan Maguire is a T54 wheelchair racer, competing in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m & 1500m. He was paralysed from the waist down after a sudden case of Transverse Myelitis, aged 8. This however, has never stopped him and since then he has competed at 3 European Championships, 2 World Championships, Gold Coat 2018, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games as well as the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.