

THE PARALYMPIAN

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Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Paralympian Ambassadors with IPC President Sir Philip Craven

AMBASSADORS OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

The values and messages of the Paralympic Movement will be endorsed by some of the world's most prominent Paralympic athletes. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has appointed nine of the most famous names in sport to act as Paralympian Ambassadors.

The IPC Governing Board has approved the nominations of former British Wheelchair athlete Tanni Grey Thompson, German Swimmer and Paralympic gold medalist Kirsten Bruhn, leading Kenyan runner Henry Wanyoike, Dutch Wheelchair Tennis champion and four-time Paralympic gold medalist Esther Vergeer, American Wheelchair Racing champion Cheri Blauwet, South African Wheelchair athlete Ernst Van Dyk, world class Cyclist Michael Teuber from Germany, former Paralympic Alpine Skiing champions Chris Waddell and Muffy Davies, visually impaired Nordic Skier Verena Bentele from Germany and Hou Bin from China, a triple Paralympic gold medal winner in High Jump.

As participants of the Paralympian Ambassador Programme, the athletes will raise awareness of the Paralympic Movement and inspire and encourage future Paralympic athletes, as well as become valuable role models for young people with or without a disability.

IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez said: "The Paralympian Ambassador Programme gives IPC a fantastic opportunity to highlight its most important campaigns and events with some of the most high profile and inspirational figures in the Paralympic Movement. Due to their vibrant personalities and remarkable sporting achievements, the chosen athletes embody the excitement of Paralympic Sport and their increased presence at IPC events will ensure our values of determination, courage, equality and inspiration are globally recognized."

Paralympian Ambassadors will represent the Movement and help to raise awareness through various actions, including giving motivational speeches at corporate gatherings, attending the events of IPC and its partners and getting involved with promotional campaigns. The notoriety of the athletes will be used to raise the profile of Paralympic Sport, forge positive relationships with sponsors and act as a trigger for large-scale publicity and support of the Paralympic Movement. Paralympian Ambassadors will also visit IPC development and educational events, promoting educational campaigns, school programmes and anti-doping messages.

SPRIT IN MOTION



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Photo ©: Nikelis

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The beginning of the year 2008 has passed with a flash, bringing the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) ever closer to its highlight of the year – the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. It is hard to believe that, in just a few months, Paralympic athletes will, once again, push themselves to the limit as they strive for victory at the highest level of competition.

It takes years to train for the Paralympic Games, but winning can be down to just a few seconds, splitting first from second, determining the winner's of gold, silver and bronze medals. But I know our athletes are up to the challenge and will inspire and excite us all with their unbreakable spirit and determination.

And having attended the Beijing Project Review at the end of January, I am confident the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) also has what it takes to make this year's Games the best yet! I was lucky enough to get a sneak preview of some of the venues, and, you can imagine, as a former Wheelchair Basketball athlete, I was particularly interested in looking at the new Basketball venue.

Incredible progress is also being made with Vancouver 2010, London 2012 and Sochi 2014. The Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) is steaming ahead this year, planning two-year countdown celebrations and a whole host of other exciting events, including the Cultural Olympiad. The excitement of London 2012 is being felt across the city as the Get Set Roadshow travels to more than 30 parts of the city of London. And 2014 does not seem that far off, with the start of preliminary construction work on some of the venues in Sochi.

We are now coming to the end of the Winter Sports season and what an exciting season it has been! While preparing for the Games in Beijing, the Paralympic Movement has also seen a number of toughly fought Skiing events take place on the slopes during the 2008 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup and the 2008 IPC Biathlon and Cross-Country World Cup. It has also been hugely enjoyable watching top class Wheelchair Curlers battle it out for gold medals during the 2008 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Sursee, Switzerland.

Another important date on my calendar was the IPC Reception, which took again place in Bonn, Germany. While celebrating the beginning of the Chinese Year of the Rat, I had the chance to catch up with several people, including the Chairman of the London 2012 Organizing Committee (LOCOG) Lord Sebastian Coe, the Lord Mayor of Bonn, representatives from IPC's Gold Patrons, Allianz SE and Deutsche Telekom AG, as well as all the athletes who were chosen to be Paralympian Ambassadors.

It has been, and will continue to be, a busy year – I wish you all the best in your endeavours in 2008!

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Excellent Progress Made Towards Beijing

The anticipation surrounding the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games intensified after a successful review was carried out into the progress made so far.

A delegation from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), including President Sir Philip Craven and CEO Xavier Gonzalez, visited Beijing in January to assess all aspects of the Games, which will take place from 6 to 17 September.

During two days of meetings with the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) and other officials, a number of topics were discussed, including venues, transportation, operations, marketing and promotion. Additional side meetings addressed issues related to anti-doping and classification, victory ceremonies, media, hospitality and sport entries.

The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games will see several 'Paralympic firsts', including the international Torch Relay and a Paralympic Hospitality Programme. And due to the intense media interest in the Games, a record 3,500 international press and broadcast representatives are expected to cover the event. Tickets for the Games are also in hot demand, with 60% already sold.

Said Sir Philip: "We have seen excellent progress in all areas of the Paralympic Games and our friends from BOCOG are well on track with the preparations. At this stage, it is critical to finalize the overlay in the venues and upgrades in the city, so that all participants can enjoy an accessible Games environment."

At The Paralympic Sponsor Seminar, hosted

by BOCOG on 29 January, the IPC, the Chinese National Paralympic Committee (NPC) and BOCOG representatives informed corporate supporters of Beijing 2008 about the activities previous sponsors of the Games had been involved in. BOCOG department heads updated the sponsors on Paralympic marketing efforts and Games preparation.

Sir Philip Craven and Wang Wei, Executive Vice-President and Secretary General of BOCOG, delivered speeches to the audience.

Addressing the sponsors, Sir Philip said: "By activating your sponsorship of the Paralympic Games you will be extending the impact of your Beijing 2008 presence well after the Olympic Flame has been extinguished."

He added: "The active involvement of the marketing partners plays a critical role in the final months before the Games in order to raise awareness and promote the Paralympic Movement and its values. The sponsor workshop was an encouraging step in that regard."

During their visit, the IPC delegation got a taste of the excitement to come in September at the Good Luck Invitational Basketball Tournament at the National Indoor Stadium. Sir Philip was also given a tour of the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) Gymnasium, which currently serves as the Wheelchair Basketball training venue for the Paralympic Games. Tours were also made to the airport and the Paralympic Village.



PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

Vancouver 2010 Steams Ahead

The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) ended 2007 with several exciting plans for 2008.

Two-year countdown celebrations, venue construction, the Cultural Olympiad 2008 and Torch Relays were just some of the important topics addressed within VANOC's quarterly report released at the end of last year.

The report stated that by 2008 construction would be completed on all sport venues for the 2010 Winter Games, providing access for both high-performance athlete training and recreational use.

And the Cultural Olympiad 2008, from 1 February to 21 March, is well underway with more than 300 performances and ten exhibitions taking place all over Canada. VANOC will also release details about the Torch Relays, including the routes, themes, partners and public application process.

Tickets to the 2010 Winter Games will go on sale on 11 October and mascots Miga, Quatchi and Sumi will be busy in 2008 with appearances across Canada, including visits to schools, fairs, festivals and Vancouver 2010-related events. On 12 February, VANOC called for up to 25,000 volunteers to apply, through an online process, to be part of the team that helps stage the Games.

John Furlong, VANOC's Chief Executive Officer, said: "Milestone activities in all of VANOC's major functional areas are increasing as the Games approach, and 2008 promises to be an intense year as the countdown momentum and public engagement builds."

The Vancouver 2010 Sustainability Report, detailing VANOC's sustainability and environmental objectives, is set to be distributed publicly in 2008. As part of its Public engagement programme, VANOC will be in Games venue communities in the spring sharing information about operations, transportation and venue operations.

Within the report VANOC also reflected on the achievements made in 2007, including the construction of five sport venues and a domestic sponsorship programme that exceeded VANOC's 2007 target of \$65 million to reach \$102.5 (EURO 69.74) million for the year. Other highlights mentioned in the report were the introduction of mascots Sumi, Miga and Quatchi and the successful launch of a Paralympic School Day pilot programme, which gave more than 3,000 students in ten schools the opportunity to meet some of Canada's top Paralympic athletes and try their hand at a variety of winter sports.

For more information, please visit the official website at www.vancouver2010.com.



PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

Spreading the Excitement

Excitement surrounding the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games escalated after the Get Set Roadshow was launched in the city centre.

The London 2012 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), the Mayor of London and the London Development Agency launched the event on 9 January at London's Trafalgar Square, to celebrate the start of London's Olympiad in August 2008.

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of LOCOG, Manny Lewis, Chief Executive of the London Development Agency and The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell, Minister for the Olympics and London, officially launched the Roadshow. Several high profile athletes also attended the event, including Paralympic Swimming gold medalist Giles Long.

The Roadshow, currently touring around the city, will have visited 33 London boroughs by the time it finishes in April. Events organized in shopping centres, parks and town squares aim to give people in London the chance to find out how the Games will increase jobs and skills opportunities and benefit culture, sport, business and urban regeneration in the capital.

During the event Lord Coe said: "Five new permanent venues are being constructed for London 2012, which will be used for both community and competitive sporting events. These venues will give our sports stars of the

future better facilities to train and compete at the highest level. The Games are also an opportunity for all Londoners to get involved, both on and off the sporting field."

Mr. Livingstone said: "The Games are already delivering its lasting legacy. We have seen a number of programmes start up providing support to businesses, improving skills, securing jobs and delivering infrastructure improvements, and it has been encouraging to see the eagerness of Londoners to realize their potential and get involved. Today's launch of the Five Legacy Commitment Document sets out our aims and achievements to developing this legacy further, and the London Roadshow is key in ensuring we up our game to give everyone, from all backgrounds, the opportunity to benefit from the once in a lifetime opportunity the 2012 Games offer."

Commenting on the importance of the event, IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "This event is a good example of how London is already laying the ground so it achieves the best possible legacy outcomes from the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Roadshow is not only a fantastic way of spreading the excitement of the Games to the wider community, it will also be hugely effective in teaching people how they can benefit from the windfall of opportunities created by the Games."

For more information, please visit the official website www.london2012.com.



PARALYMPIC GAMES: SOCHI 2014

A New Challenge for Mikhail Terentiev

"When there is a goal and a desire to reach this goal, then victory is almost certain."

Those are the words of former Paralympian, Mikhail Terentiev, whose "drive to win" in sport will now be applied to the challenges he faces in his new role as Director of Paralympic Winter Games for the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee.

During his whirlwind career as a Biathlon and Nordic Skiing athlete, Mr. Terentiev proved he has what it takes to achieve his goals, winning a gold medal at both the World Championships in 1996 and the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, USA.

And having recently been awarded an order from the Russian Federation for his outstanding contributions to develop the statehood of the fatherland, he is determined to make the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games stand apart from all others.

In an interview, Mr. Terentiev spoke to The Paralympian about the development of the Games, the integration of the Olympics and Paralympics, as well as the challenge of catering for the rapid growth of the Paralympic Movement.

During the first phase of the preparations, Mr. Terentiev has already begun to address a number of issues related to accessibility and inclusion, highlighting that this would not be achieved if the city infrastructures of Sochi were not "facilitated and reformed".

He said: "Education programmes are planned for the general public and especially for young people to foster understanding about inclusion, equal opportunities and

engagement in the Paralympic Movement."

Mr. Terentiev will also be overseeing the promotion of the Paralympic Brand, which he described as the "bridge that links sport with social awareness, challenging stereotypes and inspiring understanding."

When asked measures were being taken to accommodate for the increasing profile and growing demands of the Paralympic Movement, Mr. Terentiev said the Games would draw upon the most advanced and innovative technologies in sport, management and operations. There will also be an emphasis on training specialized staff, who will be able to improve their skills at seminars, workshops and events, held during the six-year period before the Games.

Showing a strong commitment to the integration of the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, he said: "Integration means to create the unique universal environment of equal opportunities for every spectator, visitor and participant of both multi-sport and multicultural events."

Russia has also adopted the Olympic and Paralympic Law, outlining changes in legislation, which will create the best conditions for the preparation and organization of both the Olympic and Paralympic Games. According to Mr. Terentiev, the Paralympic Games, expected to reflect Russia's cultural traditions and well-known hospitality, are ahead of schedule with the establishment of a powerful administration. And construction work has already started on some of the key venues.

Referring to the International Paralympic Committee's first visit to Moscow in



December 2007, Mr. Terentiev said: "Close partnership with the IPC has also started with the knowledge of transfer processes."

He added: "The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games will serve as a catalyst for the social and economic development of the Sochi region and all of Russia, helping to drive positive change across multiple areas of social life, including the integration of people with a disability, environmental awareness, corporate transparency and accountability. The Paralympic Games will help reinforce these values in a society currently enjoying an economic and political renaissance."

More information on www.sochi2014.com.

“Table Tennis is my Everyday Life”



Photo ©: Nikelis

When it comes to Table Tennis Holger Nikelis is an unstoppable force. The German athlete, who has been competing at an elite level since 2001, was thrown into the international spotlight after winning an individual gold medal and team bronze at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

The 30-year-old athlete, who now has his sights set on the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, took time out from his busy training schedule to talk to the Paralympian about his past successes and future ambitions.

Holger lost the use of his legs at the age of 17, after breaking his neck in a swimming accident in Spain. And it was during his time in hospital that he first discovered Paralympic Sport, which became an important part of his rehabilitation process. Two years after his accident, Holger started taking part in Table Tennis competitions, and ever since then he has been hugely successful, winning three European Championships and the 2006 IPC Table Tennis World Championships.

He reached supremacy at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, despite breaking his arm in a car accident shortly before the competition, which forced him to take two months out of his strict training regime.

Commenting on what it felt like to win a gold medal, Holger said: “It was amazing and very special because it was the Paralympics. It is always special to win a medal, but there was a very special atmosphere at Athens.

He added: “It’s a great experience I get from playing Table Tennis, travelling and meeting other people with a disability. You learn so much and it’s great for your self esteem. When you achieve success it’s great!”

During an interview at the International Paralympic Day, held in Berlin in August 2007, Holger said that, despite the competitive nature of sport, he experienced a strong sense of unity with players once they were away from the tension of the court.

He said: “There is a really friendly atmosphere. Most people are really friendly, not always during the matches! You can especially feel this in the Paralympic Village where there are so many athletes together.”

Holger aptly illustrated his commitment and passion for what he does when he told the Paralympian that ‘Table Tennis is my everyday life’. However, in the rare moments when Holger is not battling against his opponent in an international competition, training hard for the Paralympic Games or being interviewed by the media, he spends his time spreading the “spirit of the Paralympic Sport” by visiting schools and hospitals.

When asked what advice he would give to aspiring Paralympic Athletes, he said: “Get together with other people with a disability and learn from their experiences and their life.”



Photo ©: Nikelis

“It’s a great experience I get from playing Table Tennis, travelling and meeting other people with a disability. You learn so much and it’s great for your self esteem ...”

“Get together with other people with a disability and learn from their experiences and their life.”

Paralympic World Cup Will Prepare Athletes for Beijing

Athletes competing at the Paralympic World Cup due to kick off in Great Britain will get a taste of what to expect at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

The competition, held in Manchester from 7 to 11 May, will feature an extended programme of events for Athletics, Swimming, Cycling and Wheelchair Basketball following the same format as previous years. The new schedule has been designed to closely replicate conditions expected at Beijing in September, giving competing athletes the chance to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead.

Amputee Swimmer turned Cyclist Jody Cundy, who won double gold in the LC2 class at the Paralympic World Cup in 2007, is looking forward to building on her success at this year's event. She said: "I am still relatively new to Cycling and therefore the more competition I can have at a high level, the more I will be ready when the Paralympics come round. I have enjoyed huge success in Manchester and hope to do the same again this year. It promises to be a wonderful competition for us all."

Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) said: "This year's Paralympic World Cup in Manchester will be again an exciting sport event on the international sporting calendar. With the countdown to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games well underway, the competition this year promises again to be of high standard, as well as a good test for all competitors."

The Paralympic World Cup is hosted by the British Paralympic Association, sanctioned by



Photo ©: Sports Beat Images

Athletics at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester

the IPC and the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) and supported by UK Sport, Manchester City Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). The BBC will be covering the event, which is one of the biggest multi-sport competitions for elite athletes with a disability outside the Paralympic Games. The

competition was created to provide an annual world-class multi-sport disability event, to give elite athletes more opportunity to compete with their international counterparts in between the four yearly Paralympic Games and showcase Paralympic sport around the world.

For more information, visit www.paralympicworldcup.com.



Photo ©: Sports Beat Images

Wheelchair Basketball at the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester

SPIRIT IN MOTION
For more
information about
the IPC, Paralympic
Sport and the
Paralympic
Movement visit
www.paralympic.org

A Remarkable Presidency



Photo ©: NPC Zambia

NPC President Lango Sinkamba

After a successful career as a Paralympic wheelchair athlete, who competed at both the Sydney and Atlanta Paralympic Games, Lango Sinkamba is now at the forefront of the Paralympic Movement in Zambia. As the president of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) in Zambia, Mr. Sinkamba has been working hard to make sure his athletes have the best possible chance to reach their potential by competing at an elite level. Mr. Sinkamba has been president of the NPC since it replaced the Zambia Sports Federation of the Disabled in 2005. Since then he has focused on developing and building the NPC's capacities, as well as establishing relationships with organizations interested in promoting sport for persons with a disability.

Mr. Sinkamba, who lost the full use of his legs after contracting polio as a child, had his first taste of Paralympic Sport at secondary school, where he played Table Tennis and organized wheelchair races. The 39-year-old said that Paralympic Sport has had an extremely positive impact on his life as it has helped him develop more self confidence, leadership skills and independence.

Mr. Sinkamba spoke to the Paralympian about the work of the NPC in Zambia, the challenges it faces and goals he has for the future.

Who are your main target groups and how do you reach them?

Our target groups are all persons with a disability. We are mandated by the Government for administration purposes, budgeting and monitoring by the Department of Sport and National Sports Council. We reach our target group directly in the communities in which they live, by offering them training and encouraging them to form clubs. We also work with schools for persons with a disability and mainstream schools, as well as sport organizations, such as Sport in Action, SCORE and Right to Play.

How has the media and public in Zambia responded to Paralympic Sport?

The media has been very supportive, and it's very exciting to note that a lot of people have developed an interest in Paralympic sport. The scale of the phenomenon that Paralympic Sport has become is illustrated by the fact that Wheelchair Basketball exists for persons with and without a disability at the Disacare Wheelchair Centre in Zambia.

What were you doing before you became President of the NPC?

I was running and am still running my small business centre, which deals with computer repairs, software and office supplies. I am a multi-sector professional with knowledge in accounts and finance, strategic planning, influence and advocacy. At the moment, I am vesting more efforts in promoting Paralympic Sport through consultancy and research on disability, development and advocacy. I am also an Athlete Ambassador for the organization Right to Play.

Why is it so important to get people involved in Paralympic Sport and spread the messages of the Paralympic Movement?

Sport makes us physically fit, it also builds confidence, reduces stigma surrounding persons with a disability and enables Paralympic athletes to be recognized all over the world.

What are the biggest challenges faced by your NPC?

The biggest challenges faced by the NPC are making sure we have continued access to trained and qualified coaches, classifiers, the correct sports equipment and an adequate amount of transportation. We are also looking

for partners to finance our five-year Strategic Plan of Action, which was established through our involvement with the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) Organizational Development Initiative (ODI). Another challenge we face is to make sure all administration staff and NPC members receive training in sports administration, marketing and fundraising. We would also like to expand the office space available at the NPC.

What are your goals for the future?

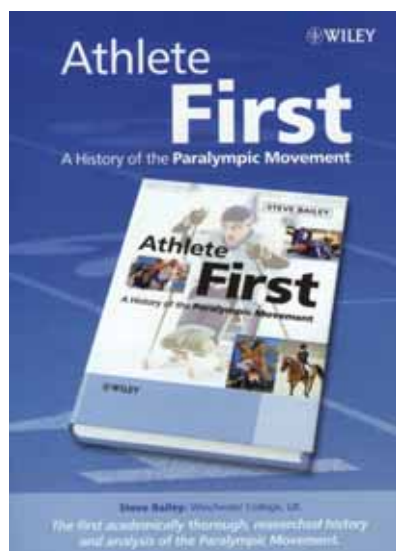
As president of the NPC, I would like to build and maintain the excellent relationship we have established with the government through our links with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development. The Ministry provided the NPC's offices and has financed the Committee since the time of inception. I would also like the NPC to accelerate the development of Paralympic Sport in Zambia by building more partnerships with other organizations. We will also continue to make sure that persons with a disability get involved in advocacy work, so they can influence issues. By the end of 2008, we aim to have trained five or more coaches and classifiers. My biggest personal goal is to go to university and study sports administration and leadership.

Is the NPC involved in any educational programmes?

The NPC has participated in sports activities organized by the Zambia Amateur Athletics Association and events aimed at raising awareness about lots of different issues, such as World Youth Day, International Women's Day, International Aids Day, Independence Day and the International Day of Persons with a Disabilities.

What are the biggest challenges facing people with a disability in Zambia?

The transport system in Zambia, especially public transport, does not take into consideration the needs of persons with a disability because of the way it is designed. Sometimes you have to pay double and you often have to use a taxi, which most people cannot afford. All sports equipment has to be imported, making it very expensive to acquire and impossible for most clubs to afford. More sponsorship is needed from corporate institutions. There is also still a stigma among people towards persons with a disability in Zambia.



Capturing the History of the Paralympic Movement

Sports historian Steve Bailey has explored the fascinating history of sports for persons with a disability in his recently published book - *Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement*.

In the run up to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, this unique publication will give fans of Paralympic Sport a deeper insight into the humble beginnings of disability sport, while highlighting ongoing developments that contribute to global recognition of the Paralympic Movement.

Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement was instigated by the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) and produced with the assistance of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

At the annual IPC Reception in February, Gudrun Doll-Tepper, the President of the ICSSPE presented IPC President Sir Philip Craven with a copy of the book.

President Doll-Tepper said: "In the year of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, not only do we get an opportunity to enjoy today's Games and witness future champions, but also a chance to learn about and celebrate the rich historic past which should never be forgotten."

President Craven added: "The history of the Paralympic Movement represents a unique journey based on the vision and ideas in a changing world."

Athlete First: A History of the Paralympic Movement is available at www.icsspe.org.

Hitting the Mark

Archery was one of the first sports Ludwig Guttman introduced at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Great Britain, during the 1940s. It has been governed by the International Paralympic Committee's (IPC) until the end of last year when it was officially handed over to the International Archery Federation (FITA). This transfer of governance is considered as one of the most fundamental events in the history of Paralympic Archery. The accelerated growth and development of the sport will now be managed in a specialized environment, which will boost its international profile and create even more opportunities for Paralympic Archers to receive the global recognition they deserve.

Former Chairperson of the IPC Archery Sport Technical Committee, Ann Webb, who has been involved with Paralympic Archery since 1985, spoke to the Paralympian about the development of the sport, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and the challenges she faces in her new role as chairperson of FITA's Para-Archery Committee.

What important developments have been made in the history of the sport?

Archery started off being disability specific like all other sports, meaning it was divided into several different groups, which were categorized by the nature of the athlete's disability. However, as Paralympic Archers improved their skills and became expert professionals in their chosen discipline, Archery evolved to become sport specific and rapidly grew into the exciting phenomenon it is today.

There have also been a number of breakthroughs in the equipment used by athletes practising Archery, who now benefit from specially made bows, arrows and



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

wheelchairs. Arrows are now made out of carbon and the bows are much more accurate than they were in the 70s and 80s, due to the introduction of the compound bow, which was originally developed in America for hunting. However, it soon transpired that the compound bow, with its unique cable and pulling system (which is less strenuous on the upper body), would be ideal for athletes with a disability whose movement is often restricted by arm, shoulder or back problems. Compound bows were first introduced at an elite level in 1996 at the IPC Archery World Championships and a Compound Class will appear at the Paralympic Games for the first time in Beijing.

What challenges do you now face in your role as chairperson of FITA's Paralympic Archery Committee?

We are currently working on incorporating Paralympic rules into the FITA Rulebook in time for the 2009 FITA Congress, where they will be voted upon. Looking to the future, we will be doing quite a lot of work in developing countries. The Paralympic Archery Committee will be working alongside the Development Committee to introduce Archery for persons with a disability to new countries. As the sport develops across the world, our chief classifier has been trying to ensure that all classifiers work in the same way. We have been running a lot of seminars and education programmes in different countries to ensure that there is consistency in matters relating to classification.

What are your hopes for the future?

The profile of Archery for persons with a disability has been expanding rapidly over the last few years, and I hope it will continue to develop in this way. I want to see rules for Paralympic Archery fully incorporated into FITA rules. Paralympic Archers already shoot alongside able-bodied athletes in competitions, and I want to make sure the right measures are put in place to allow this to happen more frequently.

I also want us to ensure that NPCs are adequately informed about the new procedures they now need to follow for Archery, assisting them in transferring the guidelines in their own countries if necessary. NPCs will follow a similar process but they will deal with FITA instead of the IPC.

How many athletes will be competing at Beijing?

We have 136 archers competing in five different classes, the W1 Compound Class (men), the W2 Recurve Class (men and women), Standing Recurve Class (men and women) and the Recurve Team Event (men and women).

What are your expectations for the sport at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games?

I have great expectations for the competition at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. I think the Chinese have done an excellent job with the venue. Two competition fields have been built, which will be fantastic for the medal matches. There is going to be a really great atmosphere. It is just going to be the two Archers shooting against each other in the middle and all the spectators will be seated around them on both sides.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

ALPINE SKIING SEASON ENDS IN JAPAN

Alpine Skiing World Cup

The start of the 2008 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup whipped up excitement in Europe with a series of exhilarating competitions taking place on the slopes of Austria and France.

Athletes from 18 different countries competed in World Cup competitions, which, for the first time featured a new discipline – a super combined run, where athletes tackled both a speed and technical event.

Austria dominated the first event of the World Cup Season, which took place in Abtenau, Austria, from 5 to 11 January, finishing the event with 4905 points. Canada followed in second place with 3124 points and Germany third with 1652. These country positions were maintained after competitions in Queyras, France, took place from 13 to 20 January.

Further competitions took place in Jeong Seon, Korea (14 to 18 February) before the World Cup finals in Hakuba, Japan, between 21 to 26 February. The Austrian team came away as winner scoring 9444 points, followed by Canada with 6914 points and Germany with 4135 points.

Most successful athletes of the season include Sabine Gasteiger (Austria) in the Visually Impaired category and Lauren Woolstencroft from Canada (Standing category), winning the World Cup in the Slalom, the Giant Slalom, the Super-G and Super Combined. Visually Impaired skier Claudia Loesch from Austria and Kimberley Joines from Canada also enjoyed several podium finishes in the Sitting category.

Swiss Thomas Pfyl (Standing category) won the overall World Cup with lots of fast runs especially in the Slalom and Giant Slalom events. Laureus Award Winner 2006 Martin Braxenthaler from Germany finished first in



Photo ©: Sport Union Abtenau

the overall Slalom and Super Combined World Cup (Sitting category), while visually impaired skier Christopher Williamson (Canada) won the overall Slalom, Super-G and Super Combined World Cup. Other athletes with top finishes include Radomir Dudas (Slovakia), Taiki Morii (Japan), Christopher Devlin-Young (USA), Michael Bruegger (Switzerland) and Hubert Mandl (Austria).

Alpine Skiing is governed by the IPC through the co-ordination of the IPC Alpine Skiing Technical Committee. The rules of the International Ski Federation (FIS) are used

with only a few modifications. Skiers with blindness/visual impairment are guided through the course by guides who use voice signals to indicate the course to follow. Athletes with physical disabilities use equipment that is adapted for their needs, including single-ski, sit-ski or orthopaedic aids.

For more information about the sport and all results of the season, please see the official website at:

www.ipc-alpineskiing.org -> Results.

IPC NEWS

Chinese New Year Celebrations

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) played host to some of the most influential figures in sport at its annual reception.

Athletes, sport representatives, German politicians, sponsors and members of the media attended the event, appropriately staged at the headquarters of one of IPC's Gold Patrons, the Deutsche Telekom AG, in Bonn, Germany.

In his welcoming speech, IPC President Sir Philip Craven reflected on the highlights of 2007, including the Arafura and Rio 2007 Parapan American Games, the International Paralympic Day in Berlin and the IPC General Assembly in Seoul, Korea.

Looking to the future, he said: "Tonight we have our sights set on the next challenge, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, which will take place in just over six months from today. The preparations are well underway and from all I have seen in Beijing, I can only recommend that you all attend the Games and watch the athletes compete at their best."

Amongst the esteemed guests and speakers, celebrating the beginning of the Chinese Year

of the Rat, were the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Dieckmann, Deputy Secretary Dr. Christoph Bergner, Dr. Karl-Gerhard Eick, Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chairman Deutsche Telekom AG, Dr. Gerhard Rupprecht, Member of the Executive Board Allianz SE, Lord Sebastian Coe, Chairman of

the London 2012 Organizing Committee as well as members of the IPC Governing Board and seven Paralympian Ambassadors. Wang Wei, Executive Vice President of the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) Executive Vice President Wang Wei sent his best wishes via video message.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven with Dr. Gerhard Rupprecht, Dr. Karl-Gerhard Eick, Bärbel Dieckmann and Lord Sebastian Coe during the IPC Reception in Bonn



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

Meeting of the IPC Governing Board

The International Paralympic Committee's Governing Board (GB) concluded its 49th official meeting in Bonn, Germany.

During two days of meetings, held between 8 to 9 February, the GB addressed a number of issues relating to anti-doping, classification and development initiatives, as well as the introduction of new sports and disciplines for the London 2012 Paralympic Summer Games.

The Chairman of the London 2012 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), Lord Sebastian Coe, who attended one part of the GB meeting, highlighted there was an increased demand for coverage of the Paralympic Games in Great Britain. He said: "LOCOG has recently conducted some market research, which shows that 69 % of people in the UK want to see more coverage of the Paralympic Games. This shows an appetite and an understanding in the UK market, where the BBC and others have already done a lot to generate knowledge - there was 98 % awareness of the Paralympic Games in the audience we surveyed. Sponsors throughout the world should think about the unparalleled opportunities getting involved in the Paralympic Games can bring."

The development of an evidence based classification system for IPC Athletics was also discussed by the Board members, following a presentation from IPC Medical and Scientific Director Dr. Peter Van de Vliet



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

The IPC Governing Board meets in Bonn

The GB members approved the appointment of three new members of the Anti-Doping Committee; Mr. Grigory Rodchenkov (Russia), Mr. Gregorius Tsamis (Greece), Dr. Oriol Martinez (Spain). The appointment of five new Classification Committee members was also ratified by the Board. The new members are Goril Hansen (Norway), Dr. Ann Hart (USA), Dr. Young-Hee Lee (Korea), Terrie Moore (Canada) and Dr. Sean Tweedy (Australia). And Dr. Oriol Martinez will act as chairperson of the Therapeutic Use

Exemption Committee (TUE) for the remainder of the term, following the resignation of Dr. John Bourke.

The IPC Finance Department presented Governing Board members with a report on the financial accounts of 2007 and the expected results of 2008. A debrief was also given on the IPC's 2007 General Assembly, which took place in Seoul, Korea.

The next Governing Board Meeting will take place in May 2008 in Tehran, Iran.

ParalympicSport.TV Gets Face Lift

The excitement of Paralympic Sport has been a click away for two years since the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) first introduced its internet TV channel ParalympicSport.TV. But viewing the channel is now even more exhilarating for the thousands of people all over the world who logon day and night to see their favourite athletes in action. This is because the IPC has revamped ParalympicSport.TV.

The channel now has a brand-new look and plenty of new content to offer, including highlights from the 2007 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey European Championships and the 2007 IWAS Wheelchair Rugby European Championships. And not only does it showcase the monthly magazine paraEmotion it also has regular news broadcast called 60seconds. Commenting on the relaunch, IPC President

Sir Philip Craven said: "Internet television is one of the most effective ways of reaching our target audiences. ParalympicSport.TV brings the excitement of Paralympic Sport directly into people's homes, and the relaunch of the channel ensures fans of the Paralympic Movement get access to even more exciting high quality footage, as well as additional features like the magazine and news broadcast service."



ParalympicSport.TV is a high quality 24/7 television channel broadcasting via the Internet with either regular or full screen size available for the best viewing experience. Free of charge, people all over the world are able to watch live and delayed programming, or see the coverage on demand later.

ParalympicSport.TV provides a variety of content from the Paralympic Movement including news, interviews, event reports, and of course, the Paralympic Games. The highlight of the year will be the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, which will be extensively broadcasted.

The development and relaunch of ParalympicSport.TV is co-ordinated by the IPC and its partners Narrowstep Inc. and brandstage.tv. Narrowstep provides the technical platform whereas brandstage.tv manages the channel and video production.

ParalympicSport.TV is presented by Samsung, a Worldwide Partner of the IPC.

The IPC has an embedded version of ParalympicSport.TV on its official website www.paralympic.org.

ODI Provides Spark for Zambia

Members of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) in Zambia have been celebrating after receiving a donation of 15 sports wheelchairs from the South African division of Rotary International.

The NPC of Zambia is heavily involved in the Organizational Development Initiative (ODI) – a programme established by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to strengthen the development of NPCs, allowing them to reach their full potential. The ODI, launched just over a year ago, helps NPCs identify their strengths, capability and capacity, while addressing ways to resolve the challenges they face in securing funds.

During an ODI Workshop the NPC of Zambia acquired knowledge in fundraising which enabled them to approach Rotary South African to secure this donation.

The first consignment of nine wheelchairs was delivered to the NPC in Lusaka at the beginning of February by Paralympic Cyclist and businessman Diederick Swart. The wheelchairs, which can cost up to \$3,000 (EURO 2,063), if purchased new, will be used by Paralympic athletes for Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Tennis and Athletics. Rotary International is also looking at ways to cover maintenance and repair costs.

President of the NPC and former Wheelchair Racer, Lango Sinkamba, said: "It's great news and a great achievement. This donation is of great importance to the NPC because sport equipment like this is very expensive. This is a very big donation for us because we now have the right equipment for very good training. It will motivate our athletes."

Mr. Sinkamba, who competed at the Paralympic Games in Sydney and Atlanta, said he now has the right equipment to ensure his athletes have the best possible chance of achieving international success.



Photo ©: Rotary International

Rotary South Africa and the NPC Zambia Celebrating the wheelchair donation

"The donation has come at exactly the right time because we are preparing athletes for the Paralympic Games and the 2011 All Africa Games in Zambia", he said.

Rotary International representative Beth Thomas, who also heads up her own charity called the ET Foundation, was impressed by Mr. Sinkamba's enthusiasm, commitment and expertise. She said: "I also understood the challenges the NPC faced as I have also worked with some other NGOs in Zambia. Networking definitely works - partnerships are creative and effective. The sharing of information and resources is vital in community work."

Professor Heather Cameron, IPC's lead consultant for the ODI said: "The NPC in Zambia has faced many challenges, such as cuts in government funding and as a result it has had to work very hard to create new

relationships with sponsors. I am pleased that the NPC has risen to the challenge. Generous

donations made by organizations like Rotary International will allow Mr. Sinkamba and his team to tackle even more challenges in the future."

During her African tour in October 2007, Dr. Cameron conducted workshops with NPCs in Tanzania, Burundi, Zambia and Namibia. The tour ended at 'The Next Step Conference' in Windhoek, Namibia, hosted by ODI partner UK Sport. Mr. Sinkamba and Dr. Cameron gave presentations on behalf of the IPC at the event, which aimed to give NPC representatives from Tanzania, Zambia, Namibia and Rwanda the chance to share their experiences and network with potential partners.

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

IPC and Atos Origin Sign Partnership Agreement



The management of athletes' data will be further improved as a result of a milestone agreement between the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the company Atos Origin.

Under the agreement, Atos Origin will contribute to the development of the Paralympic Movement through the creation of a system designed to manage the athletes' data, including results, biographical and classification specific information.

The signing ceremony took place on 28 January at the Sports Training Centre for Disabled Chinese Athletes in Beijing, China. in

attendance were IPC President Sir Philip Craven, Wang Xinxian, President of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of China and Vice Chairperson of the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF), Lu Shiming, Executive Vice President of CDPF, Patrick Adiba, Executive Vice President, Olympics and Major Events of Atos Origin and Herbert Leung, Chief Executive Officer of Atos Origin Asia.

Sir Philip said: "We heartily welcome Atos Origin to become the Worldwide Partner of the IPC. The Paralympic Games provide a stage for all athletes with a disability to demonstrate their strong spirit of meeting challenges, as well as inspire and excite the world with their performances. We hope the Paralympic Games can further promote such a spirit and attract more companies like Atos Origin and individuals to support the Paralympic Movement.

"The solution to be provided by Atos Origin shall help the IPC grow and offer better services to its members, NPCs, athletes and competition organizers."

Mr. Adiba said: "We are honored and proud to become the Worldwide IT Partner of the IPC. It marks a milestone in Atos Origin's history of supporting both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, at a global level. It demonstrates that Atos Origin attaches the same level of importance to both the Olympic and the Paralympic Movements."

The agreement with the IPC enables Atos Origin to expand its Paralympic marketing rights worldwide. And the company made another agreement with the NPC of China to sponsor two Chinese Paralympic athletes, Li Duan and Bian Jianxin to defend their titles at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Atos Origin is primarily responsible for information technology, relating to IT consulting, systems integration, operations management, information security and the development of software applications for the Olympic Games. The Company has been the IT Partner of the 2002, 2004 and 2006 Paralympic Games and is currently working on the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. It has started preparing for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games and will soon start on London 2012.

IPC Supports Research to Develop Evidence-Based Classification

Classification systems are fundamental to Paralympic Sport. They are used to make two important decisions – whether an athlete is eligible to compete in Paralympic Sport and what class they should compete in. The IPC recognizes the importance of classification and the impact it has on individual athletes. Together with IPC Athletics, the IPC is supporting research that will lead to the development of the first evidence-based system of classification, an initiative that is consistent with the newly-approved Classification Code.

What is evidence-based classification?

Evidence-based classification means that decisions about eligibility and sports class are based on sound scientific evidence. The move to develop evidence-based systems is a significant development in the evolution of classification systems.

Founded by Dr. Ludwig in the 1940s, Paralympic Sport originated as part of the rehabilitation process and, at that time, classification was medically based. Organisationally classification reflected the structure of a rehabilitation unit, with separate classes for people with spinal cord injuries, amputations, brain impairments and those with other neurological or orthopaedic conditions. Athletes received a single class based on their diagnosis, and competed in that class for all sports – Athletics, Swimming, Archery etc. An athlete, with paralysed legs but good arm and trunk power, would compete in a separate wheelchair race from a double above-the-knee amputee because their medical diagnosis was different. The fact that their impairments caused roughly the same level of difficulty with wheelchair propulsion was not considered in the classification process.

As the Paralympic Movement matured, sport ceased to be a mere extension of rehabilitation and became important in its own right. The focus on sport, rather than rehabilitation, drove the development of functional classification systems. In functional systems, the main factors that determined class were not diagnosis and medical evaluation, but how much the disability of a person impacted upon the movements required in the sport. For example, when functional systems were introduced for Athletics, double above-the-knee amputees began competing in the same wheelchair racing class as paraplegics with paralysed legs but strong arms and trunk muscles. This was because the effect that these disabilities had on wheelchair propulsion was about the same.

Why change from functional classification?

Currently all Paralympic sports use functional classification systems in various forms. The problem with these systems is that there is very little scientific evidence to support them. On some occasions this is not problematic because the decisions are obvious, as the Wheelchair Racing example in the previous paragraph illustrates. However there are many instances when decisions become more difficult. For example, in the sport of Athletics a Wheelchair Racing athlete with a spinal cord injury, who has paralysed legs, but strong arms and trunk muscles, will compete in the T54 class. However, if the athlete also has a permanently injured elbow he/she cannot straighten, the classification decision is more difficult.

If the elbow restriction is small and is deemed to have little impact on wheelchair propulsion, the athlete would stay in the T54 class. But if the restriction is severe enough to significantly hinder the athlete's ability to push a wheelchair they would compete in the T53 class (for athletes that have normal arm muscle power but no muscle power in their trunk muscles or in their legs). Classifiers assessing such an athlete must ask themselves an important question: "How much elbow restriction will cause the same amount of difficulty as the complete loss of trunk muscle function?". Unfortunately there is no research or evidence which can help to answer this question. This sort of decision making is the basis of all functional Paralympic classification systems. Because there is no research, these decisions are currently based on the experience and judgment of the classifiers who write and administer the classification systems. While there is no doubting the integrity or expertise of Paralympic classifiers, there is no objective way of assessing their judgment.

The development of evidence-based classification systems will address this problem and greatly reduce reliance on personal opinion. Evidence-based systems will ensure that, as far as possible, all classification judgments are based on fact, and this will greatly increase the transparency and objectivity of decision making. Evidence-based classification will provide stakeholders in the Paralympic Movement with the best possible assurance that the athletes who succeed will be those who are the most talented, determined and thoroughly prepared rather than those who are simply 'less disabled' than their competitors.

It is important to note that the development of evidence-based classification systems does not necessarily mean that athletes with movement control difficulties, associated with cerebral palsy or a brain injury, compete together with those who have lost muscle power through a spinal cord injury or polio. For example, in the sport of Athletics, these groups will continue to compete in separate classes after the introduction of the evidence-based system.

The IPC Athletics Classification Project

The IPC Athletics Classification project began in 2003 with the aim of developing an evidence-based system of classification. It was developed by Dr. Sean Tweedy from the University of Queensland (Australia) with assistance from Dr. John Bourke, former Head of Classification for IPC Athletics. Athletics was an ideal Paralympic Sport to begin the transition to evidence-based classification, as it is the largest sport. Furthermore, athletic skills such as running, jumping, wheelchair pushing and throwing are important to performance in a wide range of other Paralympic sports.

The project has two stages:

Stage 1 – Building the Foundations: This stage of the project, which has recently been completed, changed the foundations of the Athletics system, so that an evidence-based system could be developed. This involved clarifying the purpose of classification and the basis for placing athletes into classes, as well as providing very detailed and accurate eligibility criteria. These changes have been

endorsed by the IPC Athletics Sports Technical Committee and are currently being considered by the membership.

Stage 2 – Developing Evidence-Based Class Profiles: This stage has just commenced and will run until 2010. It will be led by Dr. Tweedy, together with Prof. Dr. Yves Vanlandewijck, Chairperson of the IPC Sports Science Committee and Dr. Bourke. The project aims to replace class profiles with evidence-based class profiles. When the work is complete, the classification process and outcomes will be fundamentally changed. While athletes will still be physically assessed, the core of the process will be a set of standardised tests, based on the outcomes of the research. The tests will be developed specifically to evaluate how much impairments (eg, loss of range of movement, loss of strength and increased muscle tone) impact on a person's ability to run, throw, jump or push a wheelchair.

Dr. Tweedy said: "The IPC membership can have great confidence in the capacity of this project to produce an evidence-based system. It has recently been reviewed by independent panellists from the Australian Research Council – Australia's peak scientific research organisation – who confirmed that the methods used constitute best-practice. We were very happy with this assessment as it confirms that we have a realistic prospect of achieving the desired outcome".

Providing the research runs to schedule, the new evidence-based system will be in place for London 2012.

How you can help?

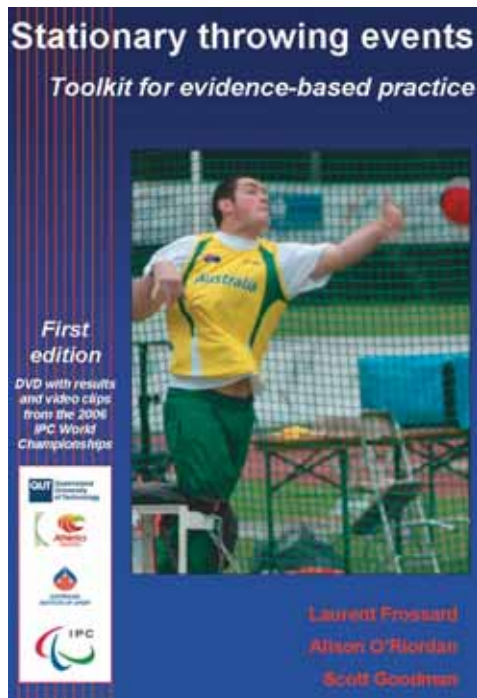
In order to develop the best classification system as many athletes as possible need to take part in the study. Dr. Tweedy said: "The more people who participate, the more confident we can be that the final test battery is valid. We will also need a great variety of athletes, novices to medal winning Paralympians, athletes from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and Oceania, males and females as well as throwers, runners, wheelchair racers and athletes from other sports. Therefore we take this opportunity to urge all members of the Paralympic Family – athletes, coaches and administrators – to respond positively if you are approached to participate. By taking part in this exciting research you can help develop the best possible classification system – one that encourages Paralympic athletes to pursue sporting excellence and truly reflect the Paralympic Spirit".

For more detailed information on the IPC Athletics Classification Project, please refer to IPC Athletics Classification Manual for Physical Impairments 2008-2010 (pp. 3-14), available at:

www.paralympic.org/release/Summer_Sports/Athletics/About_the_sport/Classification/index.html

For specific questions, or if you think you can help with athlete recruitment, contact Dr. Sean Tweedy at seant@hms.uq.edu.au

Research on Performance in Athletic Throwing Events



Top Paralympic athletes competing in shot put, discus and javelin events may be able to throw further than they ever imagined as a result of new research findings in the field of Athletics.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) approved a research application, submitted by experts from Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Athletics Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), to shed light into enhancing the performance of elite stationary throwers (classes F32 to F58). As part of the research a thorough analysis was carried out on athletes competing in shot put, discus and javelin events at the 2006 IPC Athletics World Championships in Assen, the Netherlands.

The specific objectives of the project were to explore the relationship between performance and (A) the initial conditions of the implement at release, (B) the sequence of actions prior to release and (C) the design of the throwing frame. The results focused on performance and emphasis was placed on the distribution of the performance within a throwing activity (inter-class analyses) and within a given class (intra-class analyses).

The findings of the research, authored by Dr. Laurent Frossard and Alison O'Riordan from QUT, will be used to form the first ever toolkit focused on the physical characteristics and movement capabilities of stationary throwers. This toolkit is being designed to improve the performance of athletes competing at all levels. As a training resource for National Paralympic Committees (NPCs), coaches and officials, the toolkit will be used to develop a basic knowledge of a Paralympic thrower's performance. In addition, it may contribute to a better understanding of evidence-based training, throwing frame design, athlete classification and refereeing.

The toolkit will be presented as a DVD, one of series of resource materials which will be made widely available to athletes, coaches, classifiers, sport biomechanists and referees, who will also have access to scientific publications, accessible documents and additional film footage retrieved from the Assen investigation.

Commenting on the value of the toolkit IPC Medical & Scientific Director Dr. Van de Vliet said: "The toolkit will provide an original approach to performance in seated throwing events. Not only is the data available related to the analysis of the distribution of performance, it is also presented in sets of figures, tables and illustrations that coaches, trainers and athletic officials will find easy to understand. The kit also includes a unique series of video files."

It is likely the toolkit will include information about 103 stationary throwers (77 males, 26 females) competing in 56 events (18 shotput, 20 discus, 18 javelin). This data will then be amalgamated into more than 600 video files and a 300 page document, which will be linked by a "click and play" function. Analysis has also been done on all athletes in classes F32 to F58, who competed in stationary shot put, discus and javelin events.

This research is part of the Parashot Project – an ongoing investigation into what determines the performance of elite stationary throwers. The project, conducted by a multi-disciplinary team from QUT, Athletics Australia and the AIS, started at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games, where kinematic data of stationary shot putters in a limited number of classes was collected for the first time.

The toolkit is expected to be available shortly before the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. For more information email toolkit_for_stationary_throws@yahoo.com.au or l.frossard@uq.edu.au.

Watch Paralympic Sport live on the Internet at: www.ParalympicSport.TV

Nordic Skiers Electrify Finland

Ukraine dominated the 2008 IPC Biathlon and Cross Country World Cup at competitions held on the slopes of Finland.

The Ukrainian team achieved seven victories during the event, which took place in Vuokatti from 26 January to 3 February. Their victory was closely followed by Belarus and Russia, who both achieved five wins each.



More than 180 athletes from 19 different countries competed in what was the second World Cup event to be hosted in Vuokatti. This year's competition formed the second phase of the World Cup, which kicked off in Isny in Germany.

German Verena Bentele and Ukrainian Vitaliy Lukyanenko (Visually Impaired category) and Irek Zaripov (Sitting category) from Russia were the most successful athletes, each winning three competitions. Bentele finished first in the Cross-Country Skiing Sprint, the 12.5km Biathlon event and the Biathlon Pursuit. Zaripov won the Cross Country Skiing Sprint and Middle Distance event and the Biathlon Pursuit and Lukyanenko won the Cross-Country Skiing Sprint, the 12.5km Biathlon and the Biathlon Pursuit.

Brian McKeever (Visually Impaired category) from Canada, Olena Iurkovska and Yuliya Batenkova from the Ukraine and Liudmila Vauchok (Sitting category) and Yadviha Skarabhataya (Visually Impaired category) from Belarus achieved two victories each.

At the time of going to press, athletes were preparing for the World Cup Finals due to take place in Nes, Norway, between 28 February and 2 March.

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