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Action from the 2007 Visa Paralympic World Cup. Photo ©:Yuko SATO / Sports-Press

## RECORD-BREAKING WEEK IN MANCHESTER

Records fell with the rain at the third Visa Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, Great Britain, from May 7 to 13. During seven days of competition, five world records were broken as 340 of the world's best Paralympic athletes from 47 countries competed for 143 medals in four sports (Athletics, Cycling, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball). The highlights can be watched on IPC's Internet TV Channel at [www.ParalympicSport.TV](http://www.ParalympicSport.TV).

Great Britain came out on top of the medal tally, winning 25 gold medals, eight of them in Athletics. Although Tanni Grey-Thompson ended her career with a second place in the 200m (class T53), the highlight was set by 19-year old Ben Rushgrove (GBR). He became the first man ever to dip below 25 seconds in the men's 200m (class T36). Oscar Pistorius (RSA) took home two gold medals, winning the 100m and 200m in his class (T44) breaking the Championships record over 100m in 11.64 seconds.

The Cyclists set three world records in the Manchester Velodrome. British trio Jody Cundy, Darren Kenny and Rik Waddo beat their own team sprint world record with a time of 52.096 seconds in the qualification round, taking the gold medal in the final. Jody Cundy then went on to break another world record, winning the 1 km time trial in 1:09.028 minutes. The third world record was also

produced by two British athletes: Anthony Kappes and Barney Storey won their tandem sprint heat in a new world record time of 10.410 seconds.

An athlete from South Africa inspired the crowd in the Aquatics Centre. Natalie du Toit, five-time Paralympic gold medalist, took home three gold medals, winning the multi-disability freestyle, the 100m freestyle (class S9) and the multi-disability 50m freestyle event. One world record was set in the pool by Greek Ioannis Kostakis who won the men's 100m freestyle (multi-disability) in 1:41.08 minutes. The British team also dominated the Swimming events, winning seven out of 17 events.

Canada and Japan were the winning countries in Wheelchair Basketball. While Canada defeated Australia in a close and thrilling match with 49:47 in the men's Wheelchair Basketball final, Japan demonstrated its strength in the women's final and beat Spain 50:17. Great Britain (men) and France (women) took home the bronze medals.

The Visa PWC is an annual global showpiece for elite sport for athletes with a disability. The event is supported by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), Visa, BBC, UK Sport, the Manchester City Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency. For more information please visit the official website at [www.visaparalympicworldcup.com](http://www.visaparalympicworldcup.com).

SPIRIT IN MOTION



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## China is Rising for the Games



Preparations for the Paralympic Games, especially for the upcoming 2008 Games in Beijing, have been keeping me very busy. In April, I had the privilege to visit China once again to attend the IPC Governing Board meeting as well as numerous workshops and events from the Beijing 2008 Organizing

Committee (BOCOG). I was touched by the extremely warm welcome, the great interest and the atmosphere of co-operation, which made it a very pleasant stay. I would like to express my thanks to our hosts for a wonderful opportunity to build on the strong relationships that will carry us forward to the best Games ever in 2008.

While in Beijing, I was the subject of a major group interview by key Chinese media. It has become clear to me that there already is enormous interest in China about the Paralympic Games, and it will continue to grow in the lead up to 2008. I gained the impression that many people see the Paralympic Games as a chance for China to demonstrate its modern approach to human values to the whole world, a value the Paralympic Movement clearly stands for. The BOCOG marketing programme has created a lot of excitement, and I am confident this will help bring the Paralympic Movement to the next level.

Of course the London 2012 Paralympic Games follow on 4 years after Beijing and talk about rising excitement, energy and commitment! With now less than 2012 days to go, the London 2012 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games is attaching great importance to the integration of planning and design of both Games from the start.

On a very happy and productive day in late March in Bonn members of the IPC Honorary Board came together for the first time at the IPC Headquarters. It was a great pleasure to welcome Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan and Jim Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank, who attended the meeting via video conference. We had a frank, open and constructive discussion on how we can all work together for the long-term benefit of the Paralympic Movement, and I would like to express my confidence that the Honorary Board will play an important role within this process.

Finally, I had the pleasure to be at the first days of competition at the 2007 VISA Paralympic World Cup in Manchester and see Paralympic athletes in action. Outstanding performance was the norm, resulting in another fabulous competition. We need more events like this between the Paralympic Games to give athletes top-level opportunities to compete and to showcase Paralympic Sport throughout the World. That is what the movement is all about!

*Philip Craven*

Sir Philip Craven, MBE  
IPC President

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

### IPC Governing Board at Work

On April 22, the final session of the 46th International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board (GB) concluded after three days of meetings in Beijing, China.

The Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) presented its latest updates for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in various areas, including Accessibility, Transport, Accommodation, Ticketing and Venue Services. As the BOCOG Executive Board members discussed measures to make the Beijing Paralympic Games as splendid as the Beijing Olympic Games at their last meeting in March 2007, the information provided to the GB members proved to be of special interest.

In order to keep this solemn promise China made to the international community, BOCOG has made innovative efforts to

prepare for the event, including the improvement of the organizational structure, in-depth work on the competition schedule and the construction of accessible facilities. BOCOG is the first Organizing Committee contractually obliged through the IOC-IPC Agreement to prepare concurrently for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"I am very delighted with the past days of meetings. The Governing Board is particularly impressed with the exciting progress being made for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games and we are confident that these will be marvellous Games in 2008", said IPC President Sir Philip Craven.

During a venue tour, the GB members also examined the progress being made by BOCOG for key venues, including the Main Stadium (Bird's Nest), the Aquatic Centre (Water Cube) and the Paralympic Village.



Photo ©: IPC

IPC Governing Board Meeting in Beijing, China

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

### Vancouver on Schedule

Following three days of positive meetings, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission successfully concluded its fourth visit to Vancouver, Canada, the host city of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. With less than three years to go before the Opening of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the Commission, including International Paralympic Committee (IPC) representative Rita van Driel, discussed several areas and looked closely at the progress made by the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC).

Said IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez, who also attended some of the meetings in Vancouver: "The overall Games preparations are progressing smoothly. Venue construction and sports planning are well under way and on schedule."

The visit to Vancouver also included a working group focusing on Paralympic specific issues. In addition, regular mentions of Paralympic Games were made throughout the presentations by VANOC, thus showing their integrated approach of planning. During

the Paralympic working group VANOC provided updates on various topics, including accommodation, marketing, Paralympic budget, city activities as well as education and awareness programmes.

VANOC has further developed a new Paralympic concept which now consists of two main venue clusters with the snow sports in Whistler and the ice sports in Vancouver, as approved by the IPC Governing Board last November.

Said Rita van Driel: "While the IPC has approved the new concept, we have made clear that it is critical to maintain the 'Compact Games' spirit and atmosphere and to put the appropriate means in place. In order to achieve this, VANOC has committed to developing initiatives such as live sites, education programmes and excellent client services ensuring the connectivity between the two venue clusters".

The next opportunity to review the progress on these and other topics will be the next Co-ordination Commission Meeting in September 2007.



## 2012 Days to Go



Sunday, February 25 marked exactly 2012 days to go to the start of the London 2012 Paralympic Games. At that time London and the whole of the UK will be the centre of the world's attention as the Opening Ceremony gets underway in the Olympic Stadium.

For the first time, both the Olympic and Paralympic Games will have been planned and designed together from the start. London 2012 is the first Organizing Committee to integrate planning in this way.

"The Paralympic Games is one of the world's most exciting and inspiring sporting events and experiences for elite athletes, and we want to ensure that our Games in London are the best ever" said Sebastian Coe, Chairman of the London 2012 Organizing Committee. "We want to set new standards on and off the track, and be a catalyst for continued

change for public attitudes towards disability. We will provide a compact and inclusive Paralympic Games with high quality accessible venues, transport services and excellent Village facilities for athletes as well as for team and technical officials."

"2012 days from now we want to welcome the world's elite Paralympians to the city that has made the most progress in making itself accessible to people with disabilities," said Mayor of London Ken Livingstone. The improvements to our capital in the lead up to 2012 will help disabled Londoners maximize opportunities to participate in the Games and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come."

"The London Games are a once in a lifetime opportunity to leave a sporting legacy for Britain's disabled people and we hope that

following the Games every person in the country with a physical or sensory impairment will have to opportunity to participate in sport," said Mike Brace, President of the British Paralympic Association and London 2012 board member

"I am convinced that the integrated approach for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is a perfect way to ensure fantastic events," said Sir Philip Craven, President of the IPC. "It will be very exciting for the Paralympic Family to return to England in 2012, as the roots of the Paralympic Games are here in Stoke Mandeville."

The bulk of London's Paralympic venues are set in two zones - the Olympic Park Zone and the River Zone. The two zones are within 15 minutes of each other, leading to one of the most compact Games ever, minimising travel times and disruption for Paralympians.

All Paralympic athletes will be housed within the Athletes' Village set within the Olympic Park, which has been designed to be fully accessible from the outset. Paralympic sailors and rowers will have accommodation close to their competition venues in Weymouth and Eton Dorney but will also have a bed available within the Village if required.

Outside the two zones, Cycling (Road) will take place in Regent's Park in central London, the new sport of Rowing in Eton Dorney, which hosted a successful Rowing World Championships last August, and Sailing at Weymouth and Portland.

## SPORT NEWS

### Rio 2007 Chef de Mission Seminar



Photo ©: Agencia Photocamera

From March 12 to 13, the Rio 2007 Parapan American Games Chef de Mission Seminar took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

During two days of meetings, the Organizing Committee of the Pan American and Parapan American Games Rio 2007 (CO-RIO) presented updates on a variety of topics including Technology, Marketing and Accommodations. Representatives from 14 countries attended as well as Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) President Andrew Parsons and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Sports Director David Grevemberg.

Nuzman:" We are sure that the Parapan American Games will boost the development of the Paralympic Movement in the Americas in an amazing way, sending a message about the importance of the Paralympic Movement in our countries."

"This event will build the foundations for future Parapan American Games and other sporting events in the Americas for Paralympic athletes," said Grevemberg. "Besides, the Parapan American Games in 2007 are a qualifying event for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in all sports, which makes this event even more important."

Said CO-RIO President Carlos Arthur

The visit concluded with a venue tour to the



# PARAPAN RIO 2007

João Havelange Stadium, the Parapan American Village, the City of Sports and Riocentro.

Chef de Missions are representatives selected by each NPC to oversee the general management of their delegations for a sporting event.



Photo ©: Getty Images

Sabine Gasteiger at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games

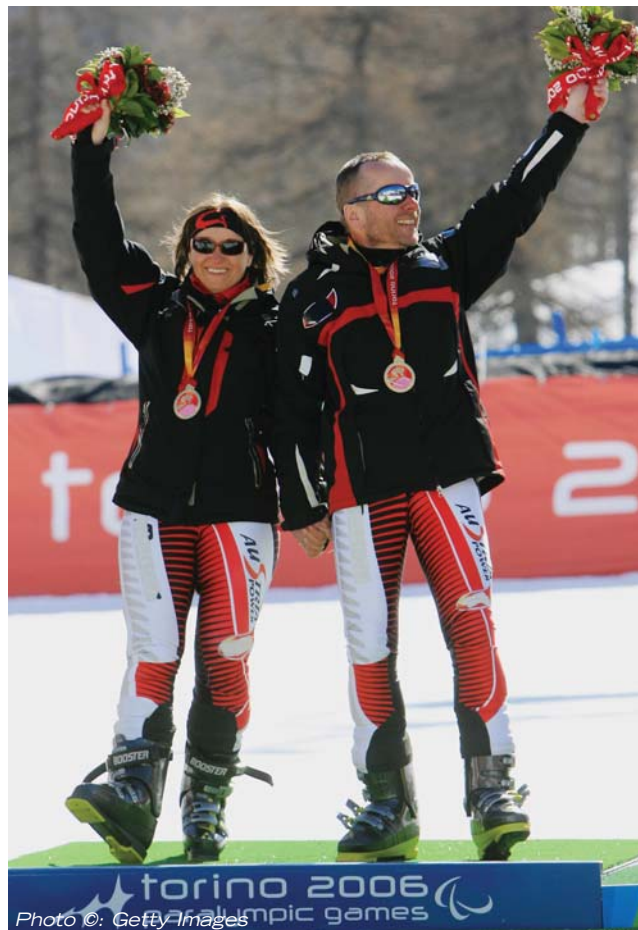


Photo ©: Getty Images

## Austrian Gold

The Austrian Sabine Gasteiger has set the standards in the 2006/2007 IPC Alpine Skiing World and European Cup with winning 20 out of 22 races and taking home the overall and individual World Cup trophies. The mother of three won one gold (Super-G), two silver (Downhill and Slalom) and one bronze medal (Giant Slalom) at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

In 1979, doctors diagnosed a macula degeneration. Her eyesight worsened every year and she eventually had to quit skiing. Mrs. Gasteiger has started with competitive Alpine Skiing in 2004, when her husband Emil had completed a special training to be able to guide her in Alpine Skiing races. 'The Paralympian' spoke to this outstanding athlete.

What kind of training is involved and how

often do you train?

Usually, I train five to six times a week. Training includes endurance, coordination, core strength and exercises for my balance. Most of the times I practice at home and when my husband has time we ride the tandem or go hiking.

What competitions have you competed in and are there any that you are looking forward to?

So far, I have competed in various European Cup and World Cup races. I also took part in the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. I am always looking forward to any race but I am especially curious about the World Championships in 2009.

How do you feel when you take the slope in a competition?

It is such a great feeling to be able to really

step on the gas going down the slope.

What are your goals for the upcoming season 2007/2008?

I want to improve my technique, I want to become faster, I want to ski well and, of course, I want to have fun skiing.

What kind of difficulties have you faced in your sport?

Once, I broke my hand and one of my ribs and I always have to overcome my anxiety for steep and icy slopes.

What advice would you give to other people with a disability considering taking up Alpine Skiing?

You should look for a good skiing instructor who knows and understands your kind of disability. Train your endurance and stamina and then just try it out.

## IPC SPORT CALENDAR

2007 IPC Powerlifting Open European Championships  
All Africa Games (2007 African Paralympic Championships)  
2007 IPC Shooting European Championships  
Rio 2007 Para Panamerican Games

10 - 15 June 2007  
11 - 23 July 2007  
22 - 29 July 2007  
12 - 19 August 2007

Kavala, GRE  
Algiers, ALG  
Suhl, GER  
Rio de Janeiro, BRA



## CP Athletes Get a Kick Out of 7-A-Side

'The Paralympian' had an opportunity to speak with Bob Fisher, CPISRA's Football 7-a-Side Representative on the IPC Sports' Council, about the tradition of the sport and his expectations for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

**TP: What is the history behind the sport? When and where was Football 7-a-side on the Paralympic programme for the first time?**

The first International Football 7-a-Side competition was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1978 at the Cerebral Palsy International Games. It was at these Games, when CPISRA was founded. In 1982, the first World Championships were held at the CPISRA World Games in Denmark; and the first Regional Championships were held in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1985. A regular programme of regional and world competitions are now being held as well as many International Invitational competitions organized. This year, Regional and a World Championships will be held with at least four International Invitational Competitions taking place. Football 7-a-side was first included on the Paralympic programme in 1984 at the New York Paralympics.

**TP: Can you explain the governance of the sport?**

Since 1978, CPISRA has been the governing body responsible for the promotion, development and the organisation of International Football Competitions for athletes who have Cerebral Palsy. The CPISRA General Assembly, through its members, elects the Executive Committee to revise and uphold the Vision, Mission and Object of the organization. Football 7-a-Side is one of the sports under the governance of the Executive Committee.

**TP: What is the appeal of Football 7-a-Side both for athletes and spectators?**

Football for athletes with Cerebral Palsy is an excellent team sport that is enjoyable and can be played as a recreational activity, but still gives athletes the opportunity to play at a higher level. Modifications to the rules make the game exciting and give spectators the opportunity to see the skills and team play

that teams can now produce. It a great spectator sport that athletes with Cerebral Palsy get tremendous pleasure from taking part in.

**TP: What type of classification system is used for Football 7-a-Side?**

CPISRA has a recognized classification system, which allows for all ambulant athletes with Cerebral Palsy to take part. Classification provides a system, so that individuals with disabilities who have the same or similar effects can compete, based on their functional performance to ensure fair competition. The classes that can take part are 5, 6, 7 & 8.

**TP: Which are the leading nations in the sport?**

For a decade between 1988 and 1996, the Netherlands were the leading nation being Paralympic Champions at the Seoul 1988, Barcelona 1992 and Atlanta 1996 Paralympics Games. Since then, Russia and Ukraine have been top of the rankings. Russia was the gold medallist at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics and Ukraine gold medallist at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games. The performance now being shown by many countries, through excellent coaching and training, have seen a levelling out in the competitive ability of many of the countries now taking part. Ukraine, Russia, Brazil and Iran are the current top ranked countries.

**TP: What developments have been made in Football 7-a-Side recently?**

Since Athens the rules for Football 7 a-Side have been reviewed with several changes being made. South Africa has now developed the sport of Football 7 a-Side hosting National Championships and competing at the 2005 CPISRA World Cup. Development initiatives are also underway in Africa to encourage other countries to take part. The IOSD's are currently having meetings to form a more collected approach to UEFA and FIFA etc. to seek ways to further develop Football for people with disabilities.

**TP: How many nations are currently practicing Football 7-a-Side? In what regions**

**is Football 7-a-Side the most popular?**

In recent years, at least 22 countries have taken part in International competitions held and this could rise by the end of this year. Europe is still the most popular region with at least ten countries taking part in competitions being held this year.

**TP: What are your expectations for the competition at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games?**

The ability level between teams is now levelling out and this should produce a very good competition. I am sure that with the spectator support and the inclusion of China taking part it should be a memorable experience for everyone.

**TP: In which areas do you see a need for further development?**

Looking at getting a working relationship with Football Associations etc. is a priority to help in the development work needed to encourage more countries to develop Football 7-a-Side. Encouraging African countries to develop this sport must be given some priority in the coming years.

**TP: How did you get involved in this sport? What are some challenges of the position as Sports Representative?**

I officiated at the first Football competition with the England team held in 1978. I was appointed the GB Football coach for the New York 1984 Paralympic Games and elected to the CPISRA Sports Technical Committee in the same year. I have continued in this role, which includes being the CPISRA representative on the IPC Sports Council and also officiating at many of the International competitions.

Representing CPISRA, the expectations and demands have increased considerably with more organizations becoming involved in the selection and running of National teams as well as the organization of competitions. Coordinating the requests and demands for the future will mean a considerably increase in the work that will be needed.



Photo ©: Getty Images

Football 7-a-Side at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Summer Games



Photo ©: Getty Images

## Oceania Paralympic Championships a Hit in Darwin

The 9th Arafura Games, held from 12 May to 19 May, began in spectacular style with more than 14,000 spectators watching the Opening Ceremony at TIO Stadium in Darwin, Australia. Around 2,500 athletes with and without a disability from 30 countries participated in the sporting event. Sir Philip Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), and representatives of the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) were also on site to attend the event.

A partnership between the Oceania Paralympic Committee, the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and the Northern Territory Government enabled, for the first time, the incorporation of the Oceania Paralympic Championships, a multi-sport, multi-disability event, into the Arafura Games 2007. Initiated by the APC, they were established to provide potential Paralympians

within Australia and the Oceania region with the opportunity to compete in an international event close to home. The Championships were also open to participants from Asia and other regions of the world.

A total of 322 athletes from 24 countries participated in seven sports for athletes with a disability (Athletics, Wheelchair Basketball, Cycling, Powerlifting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Tennis).

The men's Wheelchair Basketball competition saw the top Oceania region teams competing not only for Arafura Gold, but also to qualify for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. The Australian team won the final against Iran 75:37 to take away the gold medal. Iran surprisingly upset Japan in the semifinals to reach the finals against Australia and therefore also qualify for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

Wheelchair racers from Thailand dominated the track in Athletics. They conquered all 18 medals with Picket Krunget being the most successful, winning three gold and one silver medal.

Spectators were able to watch a showdown in the men's Wheelchair Tennis singles event with Richard Engles from New South Wales, currently ranked among the top 150 players in the world, taking on defending champion Ion Heng Chan from Macau, China. Engles came out on top winning the event in straight sets 6:1, 6:3. The bronze play off was between Macau teammates Chi Keong Ip and Sue Weng Ho with Ip winning the match 2:6, 6:3, 7:6.

In Cycling, three-time Paralympic Champion Kieran Modra and his guide Tyson Lawrence took home a gold medal each in the Road Race Tandem and the Time Trial Tandem.



Photo ©: Justin Saxon

Arafura Games medals were presented to all competitors who finished in first, second and third places. In addition, Oceania Paralympic Championships medals were awarded to leading athletes with a disability from the Oceania region.

The President of the Australian Paralympic Committee, Greg Hartung, has welcomed the recommendation by the participating countries and territories and the Northern Territory Government to permanently incorporate the Oceania Paralympic Championships within the Arafura Games: "It is pleasing that the very first Oceania Paralympic Championships has demonstrated so conclusively the value of the event and its fit within the Arafura format."

For more information and all results, please visit the official website at [www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au](http://www.arafuragames.nt.gov.au).



Photo ©: Geoff Tripp

Action from the 2007 Arafura Games

## Norway Wins Wheelchair Curling World Championships



Photo ©: Johan Sundström, Swedish Curling Association

Norwegian Wheelchair Curling Team

Norway's skip Rune Lorentsen led his team to victory at the 2007 World Wheelchair Curling Championships in Solleftea, Sweden, defeating Switzerland's Manfred Bolliger 5:4 and his team in the final. It was a close match, as the last stone had to be measured to determine the champion. It is a stunning result in Wheelchair Curling, as both finalists missed the podium a year ago at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

There were several upsets during the competition, as the Norwegians defeated the Torino 2006 Paralympic gold medallists, Canada with 8:7 in the semi-final. In the other semi final, Switzerland defeated two-time defending champions and Paralympic silver medallists Scotland with 6:2. Scotland then defeated Canada with 7:4 in the bronze medal match. Norway is now one step closer to qualifying for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games since the victory gave the team 12 valuable points in the qualification race. Switzerland earned 10 points, Scotland took eight points and Canada logged seven points.

The 5th World Wheelchair Curling Championships were held from February 15 to 25 in Solleftea, Sweden, during the Solleftea Winter Games, a multi-sport event with 245 athletes from 24 countries competing. Besides the Wheelchair Curling World Championships three other events took place: the IPC Alpine Skiing European Cup Final, the third IPC Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing World Cup as well as an international Ice Sledge Hockey Tournament.



## Action in Italy



Photo ©: Andrea Carloni



Photo ©: Andrea Carloni

Action from the 2007 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup

The fourth and final stage of the 2007 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup was held in Arco Terme, Italy, from March 12 to 14. A total of 122 athletes from 18 countries took part in this final event, an outstanding level of participation.

Six athletes took home the 2007 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup trophy after topping the Overall Combined Point List from their performance across Super G, Slalom and Giant Slalom events.

In the women's competition, Sabine Gasteiger (AUT) dominated in the Visually Impaired category, Stephani Victor (USA) won the Sitting category and Lauren Woolstencroft (CAN) took the women's Standing category.

Christopher Williamson (CAN) took the trophy in the men's Visually Impaired competition,

Martin Braxenthaler (GER) won the men's Sitting category and Thomas Pfyl (SUI) took the Standing category.

The Overall Combined Point List was tallied after three stages. The first stage was held in Aspen, USA, from 17 to 21 January. The second stage took place in Kimberly, Canada, from 24 to 27 January. Unfortunately, the third stage scheduled to be held in Abtenau, Austria, from 3 to 10 March was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

At the end of the World Cup series, Austria topped the Country standings. They were followed by the USA and Germany in second and third place respectively.



Photo ©: Andrea Carloni

## Nordic Skiers Excel at 2007 IPC World Cup Finals

Mt. Washington and the Comox Valley, British Columbia, Canada, was host of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing World Cup Finals, held from 10 to 14 March. For the last time in the 2006/2007 season, 78 athletes from 13 nations competed for medals, World Cup points and final World Cup rankings.

Twelve athletes took home the 2007 IPC World Cup trophy in Biathlon and Cross-Country Skiing after topping the Overall Point List being tallied after three World Cup events in Biathlon and four World Cup events in Cross-Country Skiing.

In the Biathlon women's competition, Miyuki Iguchi (JPN) won the Visually Impaired category, her team colleague Shoko Ota (JPN) dominated the Standing category and Irina Polyakova (RUS) took the women's Sitting category.

Wilhelm Brem (GER) took the trophy in the Biathlon men's Visually Impaired category while Nils Erik Ulset (NOR) won the men's Standing category and Vladimir Kiselev (RUS) finished in first place in the Sitting category.

In Cross-Country Skiing, Yadviha Skorabhataya (BLR) took home the women's trophy in the Visually Impaired category, Liudmila Valchok (BLR) won the Sitting category and Oleksandra Kononova (RUS) took the women's Standing category.

In addition, Frank Höfle (GER) took the trophy in the Cross-Country Skiing men's Visually Impaired category. Kjartan Haugen (NOR) won the men's Standing category, while Irek Zaripov (RUS) dominated the Sitting category.



Photo ©: Nick Laham - Getty Images

Nordic Skiing Action from the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games

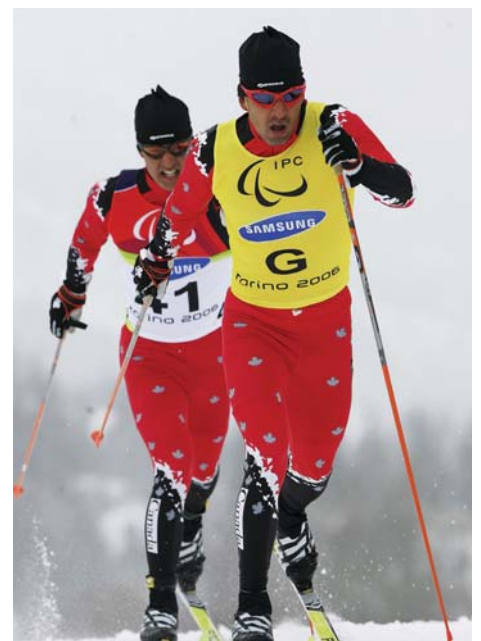


Photo ©: Bryn Lennon - Getty Images

## IPC Honorary Board Shines in Bonn



IPC President Sir Philip Craven with HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan.

On March 2, members of the IPC Honorary Board came together for the first time at the IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany. The Honorary Board met to discuss their goals and future steps to develop the Paralympic Movement, conduct advocacy to achieve equality for persons with a disability and increase the awareness and profile of the Paralympic Movement.

Said IPC President Sir Philip Craven in a press conference after the meeting: "I am very pleased that four of our seven Honorary Board members found the time today to participate in this meeting. It really has been a frank, open and constructive discussion on how we can all work together for the long-term benefit of the Paralympic Movement."

Her Royal Highness (HRH) Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden and HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan met with Sir Philip, IPC Vice President Miguel Sagarra and IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez. James Wolfensohn, former President of the World Bank also

attended the meeting via video conference from New York, USA.

"Since my involvement in the 1980 Arnhem Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Movement has grown tremendously. I have always had a warm interest in the Movement, but the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games were an eye-opening experience for me. It totally convinced me that I want to do my personal best for the Paralympic Movement", said HRH Princess Margriet after the meeting.

Said HRH Princess Haya: "First of all I would like to say what a great honour it is to be a member of the IPC Honorary Board. I am passionately interested in the work of this great organization and the principles of the Paralympic Movement are key messages from which all of us can learn and take inspiration. My fervent hope is that through this position I will be able to promote Paralympic Sport on a global basis particularly in my region, the Middle East."

HRH Crown Princess Victoria stated: "In 2005, I participated in an Paralympic School Day held in Sweden, which was lots of fun and very inspiring. It is one of the wonderful initiatives the Paralympic Movement created and I am looking forward to working with Sir Philip and the IPC to further help young athletes to develop."

"I believe that the Paralympics have all the excitement and the drama of the Olympics in

which I was proud to compete. But for courage and determination, for personal commitment and for emotional content the Paralympics are the gold medal winner", said Mr. Wolfensohn.

The IPC, as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement, decided in 2003 to create an Honorary Board to allow leaders of society an opportunity to support the vision of the Paralympic Movement and to strive to maintain the issue of Paralympic Sport high on the agenda of the global community.

Currently, the IPC Honorary Board consists of seven members, including (in order of acceptance) HRH Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, HSH Prince Albert of Monaco, Soprano Maria Guleghina, former World Bank President James Wolfensohn and HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein of Jordan.

German and international media showed great interest in the meeting. Broadcasting and newspaper journalists, for example from the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ), the Europe and Arab Press Agency, Deutsche Welle (DW) and Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR), were present. Footage of the meeting was sent to the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) for broadcasters all over Europe. Eurosport covered the meeting in their Olympic Magazine.



## 2010 World Championships Bid Process Underway

Several cities from around the world are interested in hosting the 2010 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) World Championships in Athletics, Shooting, Swimming, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Dance Sport. In January 2007, the IPC reviewed the submissions and selected the eligible candidates for the formal bid application process.

There are two applicant cities for the fifth IPC Athletics World Championships: Barcelona, Spain, and Christchurch, New Zealand. Ever since the first Championships took place in Berlin 1994, the IPC Athletics World Championships have been the largest IPC competition after the Paralympic Summer Games with more than 1,000 athletes competing each time.

For the 2010 IPC Shooting World Championships Patras, Greece, is the bid city. The last Championships took place in Sargans, Switzerland with 240 athletes from 44 countries taking part.

Championships: Eindhoven (Netherlands), Minneapolis (USA) and Sheffield (Great Britain). The Championships will take place for the fifth time in 2010, following the Championships in Durban, South Africa, where a total of 549 athletes from 49 countries competed.

Hong Kong, China, is the bid city for the 2010 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sports World Championships. Since Wheelchair Dance Sport is not included in the Paralympic Games Programme, the World Championships are the most important competition for Wheelchair dancers.

In order to provide support for the new bid process, the IPC held a bid seminar in regards to the 2010 IPC World Championships for Athletics and Swimming from 14 to 15 April. This first seminar of its kind took place at the IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, with representatives from almost all bid cities present. The aim of the seminar was to bring the bid cities together and discuss the Bid Application and Host Contract in detail. Furthermore, the IPC had the opportunity to articulate its expectations

to all of the bid city representatives as detailed in the Bid Application and Host Contract and to communicate the Bid Application Timeline.

Said IPC Sports Director David Grevenberg: "The seminar demonstrated that the bid process is very professional, fair and transparent. It provided clarity in many areas, particularly the bid and contract documents. The feedback from all the attendees was very good."

All bid cities are now required to submit the completed bid application to the IPC by 29 June 2007. Between 1 July and 15 September, the IPC will conduct an indepth bid review process of the completed applications and conduct site inspection visits to each of the bid cities. From 12 to 13 October, the bid applicants will be invited to present to the IPC World Championships Bid Evaluation Committee the final bid proposal. The Committee will recommend the preferred bid to the IPC Governing Board, who will then award the 2010 World Championships in November 2007.



## Swissotel Beijing: Paralympic Family Hotel

The Swissotel Beijing will be the official Paralympic Family Hotel for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Exactly 500 days before the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, Li Qing, Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) Director of Games Services Department and Stephen Hsu, Executive Director and General

Manager of the Hong Kong Macau Center Ltd., signed the agreement on 25 April.

The colourful and glamorous signing ceremony was attended by around 90 guests and media representatives, including Liu Jingmin, Executive Vice President of BOCOG and Vice Major of Beijing,

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Sir Philip Craven, IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez, and various representatives from the IPC Governing Board, BOCOG, the China Disabled Persons Federation and the National Tourism Bureau.

The Swissotel Beijing, which offers a total of 430 rooms and is ideally located at the intersection area of the Diplomatic District, Lufthansa Commercial District and Wangfujing Shopping District, enjoys easy access to the Olympic Green, Main Stadium and several other Paralympic Sport venues. Besides, complimentary supporting services such as Business Centre, Medical Clinic, Bank, Airline Ticketing Office, Courier Service and Post Office are under the same roof.

Serving the Paralympic Family during the Beijing 2008 Paralympics as "a home from home", adjustments have been made and will further be improved so that various rooms and all key common areas (business club, fitness centre, conference rooms) are accessible for persons with a disability. A total of 20 rooms will be fully accessible to cater for the needs of persons using a wheelchair, 35 rooms will be wheelchair-friendly. Furthermore, IPC Accessibility Consultant Nick Morris will, together with BOCOG and CDPF, ensure that hotel staff will be trained accordingly.



Foto ©: IPC

Paralympic Family Hotel Signing Ceremony

## NPC PROFILE: PORTUGAL

### A Bigger Team for Beijing 2008

'The Paralympian' had an opportunity to speak to Jorge Carvalho, Secretary General of the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Portugal, about the structure and main objective of the NPC.

**When and how was the NPC in Portugal established?**

Our NPC has been the main sport organization for the disabled in Portugal since 7 December 1987.

**How many people work at the NPC?**

In our Headquarters in Olival Basto we have five full time staff members. But most of the people are volunteers like me, as well as all the social departments, the directors, the general assembly etc.

**How many athletes does your NPC have?**

We are the governing body for about 3,000 athletes. The Portuguese Sport Association is composed of five sport associations, one for each disability group with our federation on top as the umbrella organization.

**What are your main objectives as an organization?**

This year we have started the Paralympic cycle. This began over the last few months with the elections for a new board. The most important objectives for the next four years, having Beijing in mind, is to engage new athletes, to mobilize young people and also to develop certain sports, in this case seven different ones. We are trying to promote Judo, Wheelchair Fencing, Shooting, Volleyball, Sailing, Rowing and Wheelchair Tennis.

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

Of course, thinking about Beijing, we wish to have some more medals for our athletes as in

the past. But much more than that, we are trying to prepare more athletes and send a bigger team to Beijing. Therefore, we need to include a larger number of athletes and also more sports over the next years. What we are trying to do in Portugal at the moment is to mobilize all the clubs and sport associations to open their doors for everybody. In my opinion, people with a disability who want to practice a sport should not go to a special club for persons with a disability only, but they must go to any club. I think this is the best way to achieve an integrated society. I don't believe in special clubs for people with a disability. I think we must all participate in every place, together. And this is one of our goals. To create an open society, we have to change the general mind first.

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

Over the last three years, we developed a project called "The Super Athlete" programme. It is a marketing a communication programme to get support for our athletes, not only financially, but also to promote the image of the Paralympic Movement. We designed this project to engage a lot of people, some companies and also the social community through the media, as this is very important. After this we got the support of the media and we became much more known within the society, so our athletes could have the real place they have the right to have. Especially after ATHENS, we received a lot of articles about the team, about the athletes and about our federation.

**What are the challenges facing your organization right now?**

I think the biggest challenge is to improve and evolve our organization. Using the Paralympic model, we will be composed of

not only these five disability sport organizations but also all the other national sports federations. If there is a Paralympic Committee composed of all these institutions, it would work much better and be much more democratic and I think we could do much more.

**At the moment, do you have any Paralympic athletes training with Olympic athletes?**

In Portugal, our Paralympic athletes usually train in the same place as the Olympic ones. We only have one Olympic Training Centre but of course there are some differences for some sports. We are trying to get the support of some of the municipalities to prepare a Special Training Centre for Paralympic athletes. When I say this, I mean it should be available for everybody, but at the same time remove some of the problems for Paralympic athletes.

**Do you have any publications or websites?**

At the moment, we are redesigning our website to make it more updated and dynamic. It should be ready in a couple of months. The address is [www.portugal-paralimpicos.org](http://www.portugal-paralimpicos.org).

**Is the Portuguese Paralympic Committee involved in any educational programme in schools or the general media?**

We have a very good engagement with schools. A lot of schools ask us to make presentations, to speak with the students and we have prepared a video about Paralympic sports. We have also prepared some brochures for each Paralympic sport, with all information available and how to get involved.

## International Paralympic Day 2007

### 23 August 2007: a Date for Excitement in Berlin

Berlin's Brandenburg Gate will provide a spectacular setting for the third International Paralympic Day (IPD), on 23 August 2007. IPD 2007 will showcase some of Paralympic Sport's most fabulous athletes including a selection of world record holders.

Organized and hosted by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), the International Paralympic Day gives the audience a first hand, up-close and interactive experience of top-level Paralympic Sport and a chance to get in touch with some of the world's best Paralympic athletes. It is a day of excitement, spectacle and inspiration for all! Watch out for coverage in the next issue of 'The Paralympian'!



SPIRIT IN MOTION

## DEVELOPMENT NEWS

### IPC Support for Development Initiatives

Development work has played a major role in building the knowledge base and infrastructure of the Paralympic Movement to enable people with a disability to participate and achieve sporting excellence. Thanks to the support of the IPC Development Grants between 2004 and 2006, over 38 development projects received financial assistance.

A new Compendium on IPC Development Grants 2004 to 2006 illustrates that the IPC supported projects covering 19 of the 26 sports on the Paralympic programme. The projects were implemented by the Sports, three International Organizations of Sports for the Disabled (IOSD's), eleven National

Paralympic Committees, four Regional Organizations and three IPC Standing Committees.

The IPC provided more than EUR 113,000 for projects realized by Member Organizations. More specifically, the IPC provided 5% of the funding to support an initiative in the Oceania region, 5% of the funding to support four initiatives in the African region, 9% to support three initiatives in the Americas region, 15% to support five initiatives in the Asian region, more than 30% to support nine initiatives in the European region and more than 30% supported initiatives with a global scope, meaning they were open to individuals from all regions.

The Compendium provides a thorough overview that captures the support supplied by the IPC and the individual project details including objectives and outputs. The IPC will begin a close review of the outcomes of the projects supported. This is an important exercise for the IPC as it focuses its development assistance in the coming year using a long-term investment approach through the IPC Organizational Development Initiative. For more information on the direction the IPC is taking in the area of development or the Compendium, please visit the IPC website.



The IPC Development Grants covered a spectrum of opportunities.

KEEP WATCHING



ParalympicSport.TV



## IPC Injury Survey Torino 2006

A team of researchers collected data on all musculoskeletal injuries presenting at the Polyclinics or Venue Medical Centres during the period of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. This was the second time an IPC injury survey had been carried out at a Paralympic Winter Games, having been established in Salt Lake City in 2002 by a research group directed by Dr. Nick Webborn of the IPC Sports Science Committee.

In Salt Lake City, findings included injuries in Ice Sledge Hockey particularly to the legs that were not well protected. They also found that sit-skiers were more prone to wrist injuries by landing heavily on the outrigger. Recommendations were made to the sports and changes in regulations regarding equipment and design were made to reduce injuries.

In Torino, Dr. Webborn worked with a group of physicians, including Dr. Stuart Willick from Salt Lake City and the TOROC Medical Team, as well as Dr. David Crandell, Dr. Tim Young, Dr. Giuseppe Massazza and Dr. Marco Bernardi. It was found out that one in 12 (40 out of 474) athletes presented with an injury experienced during the Games. This does not include those injuries treated by the NPC's

own medical team. Any injury severe enough to require an x-ray or scan was picked up by cross-referencing with the radiology reports of injuries. The injury rate for Torino (8%) was slightly lower than for the Salt Lake City Games (10%). There was a similar injury rate for male and female athletes. The average age of male athletes injured was 35 years and 27 years for females. Injuries were most common in Alpine Skiing (12%) and Ice Sledge Hockey (11%). Only 4% of the Nordic Skiing & Biathlon competitors suffered injuries and there were none reported in Wheelchair Curling.

In Alpine Skiing events, 80% of upper limb injuries occurred in sit-skiers including two wrist injuries. Although there were no fractures identified in either case it remains an area of risk and further research could explore technical adjustments to the outriggers. The shoulders are also susceptible to injury in falls. The pattern of injuries in standing classes is similar to able-bodied Skiing with fractures and ligament injuries.

Ice Sledge Hockey injuries showed a 3% reduction in injury rate from 2002 to 2006 and perhaps more importantly there were no

lower limb injuries in Ice Sledge Hockey in 2006 compared to five lower limb injuries with fractures in 2002. This is a significant change and may relate to two factors. Firstly, players are now required to wear hockey skate boots and leg guards. Secondly, the sport brought new regulations to reduce the chance of one sledge overriding another to cause injury by standardizing sledge height.

Nordic Skiing remains a relatively low risk sport with some overuse injuries from the repetitive nature of the event. It falls in the visually impaired causing traumatic events but of relatively low impact speed and therefore reduced risk of trauma. Wheelchair Curling was a new sport for 2006 and as a target sport with little forces required it has a low risk of injury.

Only by observing injury incidence and causation it is possible to develop strategies to reduce them. The lack of information on injuries in Paralympic Sport needs addressing. Therefore, Dr. Webborn is already liaising with the VANOC 2010 Medical Team to see if they can further improve on the study and will compare the data to the previous two Games.



## Beijing 2008 Research Applications

Applications for research projects to be conducted at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games should be submitted to the IPC before 6 September 2007. Further information and the relevant documents can be found on the IPC website [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org), under 'Sport Science'.

## Major Sports Associations Join Forces in Sports Science

The 2008 International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport (ICSEMIS) will be held in Guangzhou, China, from August 1 to 5 2008.

The Convention is deemed to be the successor of the Pre-Olympic Congresses which have been organized under the responsibility of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) before every Olympic Summer Games since 1960, as well as of the International Congress of Sport Science organised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the year preceding the Olympic Summer Games, and of the Pre-Paralympic Congress organised by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) before the Paralympic Summer Games. The International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) is the fourth party to the organization of the Congress. These groups constitute the International Co-ordinating Committee of the Convention.

The decision to organise a joint congress from 2008 on was taken on the last day of the 2004 Pre-Olympic Congress in August 2004, in Thessaloniki, Greece, by ICSSPE, IPC and FIMS. The IOC agreed to participate in this endeavour upon invitation by the other partners.

The Convention takes place in the same country as the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games.

The theme for the 2008 Convention is "Sport Sciences and Harmonious Society in the 21st Century". The Convention features

speakers from all aspects of sports sciences, sports medicine and physical education. The programme will include key-note presentations, symposia and poster sessions with a strong scientific emphasis, as well as applied sessions focusing on the implementation of findings into practice in sport and exercise.

Paralympic themes will be addressed in "athlete with a disability" - symposia, but the IPC is especially pleased with the emphasis of this Convention on 'integrated' scientific symposia and thematic sessions. A coming together of scientists with the same interest, but targeting a different population (able-bodied athletes versus athletes with a disability) is of extreme interest to all partners. To this extend, the Convention is very important to the further development of sports sciences in the Paralympic Movement.

The IPC hopes for a good representation of scientists, sport technical experts, trainers and coaches with expertise in Paralympic Sports. The IPC hereby calls to submit contributions to this Convention and to invite its members to take the occasion to exchange knowledge and to meet with their colleagues at the occasion of the 2008 Convention.

The Organizers target an audience of 2500 delegates. A first announcement and call for abstracts will be released in the end of May 2007.

**Sorry, we left you out:** In the last edition of 'The Paralympian', we forgot to mention the presence of IBSA and the Goalball Sub Committee at the African NPC's Seminar. Their contribution to the event was very much appreciated. We would like to apologize for this mistake.



Photo ©:Nick Laham - Getty Images

Martin Braxenthaler at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games

## Braxenthaler Wins Laureus Award 2007

A who's who of the world of sport gathered for the eighth annual Laureus World Sports Awards, an unforgettable evening dedicated to the best athletes in the world. The glamorous ceremony hosted by actor Cuba Gooding Jr took place at the Palau St. Jordi in Barcelona, Spain on 2 April.

The Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award was presented to Alpine Skier Martin Braxenthaler from Germany by Argentinian top model Valeria Mazza and Laureus World Sports Academy member Franz Klammer.

Martin Braxenthaler was an outstanding performer in Alpine Skiing at the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games winning three gold medals (Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super G). As well in 2006, he was the winner of the overall World Cup, the World Cup Slalom and was German champion in Slalom and Giant Slalom. Amongst other honours, he was awarded the Eurosport Sport Star Award for Best Male Athlete with a Disability in 2006. His successes over the years, both in and out of Paralympic competition, have made him the most successful mono-skier in the history of the Paralympic movement with World Cup titles in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006 as well as 2007, and two gold medals and a silver medal in both the 2000 and 2004 World Championships.

After winning the award, Mr. Braxenthaler stated: "I am really honoured to receive this award today and I would like to thank everyone who has helped me to achieve this." With his great experience Mr. Braxenthaler has become a role model for younger athletes. His knowledge and skills are the basis for other athletes getting better and better.

The other nominees in the category for Laureus Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability were Edith Hunkeler (Athletics, Switzerland), Esther Vergeer (Wheelchair Tennis, Netherlands), Javier Ochoa (Cycling,

Spain), Kazem Rajabi Golojeh (Powerlifting, Iran) and Kurt Fearnley (Athletics, Australia). The prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards honour the world's best sportsmen and women and celebrate sporting excellence across all disciplines and continents each year. The winners are selected by a jury, including members of the Laureus World Sports Academy.

The globally televised Awards Ceremony featured many well-known personalities including His Royal Highness King Juan Carlos of Spain, actors Morgan Freeman and Eva Longoria, famous Flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortes, Vitali and Vladimir Klitschko and the band the Sugar Babes.

"I am really honoured to receive this award today and I would like to thank everyone who has helped me to achieve this."

Martin Braxenthaler



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