

THE PARALYMPIAN

Official Newsletter of the International Paralympic Committee



ISSUE
2
2005

INSIDE

ISB Announced as
Torino 2006 Host
Broadcaster p. 2

VANOC Team on
the Mark With Five
Years to Go p. 3

Athletes' Council
Chairperson Re-
Elected p. 4

Biggest Nordic
Event of the Year
p. 7

Preparations
Begin for VISTA
2006 p. 11



IPC President Phil Craven, Italian Paralympic Committee President Luca Pancalli and President Paralympics of the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee Tiziana Nasi, with Aster (© Photo: LaPresse).

BENVENUTO ASTER!

The one-year countdown, or the 'MenoUno', to the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games began in style on 10 March 2005. The occasion was marked by a number of celebrations in Torino, Italy, attended by IPC President Phil Craven and IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez. From the IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, the IPC sent out the invitations to the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics to NPCs.

Said Mr. Craven: "Yesterday, in Torino, I had the pleasure of personally signing and handing over the invitation to the President of the Italian NPC. Since Salt Lake City, I have become an avid fan of winter sports - the speed and fearlessness of the athletes are breathtaking. From all I have seen and heard in Torino, I can only recommend you to attend the Games - as a participant, volunteer or spectator!"

Ticket prices were launched with sports tickets to cost between €12 and €30 and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies to range from €20 to €80 (with reduced prices of €8 to €20 for sports tickets and €20 to €50 for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for children aged 2 to 14,

senior citizens over 60 years of age and groups of more than 20 persons). All tickets will go on sale on 2 June 2005. For more information please visit www.paralympicgames.torino2006.org.

On 9 March 2005 the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC) unveiled the mascot of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games: Aster. Aster the snowflake is happy, agile and dynamic. Thanks to its particular form, it is capable of assuming all positions specified by the Paralympic disciplines, thus being representative of all athletes in an entertaining, positive and natural fashion. A close friend of Neve and Gliz (the Olympic Games mascots), Aster belongs to the same magi-cal world of snow and ice. Said Mr. Craven: "Aster is sure to win the hearts of athletes, spectators and children alike."

At the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, approximately 590 athletes from 45 countries are expected to compete in four sports: Alpine Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey, Nordic Skiing and Wheelchair Curling, with Wheelchair Curling making its debut at these Paralympic Winter Games.

SPIRIT IN MOTION



First IPC Governing
Board Meeting p. 2



Doping Control Pull-Out
Poster p. 6



Visa Paralympic World
Cup p. 8



Laureus Honours
Paralympian p. 12

The Countdown Begins



In March of this year, several Paralympic Winter Games were commemorated - one year to go to Torino 2006, five years to go to Vancouver 2010 and three years post the Salt Lake City 2002 Closing Ceremony. All of the celebrations brought together persons who believe in the Paralympic

Movement, who have experienced the thrill of Paralympic Sport, who share the mission of the IPC or wish to bring the Paralympic Games to new levels. It was an extraordinary month!

My focus on the Winter Paralympics continues with the 4th Paralympic Games Liaison Committee meeting between the IPC and the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee taking place at the end of June. But I will also be turning my attention to the Summer Paralympics: end of May I travel to Beijing for the next IOC Co-ordination Commission meeting, which will be followed by an IPC-BOCOG Workshop on Paralympic Games. The next thrill will be the announcement of the host city of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, for which I will be present in Singapore in July.

The IPC sports calendar is not just about Paralympic Games, a new competition has been added: the Visa Paralympic World Cup. Visiting this year's event, I felt the presence of the Paralympic Spirit and was pleased to hear that the finals of the Wheelchair Basketball and Swimming were sold out allowing others to be inspired and excited by the athletes present in Manchester.

I also had the opportunity to visit competitions in Asia. At the Korean National Games I enjoyed the energy, enthusiasm and warmth of the athletes, organizers, government representatives and people of Korea. In Hong Kong, I was present at the very successful Seven's Tournament in Rugby - the first to include Wheelchair Rugby events alongside Rugby.

Another first was the meeting of the IPC Governing Board, which took place in April, among other things setting the Paralympic Event Programme for 2006 and the Sports Programme for 2008. On behalf of the entire Paralympic Family, I would like to welcome Rowing as a new sport to debut at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. The next Governing Board meeting will see newly selected members, after the elections at the IPC General Assembly in Beijing in November of this year.

Striving for a closer contact with the athletes and attempting to develop a platform for Paralympic athletes, the IPC website www.paralympic.org includes an Athletes' Club. I would like to encourage athletes to log on and to make sure that your voice is heard. What can the IPC do to make sure that the Paralympic Spirit stays in motion? We look forward to hearing from you!

Phil Craven

Phil Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: TORINO 2006

Chefs on a Mission

The Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games Chef de Mission Seminar took place from 6 to 8 April 2005, in Torino, Italy. During three days of meetings, the Organizing Committee for the Torino 2006 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (TOROC) and the IPC presented updates on topics including sport entries, classification, NPC services, accreditation, ticketing and brand protection to 60 attendees from 26 National Paralympic Committees (NPCs).

"The Organizing Committee is well prepared and we believe that the Games will be perfectly organized. We really feel that these will be good Games for the athletes. During this visit we are very happy

to see many volunteers and to have the chance to personally meet the NPC assistants - ours has already begun to support us," commented Kunio Nakamori, Secretary General of the Japan Paralympic Committee. The Japan Paralympic Committee is planning to participate in the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics with 40-45 athletes (subject to qualification).

Chefs de Mission are representatives selected by each NPC to oversee the general management of its delegation for a Paralympic Games. The Chef de Mission Seminar is regularly held one year prior to the Paralympic Games to assist NPCs in their preparation and planning for the Games.



Chefs de Mission from 26 National Paralympic Committees at the Torino Lingotto Fiere in Torino, Italy. (Photo courtesy of TOROC).

New TOROC Senior Management

On 7 March 2005, in a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC), Cesare Vaciego was appointed new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Luciano Barra his Deputy CEO and Chief of Operations (COO).

They will be replacing Paolo Rota and Marcello Pochettini, the former CEO and Deputy CEO. Mr. Vaciego will be in charge of the organizational side, overseeing the general management of TOROC, while Mr. Barra will act as Chief of Operations.

ISB Selected as Torino 2006 Host Broadcaster

In April, the IPC announced the appointment of International Sports Broadcasting (ISB) as the Host Broadcaster of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. The partnership with ISB will ensure a high standard of coverage, with approximately 30 rightsholding broadcasters from around the world expected to cover this event.

Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Chief Executive Officer, stated: "We are confident that ISB will deliver services of the highest quality to our rights holders, who will then be able to bring the excitement of Paralympic Winter sport to the sitting rooms of millions around the world."

As Host Broadcaster, ISB is responsible for producing and distributing unbiased radio and television coverage of the Paralympics. The coverage will be provided as a service to broadcasters who have purchased the Paralympic Broadcast Rights from the IPC in their respective territories.

"ISB is proud to continue our relationship with the IPC and televising one of the world's best and most inspiring sporting events," said Manolo Romero, President of ISB. "We hope that our coverage will match the effort of the athletes on the field of play, which is nothing short of excellent."

ISB has extensive experience in sports broadcasting, having been the Host

Broadcaster for the Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004 and the Salt Lake Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2002. ISB was also involved in the ATHENS 2004 Olympic Games broadcasting as part of Athens Olympic Broadcasting (AOB).



An Alpine skier being filmed during the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games © Photo: Serena Ovens.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

VANOC Team on the Mark

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will be held from 12 to 21 March 2010 in Whistler, Canada, therefore 12 March 2005 marked the five-year countdown. To celebrate the occasion, IPC President Phil Craven and John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC), took part in a number of activities around the Whistler area.

The day included a tour of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics venue sites in Whistler, including the Nordic competition venue, Paralympic Village, Whistler Creekside (Alpine Skiing venues) and Meadow Park Arena (Wheelchair Curling venue).

"It was very exciting for me, for the first time in person, to see most of the venues to be used in 2010. I am confident that the Vancouver 2010 Winter Paralympics will offer compact Games for athletes, spectators and media alike," commented Mr. Craven.

In the afternoon, Mr. Furlong joined Mr. Craven at the Vancouver 2010 Info Centre in Whistler for a discussion with athletes from the Whistler Adaptive Sport Programme and Paralympic Games hopefuls. Wheelchair Curling and Biathlon were demonstrated and adapted ski equipment was displayed. Mr. Craven also spoke to the Whistler community about his vision for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games and the growth of sport for people with a disability.

Said Mr. Furlong: "VANOC is one Organizing Committee preparing for both the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter



IPC President Phil Craven with VANOC CEO John Furlong (© Photo: Brad Kasselmann, coastphoto.com, courtesy of VANOC).

Games...everyday we make decisions that integrate the planning for both Games. Our goal is to be as seamless as we can in the transition from the Olympic to Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. We want to create extraordinary Games and leave a profound legacy for both the Olympic and Paralympic Movements."

VANOC has completed the appointment of its key senior executive team and its team of 90 full time staff is now working in a variety of departments. This workforce will grow over the next five years to reach around 1,200 employees before the Games in 2010. An estimated 3,000 temporary workers and 25,000 volunteers will join the team in 2010.

The VANOC team boasts a strong and diverse range of backgrounds. Of the current team members, 21 have previous Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games organizing experience. The team includes three Olympians and one Paralympian as well as 26 athletes with national or regional competition experience.



© Photo: Brad Kasselmann, coastphoto.com, courtesy of VANOC.

IPC NEWS

Hometown Reception



IPC President Phil Craven with the Lord Mayor of Bonn, Bärbel Dieckmann.

On the evening of 3 March 2005, athletes, representatives from sport, the German government and media gathered at IPC Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, for the annual IPC Reception.

The Lord Mayor of Bonn Bärbel Dieckmann and the Deputy Director-General of International Sport Affairs at the Federal Ministry of the Interior Torsten Burmester, were among the guests and speakers. Both paid their tributes to the work of the IPC.

In her speech, Ms. Dieckmann said: "The International Paralympic Committee is an important international organization for the city of Bonn and we will continue to support the IPC and the Paralympic Movement.

Fully Integrated Games in 2010

The IOC Co-ordination Commission successfully concluded its second visit to Vancouver on 8 April 2005, where they completed a two-day working session and update on the progress of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

The 11-person commission is chaired by René Fasel and includes IPC representative Rita van Driel. Said Ms. van Driel: "For the first time, the mission of the Organizing Committee will include the mention of the Paralympics. The fact that many VANOC staff have Paralympic Games experience will also guarantee the full integration of the Paralympics."

Areas discussed during the meetings included sport, venue planning, accommodation, transport and security. In addition, the Co-ordination Commission made it a priority to meet with all Games stakeholders, including city, provincial and federal governments, and the representatives of the First Nations (the Lil'wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh tribes).

VANOC Chief Executive Officer John Furlong stated: "We are proud to report to the IOC Co-ordination Commission a highly successful first year. Our executive leadership team is in place and planning is advancing in all areas... Our venue development programme is on track, with construction of new venues starting this summer."



VANOC CEO John Furlong signs a document in celebration of the environmental assessment of the Nordic competition venue for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Also pictured are British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell, Rene Fasel, chairperson of the IOC Co-ordination Commission and Chief Gibby Jacob, a member of the VANOC Board of Directors. Photo © Kim Stallknecht, courtesy of VANOC).

Sport for persons with a disability gains in importance every year and the IPC plays an important part in this development."

Addressing the audience gathered at the reception, IPC President Phil Craven looked back on 2004, highlighting the successful ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and offered his thanks to the athletes and members of the Paralympic Family, who have given their time and effort for the success of the Games.

President Craven also looked ahead, expressing his confidence in the success of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games and encouraging support for the second International Paralympic Day, to be held in Bonn on 27 August.

First Meeting of IPC Governing Board



Members of the IPC Governing Board during their meeting in Torino, Italy (Photo courtesy of TOROC).

From 9 to 10 April, the first meeting of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Governing Board (GB)* took place in Torino, Italy.

In a presentation held by the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC), the GB was informed that TOROC will provide spectators with a disability complimentary tickets for the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics. Furthermore, approximately 90,000 students are expected to attend through an ongoing education programme. Ticket sales will begin in June 2005. TOROC is progressing with regards to the location of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. The Competition Schedule, Event Programme and Qualification Guide for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games were approved at the meeting and are now available to view online at www.paralympic.org.

After a comprehensive evaluation of the proposed applications, Rowing was accepted as a new sport on the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games programme. The IPC will work closely with the International Rowing Federation (FISA) to finalize the detailed competition programme for Rowing. The Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games programme includes 20 sports:

Archery
Boccia
Equestrian
Football 7-a-Side
Judo
Rowing
Shooting
Table Tennis
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby

Athletics
Cycling
Football 5-a-Side
Goalball
Powerlifting
Sailing
Swimming
Volleyball
Wheelchair Fencing
Wheelchair Tennis.

At the meeting, the GB officially accepted the dates proposed by the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games: 6-17 September 2008.

The Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC) informed that the Paralympic Games have successfully been integrated into the marketing packages being provided in the area of sponsoring. The progress report confirmed the full integration of the Paralympic Games into all areas of VANOC's planning and operations.

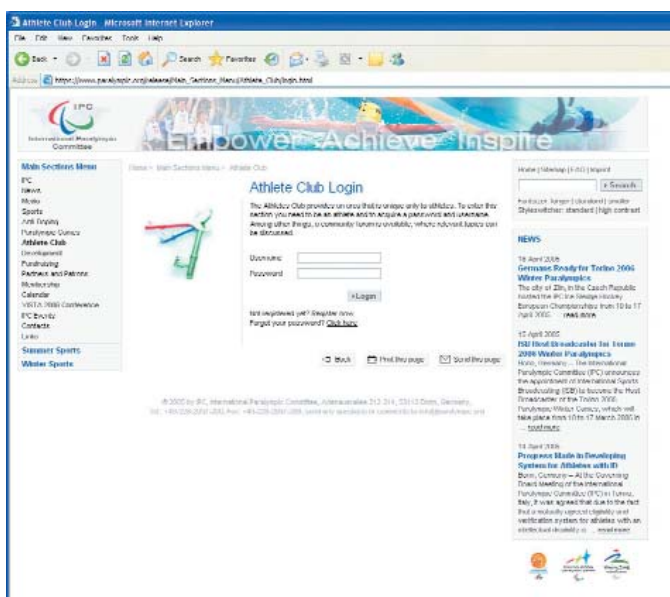
As a consequence of the seven anti-doping rule violations in Powerlifting at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, the IPC has developed a proposal to fight doping in this sport. The proposal was approved by the GB and the IPC will now work closely with the International Paralympic Powerlifting Committee and the NPCs practicing Powerlifting to ensure that the aim of reducing doping violations in Powerlifting is achieved.

In other business, the transfer of governance of IPC Equestrian from the IPC to the International Equestrian Federation (FEI, the able-bodied international federation) was, in principle, approved by the GB. A transfer of governance agreement for a smooth and timely transition at both the international and national levels will now be drafted.

During the meeting, the GB also approved the the name change of the South Pacific Region to 'Oceania Region', and 'Oceania Paralympic Committee' as the name of the Regional Organization.

* With the adoption of the new IPC Constitution by the IPC General Assembly in November 2004, the members of the IPC Executive Committee were charged with the task to act as the GB until elections can be held at the next General Assembly in November 2005.

Calling All Athletes



An exciting new feature has recently been launched on the IPC website www.paralympic.org. The IPC Athlete Club provides an on-line forum for Paralympic athletes to communicate. All Paralympic athletes who have participated at a national or international level are invited to register for the Athlete Club.

This section gives athletes the chance to discuss issues and 'meet' with other athletes online. The News section features general news about the Paralympic Movement and news for athletes. There is a discussion forum in which athletes have the possibility to ask questions and get in contact with other athletes. The Events section provides information about special events for athletes (competitions, conferences, trade fairs, etc). The Athlete Issues section offers information about the IPC Athletes' Council and there is also a Bios section with links to biographical information of athletes.

More than 300 athletes from more than 71 countries have registered for the Club so far. To become a member, athletes have to fill in the registration form online. Once the IPC has verified the details, the athlete will get a user-name and password.

The IPC works closely with the Athletes' Council to develop and maintain the Club. New sections including a Job/Internship section and an Athlete Bulletin and special 'athlete-only' offers such as grant opportunities and publications are currently being developed.

Chairperson Re-Elected



During the Athletes' Council (AC) meeting held from 21 to 24 April in Bonn, Germany, Ljiljana (Lilo) Ljubisic was re-elected as Chairperson of the Council. The position was undecided at the last meeting in January due to a tie between

the two candidates: Ms. Ljubisic and Robert Balk. Ms. Ljubisic has competed in Athletics at five Paralympic Games.

At the meeting, an Election Task Force was established to oversee the IPC AC Winter Representative Elections to be held in Torino in 2006 and Ana Garcia-Arcicollar Vallejo was chosen as its Chairperson.

The AC provides a collective voice for Paralympic athletes. As the liaison between IPC decision-makers and Paralympic athletes, the AC works to provide effective input into decision-making at all levels of the organisation. The AC helps to ensure athlete representation on all IPC committees and to create other opportunities for athlete representation both within and outside the IPC.

Rowing Joins Paralympic Programme

In an exciting development, Rowing was recently added to the Paralympic Programme for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. But how is an important decision like this made? The Paralympian spoke to member of the Paralympic programme Working Group and Interim Chairperson of the IPC Sports Council, Fred Jansen, to find out.

The Paralympian: What was the role of the Paralympic programme Working Group?

Fred Jansen: As a group we had to recommend the principles used to decide which sports and disciplines should be included on the Paralympic programme. To achieve this we had to review and enhance the 'minimum eligibility conditions' that sports [disciplines and events] must meet to be considered for inclusion on the programme. For example, sports must have a minimum of 18 countries considered 'widely and regularly practicing'. We then had to evaluate the sports and disciplines applying for consideration and make recommendations to the IPC Governing Board about which ones we felt should be included in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

TP: How do you accept a new sport onto the programme?

FJ: The Working Group established three core characteristics which are like the 'philosophical structure' of the Paralympic Programme. The first is Universality, meaning sports must be equitable, global and balanced, which is important to ensure we have a diverse Movement. Second is Quantity, which looks at the viability and sustainability of the sport. The final characteristic is Quality, which looks at the level of excellence and appeal of the sport.

From these core characteristics we were then able to establish the guiding principles that facilitated our decision making.

We then had to set targets related to the IPC's Vision and Mission. We were looking at the long-term success and sustainability of the Paralympics. Therefore we tried to ensure a fair representation of different genders, disability groups, athletes with a severe disability, regions and individual vs. team sports.

We also had to identify the 'quantitative parameters' of the Paralympic Games based on current obligations. For example, we only have a limited number of competition days and limits on how many athletes and officials can participate. Then we had to match the programme to fit into these parameters. When assessing the sports and disciplines we also had to consider the infrastructure of the sport, including elements like rules and regulations, human resources, ranking and records systems and their strategic plan.

TP: What process must a sport undergo to be considered?

FJ: Firstly, the sport/discipline is assessed on the minimum eligibility principles. Then we look at the infrastructure of the governing body

and their ability to meet the obligations of being a Paralympic sport. The final phase looks at the impact that sport/discipline may have on the scope and scale of the Paralympic Games. This provides a basis for us to position it on the programme, in relation to achieving specific targets for the respective edition of the Paralympics.

This year, the Governing Board embraced the concept of 'positioning' sports and disciplines on the programme. We looked at the distinctive qualities of each sport/discipline, ie, what sets it apart and what value does it bring to the Paralympics? This process is not a ranking system, but rather an attempt to fit each sport and discipline as an important component of the whole programme.

TP: What were some of the most significant outcomes of this process?

FJ: As well as the addition of Rowing as a new sport, men's and women's compound bow events have been included in the programme of Archery. Furthermore, the tournament sizes in the Women's Volleyball (Sitting) and Women's Wheelchair Basketball events have increased by two teams each, and a regatta for a Two Person Keelboat division in the sport of Sailing was added.



PARALYMPIC GAMES: BID CITIES 2012

Big Decisions: IOC Evaluation Commission



Nawal El Moutawakel. © Photo: International Olympic Committee

The first African Arab and Muslim female athlete to become Olympic champion, Nawal El Moutawakel is well accustomed to resolving difficulties. With the experience acquired through her collaboration with the Moroccan government, as member of the IAAF Council and several commissions within the IOC, of which she has been a member since 1998, Nawal El Moutawakel explains to us the responsibilities incumbent to the Evaluation Commission and how, with her competent team and recognised know-how, she will accomplish her mission.

What is the role of the Commission that you chair?

Above all, to study and analyse the Candidature Files. During the visits to each city, the Commission has the task of checking the facts and evaluating the risks for the IOC.

Then it produces a report, which will be distributed to all the IOC members who, you may recall, no longer have the right to visit the cities or receive representatives of these cities. Its mandate will come to an end at the Singapore Session with the election of the host city for the Games of the XXX Olympiad in 2012.

How do you see your role within this Commission? What is the main challenge?

As I have often said: I will work with all of my team because the one who wins alone has already lost everything. My role is that of coordinator, a conductor whose musicians, from the five continents, are recognised experts in their respective fields. The Commission has before it five Candidate Cities all as prestigious as each other. Today, organizing the Olympic Games is a large-scale and highly complex project - not only for the city, but also for the country - which still provokes passionate debates and sometimes severe criticism. That is why there will be no ranking in our report. The IOC wants, above all, for the Games to benefit the whole Olympic Movement and for successful Games that leave a positive urban and sporting legacy to the host city and country.

You were Olympic champion in 1984. How can your experience as an athlete help you in your new function?

The athletes remain the priority of the Olympic Movement. Without them, there would be no Games. Also, the IOC attaches a great deal of importance to ensuring that the training and competition facilities, as well as the accommodation and transport facilities, are the best possible for the athletes. This also means that we need quality venues and

facilities, as well as competent people. Furthermore, I fully understand the desire to surpass oneself and to win at any cost. Throughout my professional and sporting career, I have become accustomed to overcoming barriers, just like the five finalist Cities which have had to pass through several stages before finding themselves in the home straight. I know the importance of such a race towards victory. But not at any price!

Do you have a message for the current five Candidate Cities and future Candidate Cities?

As in any competition there will be a winner and a loser. Each Candidate City must keep this in mind and prepare for the two eventualities, with fair play. But over the years of being a candidate, they will have experienced extraordinary moments together, sometimes sharing the same difficulties but always the same passion and the same dream: to offer the youth of their country and the world the desire to participate in this huge four-yearly festival. A candidature must incite enthusiasm and unite people. Whatever happens on 6 July 2005, each City must know that it has given the best of itself. A success is never definitive and a failure isn't fatal. The only thing that counts is courage.

Source: IOC FOCUS January 2005
© International Olympic Committee 2005.

The IPC Representative on the IOC Evaluation Commission is Patrick Jarvis of Canada. The IPC also participated in the evaluation process for the selection of candidate cities to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, by reviewing the Paralympic sections in the bid files of the five cities. The election of the host city for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be conducted at the 117th IOC Session in Singapore on 7 July 2005.

DOPING CONTROL



1 Selection of a participant for doping control
Anyone who is a member of a team affiliated with a National Paralympic Committee (NPC), participates on a team representing a NPC, takes part in competitions sanctioned by the NPC or is included in the NPC Registered Testing Pool may be selected for doping control. The Doping Control Officer shall identify themselves. You are entitled to be accompanied by a representative.



2 Signature
The Doping Control Officer will inform you of your rights and responsibilities, ask you to sign the notification form and provide you with a copy of this form. Notification may also be given verbally. Such notification is as binding as written notification.



3 Continuous observation
You will be under continuous observation by a Doping Control Officer or Chaperone from the moment of notification until the doping control is completed and you have signed the doping control protocol.

If you have a physical or sensorial disability, which impacts on your ability to undertake the doping control process independently you may be assisted by your representative, the Doping Control Officer or Chaperone during the sample collection session.



4 Choice of urine collection vessel
You shall select one from a choice of sealed urine collection vessels. You must ensure that the seal of the collection vessel is unbroken and that the equipment is clean.



5 Urine sample
You will provide a urine sample in unobstructed view of a Chaperone or Doping Control Officer of the same gender as yourself. If you are using a urine collection or drainage system you must eliminate existing urine before providing a urine sample. You must retain full control of your urine sample until it is sealed.



6 Selection of sealed sample kit
You shall select one from a choice of sample kits, consisting of an outer package containing two sealed bottles. You must ensure that the seal on the equipment is unbroken, that the equipment is clean and not damaged/defect and that all code numbers are identical.



7 Dividing the urine sample
You shall divide the sample into two bottles, one 'A' and one 'B' bottle. The bottles shall be sealed according to instructions from the Doping Control Officer.



8 Measuring the pH value and specific gravity of the urine sample
The Doping Control Officer shall check the specific gravity and pH value of the sample. In order for the sample to be suitable for analysis, these values have to be within given parameters.



Collection of blood sample
Blood samples shall be taken by qualified medical personnel. You shall select one of a choice of sealed sample kits. You must ensure that the seals are unbroken, check that the contents are clean and not damaged/defect and that all code numbers on containers and blood test tubes are identical. The blood sample is taken and sealed according to the procedures.



9 Filling out the doping control protocol
You shall list all medications, vitamins and supplements you have taken the past seven days. This information may also be provided in a sealed envelope. Remember to ensure that your personal details and the sample code are correctly recorded in the doping control protocol.



10 Signing the doping control protocol
You may provide comments in the doping control protocol. The protocol shall be signed by yourself, the Doping Control Officer and your representative if you have one. You are to be given a copy of the doping control protocol.



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Developed by Anti-Doping Norway

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: NORDIC SKIING

Biggest Nordic Event of the Year

From 12 to 20 March 2005, the IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships were held in Fort Kent, Maine, USA. The championships also served as the final event of the Nordic Skiing World Cup circuit for the 2005 season. A total of 128 athletes from 17 countries competed in Cross-Country and Biathlon. This event was also an opportunity to qualify for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

The World Championship programme contained both men's and women's events in the Nordic disciplines of Biathlon and Cross-Country for sit-ski, standing and visually impaired classes. Up to six different races were held each day providing plenty of action for spectators. The competition was organized by the 10th Mountain Ski Club and the Maine Winter Sports Center, in co-operation with the IPC Nordic Skiing Committee.

IPC Nordic Skiing Chairperson Rita Van Driel said: "The Nordic Skiing World Championships was a great event with world class performances, my only regret is that not more spectators were there to enjoy the high standard of competition."

With 32 events in various distances for both

Biathlon and Cross- Country, for standing, sitting and visually impaired athletes, many skiers had a chance to shine. Standout female performers included Lyudmyla Pavlenko (Ukraine, sitting) who won four gold medals, one silver and captured the overall World Cup title for Cross-Country (sitting). Tatiana Ilioutchenko (Russia, visually impaired) earned four gold medals and took the overall World Cup in Cross-Country for women with a visual impairment. Katarzyna Rogowiec (Poland, standing) won four medals (gold, silver and two bronze). In the men's competition, Brian McKeever (Canada, visually impaired) won four gold medals and Steve Cook (USA, standing) won two gold medals and a bronze medal on his way to earning the overall World Cup title in the men's standing Cross-Country competition.

Nordic Skiing competitions are open to athletes with a physical disability or a visual impairment. Cross-Country was already on the programme at the first Paralympic Winter Games in 1976 in Örnköldsvik, Sweden, whereas Biathlon was introduced in Lillehammer in 1994. For a full list of results please visit www.ipcnordicski2005.org.



ATHLETE PROFILE

Blood Brothers

Brian McKeever, a native from Calgary, Canada, was a standout athlete in the recent IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships. The Paralympian spoke to Brian about his love of the sport, his outstanding achievements and the special relationship with his older brother, Robin.



The Paralympian: When and how did you come to start competing in Nordic Skiing?
Brian McKeever: It was really a natural progression from the start. I started to ski when I was three years old. My Dad is a physical education teacher, so our family is very active and we learned to ski about as soon as we could walk. We started in the backyard and progressed to the park. In Calgary we only had a 1.5km track with man-made snow, so we took ski holidays. I began racing when I was eight years old.

When I was 19, I began to develop a degenerative disease in my eyes called Stargardt's Disease. It's genetic and it is a form of macular degeneration, which causes loss of central vision. This was the year after I was on the Canadian Junior National Team and was in the Junior World Championships in 1998.

TP: And how does this relate to your brother, Robin?
BM: Robin is also a top Nordic skier. In fact he represented Canada at the Nagano 1998 Olympic Winter Games. He is now also my guide and coach.

TP: What kind of training is involved?
BM: We currently train about 650 hours a year in Canmore, Canada (where the Canadian National Ski Team lives and trains and host to the 1988 Winter Olympics). We have some easy weeks with around 8 hours a week and some tough weeks with around 30 hours a week. We want to push it over 700 hours. The type of training that we do is of course skiing, but we also do roller skiing, weight training, mountain biking and hiking depending on the season and the conditions. I am currently a full-time athlete, so right now this is my real focus.

TP: When were your first Paralympic Games?
BM: The Salt Lake 2002 Winter Paralympic Games were my first, when I was 22. I came away with two gold medals (in the Short Distance - 5km Classic and the Middle Distance - 10km Freestyle) and one silver medal (Long Distance - 20km Freestyle).

TP: What are your expectations for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games?
BM: Hmm, that's a tough one. Of course when I think about it we want to win our races. If winning wasn't important I suppose that we wouldn't be keeping times. We would like to win but especially we would like to have good races. Sometimes those are two different things and it's important to separate the two.

TP: What are your longer-term sporting goals?
BM: I would love to be in the Olympics. It's been my dream since I was a kid before my vision changed. I guess most of my goals are related to able-bodied competition. I do have goals related to disabled skiing and I always want to do my best.

TP: What advice would you give to other people with a disability considering taking up Nordic Skiing?
BM: GO FOR IT! This is a great sport, it's so good for you, there's not much that's healthier than this. It's 'low impact' so there's such a low chance of injury. It's a great lifestyle, great sport, great community and the people involved are great. There's no changing your disability, just deal with it and have a good life. Any skier with a disability would be welcomed to the sport with open arms and we are always recruiting new athletes. If I can inspire one kid to get out there and ski it's worthwhile!

Brian and Robin McKeever in action at the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games

WORLD CUP: ALPINE SKIING

Speed on the Slopes



© Photo: Peter Läubli, Wheelchair Sport Switzerland

A number of slopes around the world have played host to a series of competitions as part of the IPC Alpine Skiing World Cup. The series involved 196 sitting, standing and visually impaired skiers from 22 countries, in Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super G competitions.

From 10 to 13 January, Steamboat Springs in Colorado, USA, hosted the first event of the series. Competitors faced problems due to heavy rain, however, with the help of the event staff, these problems were overcome and the event produced some spectacular racing. From 16 to 23 January the series continued in Whistler in Kimberly, Canada, despite fluctuating temperatures reaching -30°C.

The third event of the series took place in Ried-Fendels, Austria, from 20 to 26 February and then moved to Klosters, Switzerland, from 26 February to 5 March for the fourth and final event.

A World Cup Points List was calculated for each category to award the overall World Cup Series winners. In the women's competition, Pascale Casanova of France won the visually impaired category, Laurie Stephens of the USA took the sitting category and Iveta Chlebakova of Slovakia won the standing category.

In the men's competition, Nicola Berejny of France won in the visually impaired category, Martin Braxenthaler of Germany won the sitting category and Gerd Schönfelder, also of Germany, took the title for the standing category.

Overall, the USA won the competition with a total of 8,341 points across all events and categories. They were followed by Austria with 7,538 points and Germany with 5,470.

IPC SPORTS CALENDAR

2005 IPC Archery WC
Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games
2006 IPC Shooting WC
2006 IPC Athletics WC
2006 IPC Table Tennis WC
2006 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport WC
2006 IPC Swimming WC

25 Sept - 3 Oct 2005
10 - 19 Mar 2006
12 - 22 July 2006
2 - 10 Sept 2006
30 Sept - 9 Oct 2006
13 - 14 Oct 2006
27 Nov - 9 Dec 2006

Massa Carrara, Italy
Torino, Italy
Sargans, Switzerland
Assen, Netherlands
Montreux, Switzerland
Arnhem, Netherlands
Durban, South Africa

VISA PARALYMPIC WORLD CUP

GB Event Gives Athletes Another Chance to Shine

From 12 to 15 May, the Visa Paralympic World Cup (PWC) was held in Manchester, Great Britain. This year's inaugural event brought together 344 athletes from 47 different countries, including many of the stars of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, making it the largest international annual multi-sport event for athletes with a disability. The programme included Athletics, Cycling (Track), Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.

The competition schedule gave spectators the opportunity to watch all sports and ticket prices of only €4.40 (£3) attracted over 6,000 visitors to the event, with the Wheelchair Basketball and Swimming finals sold out. The BBC broadcast highlights coverage of the event on 22 May and had

extensive live coverage on the BBC Radio 5 channel. Further coverage will be shown by Eurosport at a later date. In total, 156 countries will receive a one-hour highlights package of the event.

South African superstar Natalie Du Toit was the star of the Swimming claiming four world records and three gold medals, including victory in the S9 100m backstroke - the gold medal she missed in Athens. There were ten world records in the Cycling competition held at the Manchester Velodrome. In Athletics, there was double gold success for track legends Tanni Grey-Thompson (GBR), Chantal Petitclerc (CAN) and Oscar Pistorius (RSA). Wheelchair Basketball concluded in memorable style with the British Men's team beating Australia in the final by 58:57 in a nailbiting

overtime period. While in the Women's final, France beat Great Britain by 55:34.

IPC President Phil Craven attended the event in his hometown of Manchester and commented: "The Visa Paralympic World Cup is set to become a premier multi-sport event in the IP calendar. The Paralympic family was welcomed to Manchester in fine style with the athletes performing to world-class standards. The Paralympic Spirit is alive and well".

The PWC was organized by Fast Track Events, sanctioned by the IPC and hosted by the British Paralympic Association (BPA). Other Partners included BBC Sport, UK Sport, the Manchester City Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency.



© Photo : Sportbeat Images



© Photo: Sportbeat Images

SPORTS PROFILE: SITTING VOLLEYBALL



© Photo: Lieven Coudenys

The sport of Sitting Volleyball stretches to all four corners of the globe and holds huge appeal for both athletes and spectators. A women's competition was recently added to the Paralympic programme, bringing a total of 157 athletes to the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games. The Paralympian spoke to Gerard Brouwers, the Volleyball Representative on the IPC Sports Council, about the history of the sport, its development and what it has in store for the future.

The Paralympian: What is the history behind the sport?

Gerard Brouwers: Volleyball has been a well-established sport since 1895, beginning in America and spread worldwide by (among others) the American army and the YMCA. In 1956 the Dutch Sports Committee introduced a new competition format called Sitting Volleyball, a combination of Sitzball - a game of German origin - and Volleyball. Since then Sitting Volleyball has grown into one of the biggest sports practised in competition by persons with a disability in the world, as well as by "able-bodied" Volleyball players with an injury of the ankle or the knee. Sitting Volleyball has become one of the main team sports on the Paralympic programme.

TP: How is the sport governed?

GB: International Sitting Volleyball competitions have taken place since 1967, and was accepted onto the programme of the

International Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD) in 1978. Sitting Volleyball was included on the Paralympic programme in 1980 and World Championships have been held since 1993. Today, the sport is governed by the World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD), an International Federation (IF) that works closely with the IPC.

TP: What is the appeal of Sitting Volleyball?

GB: Sitting Volleyball is a very competitive sport but easy to understand. The rules of the game are basically the same as in able-bodied competition governed by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), but adapted to the specific needs of persons with a disability. It is practised by young as well as older athletes, by men and women, even in mixed teams. It is a fast, exciting and crowd-pleasing sport, which clearly shows the athleticism of the athletes even while it is played sitting on the floor.

TP: Which disability groups can participate?

GB: Sitting Volleyball is open for all kinds of disabilities. It is currently aimed at people with an amputation, although it is also popular with athletes who have injuries in their ankles and/or knees. Work is underway to develop a competition for people with Cerebral Palsy.

TP: What kind of equipment or assistance is needed?

GB: The only adaptation is in regard to the size of the court, which is slightly smaller than a regular volleyball court (measuring 10x6 metres) and a lower net (measuring 1.15 metres high for men and 1.05 metres for women).

TP: What type of classification system is used?

GB: WOVD has developed its own functional classification system in close co-operation with the IPC. There are two classes: amputees, who have 9 classes based on the degree and location of the amputation and Les Autres (other locomotor disabilities) who are classified using the 'minimum disabilities' system.

TP: Who are the leading nations in the sport?

GB: In the women's competition China, the Netherlands, USA and Slovenia are currently at the top while in the men's division Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt and Germany provide the toughest competition.

TP: What developments have been made in the sport recently?

GB: On the technical side, Sitting Volleyball has followed the development of the able-bodied competition. One recent change is the Libero (the defence specialist) who can touch the ball with all parts of the body. There have also been developments such as the



© Photo: Lieven Coudenys

reduction of net-faults, the let-service and the possibility to recover a ball that crossed the vertical plane of the net through the external place. In terms of participation, we are seeing more and more Afro-Arab, Latin-American and Asian teams involved in competition. Today, Sitting Volleyball is practiced in about 35 countries.

TP: Can you describe the competition during the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games?

GB: In Athens we saw a marvellous competition, with a very high level of play, watched by thousands of people. The gold medal games in both the women's and men's competitions involved teams from all zones and gave a lot of satisfaction to everyone involved.

TP: Are there any major competitions coming up we should watch out for?

GB: We have the European Championships in Leverkusen, Germany, from 20 to 26 June. Then there is the World Cup for Club Teams in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, from 6 to 11 September. Also in 2005 are the 1st Junior World Championships to be held in Kamnik, Slovenia, from 28 October to 1 November and the Afro-Arab Championships in Cairo, Egypt, from 2 to 12 December. Then in June 2006 we have the big event, the 2006 World Championships in Sitting and Standing Volleyball, which will be held in Roermond, the Netherlands.

WORLD CUP: WHEELCHAIR DANCE SPORT

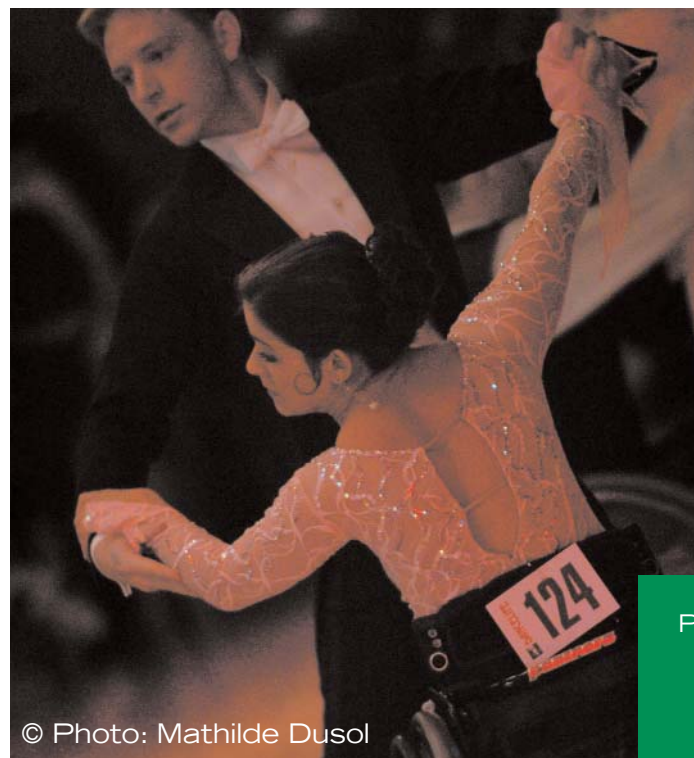
Duo Dance Joins the Show

From 26 to 27 March, the IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Cup and Dutch Open was held in Boxmeer, the Netherlands. More than 320 participants from 17 countries participated in the event which included dancers from all levels in both combo (one standing and one seated partner) and for the first time, duo (two seated partners) divisions.

In November 2004, the IPC General Assembly decided to include Duo competitions to IPC approved and open competitions. Therefore this event hosted the first

Open Duo Competition in slow waltz, quick-step, samba and rumba.

The festival was part of the Holland Dance Spectacular organized by Stichting Brabant Danst and Stichting Rolstoeldansen Nederland and sanctioned by the Dutch Dance Sport Federation (NADB), the Netherlands Paralympic Committee (NebasNsg) and the International Paralympic Wheelchair Dance Sport Committee.



© Photo: Mathilde Dusol

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS: ICE SLEDGE HOCKEY

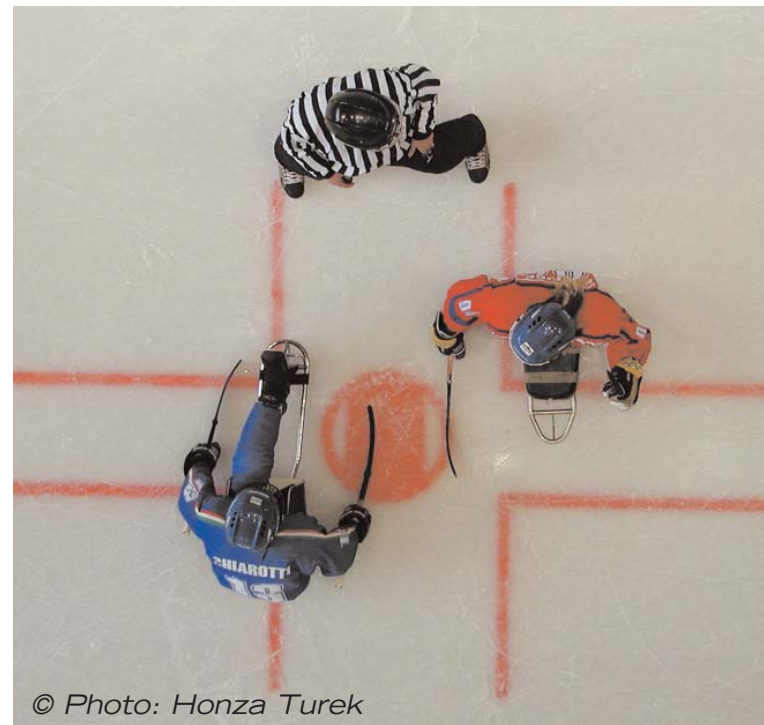
Fire on Ice

The city of Zlin in the Czech Republic hosted the 2005 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey European Championships from 10 to 17 April 2005. Eighty athletes from six countries participated in the tournament, which provided one of the last opportunities to qualify for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Germany emerged as the winner of the tournament on goal difference, following a tie with Sweden in both the total number of ranking points and a tie game between the two teams. The final result was based on the total goals 'scored' less the total goals 'scored against'. As a result, the German team has now qualified for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. They will join Canada, Japan, Norway, Sweden, the USA (who have already qualified) and host country Italy for the Paralympics next year.

Sten Dumell, IPC Ice Hockey Chairperson, commented: "I'm very pleased and impressed by the organization of this tournament. The venue was one of the best for Sledge Hockey I've seen. While there is still a difference between the more experienced teams of Estonia, Germany and Sweden, the countries newer to the sport are making excellent progress and have great potential. I look forward to some exciting competitions in Torino next year."

Ice Sledge Hockey is a fast-paced, highly physical sport and is quickly becoming one of the biggest attractions for spectators at Paralympic Winter Games. Instead of skates, players use two-blade sledges that allow the puck to pass beneath. They also have sticks with a spike-end for pushing and a blade-end for shooting. For a full list of results, please visit www.eurosledgezlin2005.com.



NPC PROFILE: BRAZIL



Brazil is a country whose interest in Paralympic sport is growing at an exponential rate. The Paralympian spoke to the newly re-elected President of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee (BPC), Vital Severino Neto, about what the NPC has been doing to raise the profile of sport for persons

with a disability in Brazil and the impact of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

The Paralympian: When and how was the BPC established?

Vital Severino Neto: The BPC was founded in 1995, by the national members of the International Organizations of Sport for the Disabled (IOSDs) under the supervision of the National Secretariat of Sports. We currently have a staff of twenty-seven people who work at the BPC headquarters in Brasilia. We also have an extensive external network and a large volunteer base.

TP: How is your membership organised?

VSN: Brazil follows the same management model as the IPC, acting as the national governing body for the IPC sports, while International Federation (IF) and IOSD sports are managed by their respective national organizations. Wheelchair Rugby and winter sports have not yet been implemented in our country. The estimated number of Brazilian athletes with a disability at a competitive level is 15,000.

TP: What are your main objectives as an organization?

VSN: Our main goal is to consolidate the Paralympic Movement in Brazil, aiming at the full development and diffusion of high level sport for people with a disability in our country. We also want to manage the successful transition of Paralympic Sport into the professional era and to increase our contribution in the development of the Paralympic Movement particularly in the Americas region.

TP: What are your expectations for Beijing 2008?

VSN: Our goal for the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games was to be among the top 20 countries in the world and the three first of the Americas. We placed 14th overall and 3rd in the Americas. The goal for Beijing is to place Brazil among the top 10 countries and maintain the third position in our region.

TP: Who are the main supporters of the BPC?

VSN: In 2001 a law was passed giving 2% of the prizes from the Federal Lottery to the Brazilian Olympic Committee (85%) and the BPC (15%). Last year, we received around €3.5 million. Due to this money we were able to better manage our NPC and attract important sponsors and partners. The sponsorship of Paralympic athletes has just begun to become reality in our country and I believe that the success in Athens helped to change this philosophy.

TP: How has the public in Brazil responded to Paralympic Sport?

VSN: The public has responded very well. We have developed an aggressive marketing and communication strategy, which, combined with the performances of our athletes, has aroused the interest of the public. In Athens we did a lot of work to showcase our athletes and Paralympic Sport. We bought the television broadcasting rights and made it possible for national TV networks to cover the event. As a consequence, Brazil had the greatest number of broadcast hours (168 hours).

TP: How has Brazilian media interest changed since the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games?

VSN: Athens was fundamental for the development of Paralympic Sport in Brazil. The coverage of the Games in the media was fabulous and made many Paralympic athletes stars, for example Clodoaldo Silva, who was nominated for the 2005 Laureus Awards. Athens created a demand for information about Paralympic Sport and made the media aware of the media potential of Paralympic athletes - they work hard, they win, they lose and they have interesting stories just like any other athlete.

TP: How do you communicate with your members?

VSN: The BPC has a monthly magazine called Brasil Paraolímpico (Paralympic Brazil) that covers the main topics of our organization and

also a website www.cpb.org.br, which is our main tool to communicate to our members. This website was re-launched at the end of February. It is now more complete and has more information on the national and international Paralympic Movement. In terms of design it has more colours, more movement; it is a lot more interesting. The site is in Portuguese only, but it will soon also be available in English.

TP: Brazil will host the ParaPanAmerican Games in 2007. What opportunities and challenges will this event present?

VSN: This event will be the summit of a strategy that was conceived many years ago. The Organizing Committee RIO 2007 is organizing both the Pan American and the ParaPanAmerican Games and we are working together with them in the organization of the event. Besides the broadcasting, the legacy of the event in the form of sporting venues, inspiration for young athletes and development of human resources that will work at the Games will be huge.

From a media point of view, it will complement the phenomenon we saw in Athens. We like to say: in Atlanta the Brazilian Paralympic athletes won medals and no one knew; in Sydney they won medals and Brazilians knew about it; but in Athens the athletes won medals and the public saw, cheered and were touched by it. In Rio 2007, the athletes will win medals and the public will be there, watching the competitions. It will be an opportunity unlike any other.



MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC

VISTA 2006 is Coming to Town

The IPC recently announced that the fourth VISTA Conference will be held from 6 to 7 May 2006 in Bonn, Germany. The theme of this Conference will be 'Classification - Solutions for the Future'.

One of the main goals of the VISTA Conference is to bridge the gap between theory and practice and to encourage interdisciplinary discussion. In 2003, the IPC developed a Classification Strategy with the intention to support and co-ordinate the ongoing development of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible sport focused classification systems and their implementation. This Conference will provide an ideal environment to discuss how science can contribute to the field of classification in the future.

Sports Science Committee

From 6 to 8 May, the five members of the IPC Sports Science Committee met in Bonn, Germany. Trish Jensen (Chairperson of the Classification Committee) also attended the meeting.

Among others issues, the Sport Science Committee outlined the programme for the VISTA 2006 conference on classification, made a review of the research conducted at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games (the outcomes of this research will be communicated in the upcoming issues of the Paralympian) and analyzed the research applications for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Games.

The Committee also defined a number of priority research areas to direct the focus of research into the Paralympic Movement and discussed several upcoming research projects including the Paralympic Injury Survey, the NPC Sport Counseling Survey and the NPC Classification Survey.

Athletes, coaches, trainers, classifiers, researchers, students and representatives of NPCs and International Paralympic Sport Federations (IPSFs) and International Sports Organizations for the Disabled (IOSDs) are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral presentations that are pertinent to the Conference theme. All abstracts submitted will undergo a peer review by the Sports Science Committee.

Authors should submit their abstracts electronically by 1 August 2005, to Andy Parkinson, IPC Medical and Scientific Director, at andy.parkinson@paralympic.org accompanied by an Abstract Submission Form. More information can be found on the VISTA Conference section on the IPC website at www.paralympic.org.



Members of the Sports Science Committee (from left to right): Dr. Nick Webborn, Dr. Yagesh Bhambhani, Dr. Yves Vanlandewijck, Dr. Elizabeth Bressan and Dr. Walter Thompson.

APPOINTMENTS

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has announced the appointment of 13 members to its newly-formed Athlete Committee. Four-time Paralympian in Nordic Skiing and member of the IPC Athletes' Council, Tanja Kari, is one of the appointed members who will help guide WADA in its mission to foster a doping-free culture in sport. With projects for the Finnish Floorball Federation (FFF) and the Finnish Anti-Doping Agency, Ms. Kari has wide experience in anti-doping.

The WADA Athlete Committee aims to allow WADA closer contact with athletes and to give the Agency better insight into their questions and concerns regarding doping. Richard W. Pound, President of WADA, stated: "This Committee, through their experience and expertise, will assist us greatly in our fight against doping, and I am confident that it will help us further develop our important task of educating athletes worldwide about the consequences of doping."



IBSA President and IPC Governing Board member Enrique Pérez was elected Secretary General of the World Blind Union (WBU) at its 6th General Assembly, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from the 6 to 10 of December 2004.

Mr. Pérez was nominated for the position by ONCE, the National Organization of the Blind in Spain, and received 70% of the votes cast in the election. Mr. Perez will not be standing for re-election for the IBSA Presidency at the IBSA General Assembly to be held from 7 to 12 June in Beijing, China.

The WBU has approximately 160 member countries and eleven International Members. IBSA is an International Member of the Union.



©:Photo NPC Tanzania



Bonn, Germany, host city for the 2006 VISTA Conference. © Photo: Michael Sondermann, Presseamt der Stadt Bonn.

DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Paralympians

The Healthy Paralympians project is the first of its kind to be undertaken in East Africa, specifically the NPCs of Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The project uses sport as a tool to create educational opportunities for persons with a disability on important health issues such as HIV/AIDS and drug use.

The primary aims of the project are to encourage peaceful communities, transfer health knowledge in developing countries through sport and to create sustainable community-based networks to support persons with a disability in their endeavor to become active participants in society and seek opportunities for advancement.

The project first trained volunteers at the regional level to go back to their countries and lead Health Education and Sport Sessions in local communities using a locally developed curriculum. Participants are invited to attend disability and sport events to foster stronger community relations and understanding.

In the first two months of the project, Rwanda, for example, has held sessions in four locations. Of the 400 participants, 100 were women and more than half were under 21 years of age. In Uganda, the Chairperson of the National Disability Council in Lira District, Uganda, commented: "Our district is currently facing inaccessibility to public offices and information on HIV/AIDS due to the lack of sign language interpreters for the deaf and materials in Braille. Thank you to the government for enabling an atmosphere inclusive for all and I ask all persons with a disability to have confidence among themselves, educate their children, as education is the best weapon to fight poverty."

The project will be completed in November 2005 by which time it is estimated 3,000 athletes will have been involved. From a long-term perspective the project will help to educate athletes not only in health issues but also to become leaders in their communities and encourage the promotion of drug-free sport.

MISCELLANEOUS

World Recognition for Top Paralympian



© Photo: Getty Images for Laureus

On 16 May, Canadian wheelchair athlete Chantal Petitclerc was named the Laureus World Sports person of the Year with a Disability at the sixth annual Laureus World Sports Awards. The award was presented by film stars Jackie Chan and Dennis Franz at a ceremony held at the Casino Estoril, Portugal. The prestigious Laureus Awards honour the world's best sportsmen and women and celebrate sporting excellence across all disciplines and continents.

Petitclerc was an outstanding performer in Athletics at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games with five gold medals, winning every race in which she competed and breaking four world records, six Paralympic records and four Canadian records. She was chosen to carry the Canadian flag at the Closing Ceremony and in December 2004 received Canada's Meritorious Service Medal. Amongst other honours, she was named Female Athlete of the Year at the Canadian Sports Awards, Athlete of the Year by the Canadian Wheelchair Sport Association and selected as

one of ten most Influential Women in Canadian sport in 2004 by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity (CAAWS).

After winning the award, Petitclerc stated: "If any of you would have told me 20 years ago that I would be here today, I would not have believed you, because 20 years ago I had just had my accident. I congratulate every finalist...A world class performance is a world class performance - on a bike, in the pool or in a wheelchair."

Other nominees in the category for the award were Cheri Blauwet (Athletics, USA), Jonas Jacobsson (Shooting, Sweden), Lee Pearson (Equestrian, Great Britain), Clodoaldo Silva (Swimming, Brazil) and Henry Wanyoike (Athletics, Kenya).

The Awards Ceremony, presented by Morgan Freeman and Marcia Gay Harden, was watched by a global TV audience of 460 million and featured many well-known personalities including King Juan Carlos of Spain, actress Teri Hatcher, former Formula One drivers Jean Alesi and Mika Hakkinen, Laureus Academy members Boris Becker and Edwin Moses, England Football captain David Beckham and his wife Victoria Beckham.

The Laureus Awards Ceremony was the climax of two days of exciting events including the Laureus Golf Challenge, the Laureus Beach Festival at Tamariz Beach and the Laureus Regatta in Cascais Bay. The other winners recognised by Laureus for their outstanding achievements were Sportsman of the Year: Roger Federer, Sportswoman of the Year: Kelly Holmes, Team of the Year: Greece Men's Football Team, Comeback of the Year: Alessandro Zanardi, Newcomer of the Year: Liu Xiang, Alternative Sports person of the Year: Ellen MacArthur, Spirit of Sport Award: the Boston Red Sox and the Sport for Good Award: Northern Irish Boxing coach Gerry Storey.

Paralympians Steal the Show

On 29 March, nine representatives of the Canadian Paralympic Movement were nominated in seven of the 16 categories at the 32nd annual Canadian Sport Awards organized by the True Sport Foundation. Six of these finalists took home an award.

Chantal Petitclerc (Athletics) was named Female Athlete of the Year, the Canadian Wheelchair Basketball Team was named Male Team of the Year and the Canadian Goalball Team received Female Team of the Year. Peter Eriksson (Athletics) was honoured with Coach of the Year, Patrick Jarvis (President of the Canadian Paralympic Committee) received the 2004 Athlete Leadership Award and Pfizer Canada was given the Corporate Excellence/National Team Support Awards for their support of the Canadian Paralympic Team.



© Photo: Lieven Coudenys

Members of the Canadian Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team following their gold medal win at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wheelchair Rugby Showcased in Hong Kong

On 30 March 2005 Wheelchair Rugby was showcased during the prestigious Hong Kong Seven's Tournament, which was held from 15 to 17 March, in Hong Kong. The three-match series featured the New Zealand Wheel Blacks, the 2004 Paralympic gold medallists, and a team from England that included players from the British national team.

The able-bodied Hong Kong Seven's tournament was first established in 1986, and is recognized as one of rugby's premier events. Said Rob Jackson, an ex-British Wheelchair Basketball player who assisted in bringing the event to Hong Kong, "This is the first time that able-bodied and Wheelchair Rugby players competed in parallel events...this event is all about raising the profile of Wheelchair Rugby and disabled sport. With such a tremendous response from the able-bodied rugby community, and the media, the next step is to work towards staging a full Wheelchair Rugby tournament in 2006."

Cheered on by large crowds including the British and Kiwi able-bodied teams, England beat the Wheel Blacks in the first match, 41:38. On

day two the New Zealanders won 35:30 and in the final decider New Zealand defeated Great Britain, 42:34 to win the event. In addition to great local media attention, the final match was also covered by several major satellite networks worldwide.

Wheelchair Rugby is the fastest growing wheelchair sport in the world. Originally called "Murderball", the game was invented in Canada in the 1970's, and became a full Paralympic Sport at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics. As the old name suggests, Wheelchair Rugby is an intense and physical sport. It is played on an indoor Basketball court by two teams of four players in four eight-minute periods. Points are scored by crossing the opponents' goal line while maintaining possession of the ball.



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