

THE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

ISSUE NO. 2 | 2012

PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org



*Paralympic Games
Special Edition*

Great Expectations

London 2012 will be a milestone
in the Paralympic Movement



14
world records were
broken at the 2012
IPC Athletics European
Championships



Italy’s Martina Caironi’s world record time of 15.89 in the 100m T42 was also one of the 27 European records broken at the 2012 IPC Athletics European Championships

“The Paralympic Spirit is stronger than ever.
You can just feel it.”

Dear Readers,

I do not think there has ever been a Paralympic Games that has been quite as ‘expectant’ as this time around.

We wanted to capture these expectations in the lead article of this edition of The Paralympian.

We knew we were going to have a great Games in Beijing, especially after the Chinese President Hu Jintao, proclaimed in 2006 that the Paralympics would “be of equal splendour to the Olympics”.

But we were still surprised by what happened.

Things really kicked off, and Beijing 2008 put the Paralympic Games on the map. Through sport, we inspired a nation and the world, and changed attitudes towards people with an impairment.

Following those incredible Games, we have changed continents and are heading back to where the Games started in 1948 with a small competition in Stoke Mandeville, just outside of London.

I believe that London is going to go one step further than Beijing.

The Paralympic Spirit is stronger than ever. You can just feel it.

In this edition you can read all about how that spirit will spread around Britain in the Paralympic Torch relay.

We have also included the 10 sports again that we already covered in the last edition, to make this a special Games-time companion magazine.

People are going to watch Paralympic sport in their billions – whether in the venues or on TV or online at www.paralympic.org. One million tickets were sold within weeks of them going on sale, which has never happened before. There is a hunger to see these Games like never before.

London 2012 has signed broadcasting agreements with the major territories around the world and broadcasters have guaranteed record levels of coverage both before and during the Games.

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) media department is also planning unprecedented online coverage of the Games (details on page 46).

People know more about the Paralympic Games than ever before, and they are beginning to sit up and recognise the sporting excellence.

Records will be smashed and the bar will be raised in all sports in London. It is a great credit to the athletes and National Paralympic Committees for the work they have carried out over the last four years.

Everything is coming together for a wonderful festival of Paralympic sport.

Enjoy the magazine and enjoy the Games.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President



Four wheelchair rugby teams tested out the London 2012 venue in April





Enjoy this edition of “The Paralympian” – the official award-winning magazine of the Paralympic Movement!

GREAT EXPECTATIONS 06

As excitement mounts for what will be the biggest Paralympics yet, we take a look at people’s expectations for London 2012

TORCH RELAY 12

The Paralympic Torch Relay will travel around the British Isles spreading the Paralympic Spirit

LONDON 2012 SPORT PREVIEW 14

A day-by-day guide highlighting what to watch at the Paralympics

LONDON 2012 SPORT PROFILES 18

A look at all 20 Paralympic sports

ATHLETE PROFILE 38

See how Czech cyclist Jiri Jezek is preparing for the Games

MEDICAL & SCIENCE 40

A look at what has changed in classification, including the return of athletes with an intellectual impairment

18



38



56

London 2012
Paralympic Games
#50daystogo

48



52



42



PARTNERS & PATRONS 42

Ottobock spreads its passion for the Paralympics in a travelling exhibition, and Adecco and Visa also prepare for the Games

FUTURE GAMES 44

Find out the latest on London 2012, Sochi 2014, Rio 2016 and PyeongChang 2018

NPC PROFILE 46

NPC Antigua & Barbuda talks about sending its only athlete, Jamol Pilgrim, to the Games

SPORT REVIEW 48

IPC Athletics Euros, Roland Garros, the BT Paralympic World Cup, London 2012 Test Events and Athlete of the Month

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT 52

World Sport Day, the Barcelona Foundation, Agitos Foundation Winter Youth Camp and more

PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT 54

A finger on the pulse of the Paralympic Movement around the world

LONDON 2012 ONLINE 56

The IPC’s plans to provide the most comprehensive coverage of the Games ever, plus a look at where the Agitos have been appearing

Great Expectations

There is a real buzz in the air about the London 2012 Paralympic Games with phrases such as “like never before” and “watershed year” being banded about. As the anticipation rises, we asked several key figures to tell us what their expectations are for the London Games.

**IPC**
@Paralympic

For chance to appear in next edition of our magazine, using [#TheParalympian](#) tell us: What are your expectations for [@London2012](#) Paralympics?

**Paul Raymond** @paulnray
[@Paralympic](#) [@London2012](#) would love to see all [#teamGB](#) break or get close to pb's if that wins them medal great [#TheParalympian](#)

**Rwanda Paralympics** @npcrwanda
[@Paralympic](#) [@London2012](#) Rwanda expects to have 2 gold medals & 400m and 800m T46 by Hermas MUVUNYI. Many fans for Rwanda S Volleyball/Pool B

**rachel** @rachel66001515
[@Paralympic](#) [@London2012](#) awesome athletics and easy accessibility in London!

**Lou Jayne Iontton** @Lil_Misspdrfan
[@Paralympic](#) [@London2012](#) [#TheParalympian](#) I expect to be very busy but having an awesome, once in a lifetime, experience!!!!:) Can't wait!!!:))

twitter



Lieven Coudenys

IPC Official Photographer

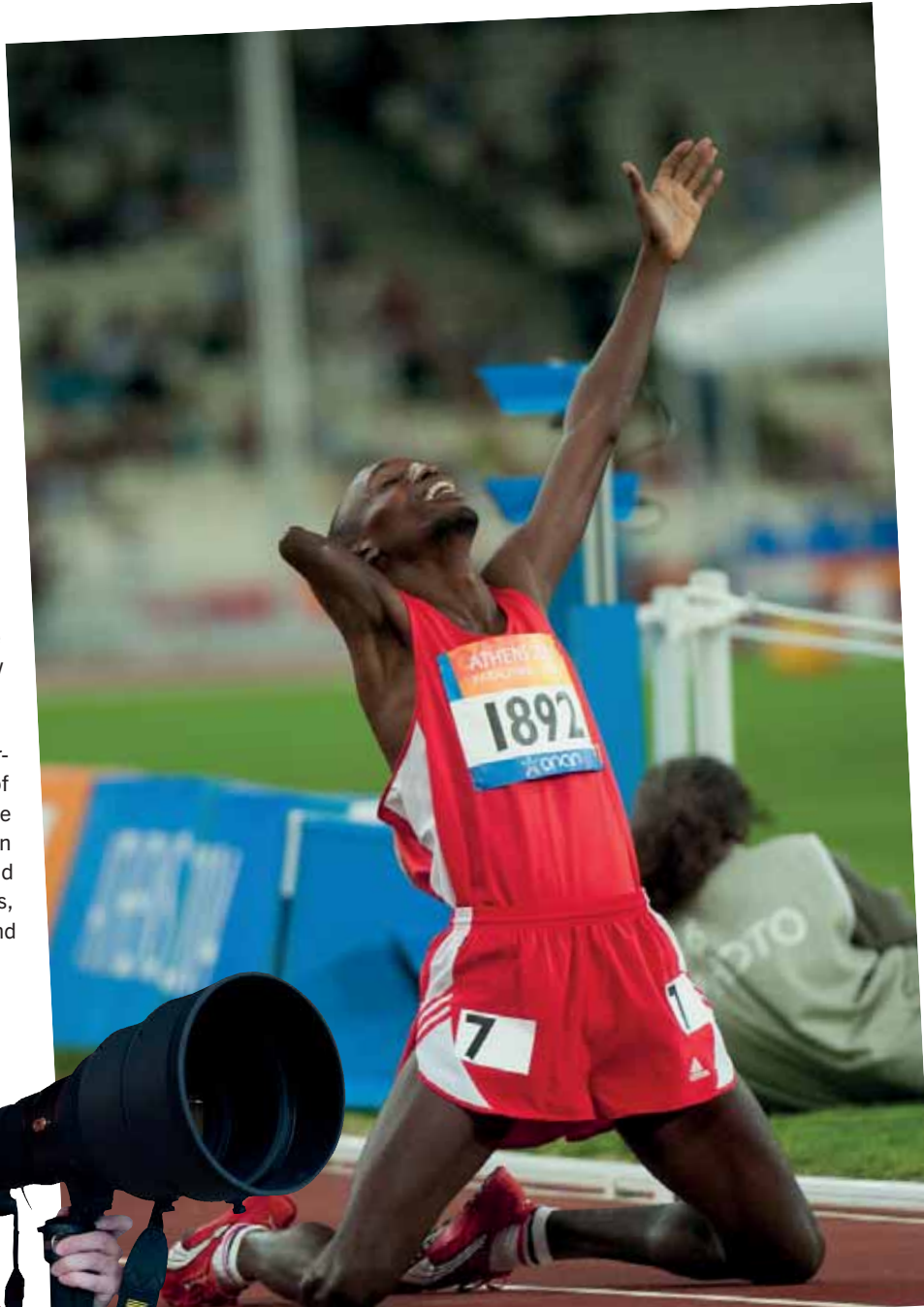
Since my first Paralympics in Atlanta 1996 I've seen the Games grow exponentially in numbers of participating countries, athletes and media.

Everybody knows the Beijing Paralympics were amazing and I'm sure London 2012 will be just as wonderful. London will be the biggest Games ever!

I always try to capture the athlete in the middle of the action and at the peak of their efforts, the incredible happiness after victory or the disappointment of losing.

When people afterwards say it took them a while to see that the athletes in my photos actually have an impairment, because they were mostly looking at the action or emotion in the picture, I know I did a good job.

It's the athlete that counts, not the impairment. So I'm looking forward to a lot of high level competitions in London where the Paralympians go to the limit. That, in combination with the beautiful venues and the undoubtedly very enthusiastic crowds, will be the recipe for an amazing Games and photos.



Lieven's favourite: "It's not really the greatest picture as far as artistic quality is concerned, but it definitely is one of the best 'goose-bumps moments' I've had! The photo is of Jean de Dieu Nkundabera from Rwanda. He won his country's first ever Paralympic or Olympic medal (bronze in 800m T46) at Athens 2004. After he finished, he was so happy, he went back to the finish line, knelt down, put his arms in the air and started shouting."



@LievenCoudenys

Gareth A Davies

Paralympics Correspondent, The Telegraph, UK

The Paralympic Games will be the 'surprise package' of this summer.

London is the sixth Paralympic Games I've covered for The Telegraph and the pattern is almost always the same. Exhaustion has set in by the end of the Olympics, the feel-good factor has been there, three weeks at a million miles an hour, and everyone needs a rest.

And they do.

But within a week, after that rest, reflection begins on what was a great few weeks, the memory of that constant 'feel-good' factor, that buzz in the streets, in the stands, night and day. Then, quietly, two weeks

later, with a mid-week start, the Paralympic Games slips into town for its Opening Ceremony.

The feel-good factor returns because of its unique nature. It feels like the Olympics have come back again – through thousands of athletes with amazing human interest stories doing quite staggering physical things: stories of the triumph of the human spirit; battling back from adversity; a tome of amazing, and often extraordinarily honest people, pushing the boundaries of their own physicality.

Engaging with the Paralympics requires a subtlety, an understanding that it is possible to be different, and think outside the box.

The parallel Games has a duality – sport and an understanding of what disability means in our world.

In the Paralympic Movement, athletes are demonstrating quite clearly not that they are disabled, but what they are able to do.

I'm genuinely inspired by many of these people. I hope many journalists in Britain feel the same.



@GarethADaviesDT

Justin Holdforth

Head of TV Sport & Events, ABC Television, Australia

ABC Television will broadcast over 100 hours from the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be live and broadcast in full.

Each day of competition will feature a minimum of eight hours of live event coverage plus an hour of prime-time highlights. Coverage will also be available on our catch up channel iView.

In terms of hours broadcast, this is not significantly different to what we did in Beijing. There is a big difference, however, in how we are approaching it.

Our live breakfast content is on the ABC primary channel, ABC 1. This a comprehensive broadcast channel targeted towards

the traditional ABC audience: older with a female skew.

Our nightly live programming will be on ABC 2. This is a channel aimed at 25-49 year olds.

It's branding and content is vibrant and distinctive, focused on entertainment and factual programming.

As a result two very different daily programmes are being produced.

Our live show will have three studio hosts two of which are well-known comedians and sport fanatics.

A situation comedy has been commissioned as companion programming. Each episode involves a different Australian Paralympian or Paralympic team. The show will aim to attack some of the stigma and misconceptions around disability.

We hope to deliver a completely new audience to Paralympic sport.



The Australian broadcaster, ABC, will bring the Paralympics down under

Get Set School Children

Thousands of schools across the UK are learning about Paralympic values, sports, and athletes through Get Set, the official London 2012 Education programme. Schools have been inspired by Paralympic themes and are getting really excited about the start of the Paralympic Games in September.

In May, students from St Margaret's Primary School in West Sussex attended the athletics test event at the Olympic Stadium after winning tickets through a Get Set competition, in which schools had to submit their plans for World Sport Day on 25 June.



Students at Ling Bob Primary School, UK, played goalball at their Paralympic festival

“Going to the Paralympics test event was amazing. I was inspired by the Paralympians following their dreams”.
Isabelle, 9, St Margaret's Primary School

“The atmosphere at the events we have been to so far has been great, and I can see the Paralympic Games being even better!”
Liam, 16, Young Games Maker, London 2012 Paralympics



“I hope that holding the Paralympics in London will encourage people around the world to take a great interest in Paralympic sports for those with disabilities”
Aaron, 11, St Margaret's Primary School

“My favourite part was when the people went running past on the springy legs/feet because they must have wonderful balance. I think the Paralympics is a really good idea because even people with disabilities can achieve the hardest challenges.”
Charlotte, 10, St Margaret's Primary School

Tim Reddish

Chairman and President, British Paralympic Association



Our goals are that we as a team are the best we can be, so that means the best prepared athletes, the best prepared staff, the best prepared management.

Our athletes will have fun. They will go through blood, sweat and tears, but they will all have fun and enjoy the experience. So from a host nation perspective, we want to ensure that that experience is a positive experience for all athletes and all their support staff.

Athletic performance will inspire the nation and the world. Whatever the athletes do on the field of play will make a difference to the world and to our movement.

We're all using the terminology “this is a once in a lifetime opportunity” and “it is a watershed year.”

There is a high expectation that the London Games will be the answer to everything around disability and Paralympic

sport within the UK and we've got to manage that. We want the Games to inspire for the future, but we've got to manage it and work in partnership with all the stakeholders because we are not the delivery agents on everything.

Carlos Arthur Nuzman

President of the Rio 2016™ Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will be an important milestone for the preparation of the Rio 2016™ Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

After months of planning and co-operation with the London Organising Committee of the Games, a significant part of the Rio 2016™ staff, from various functional areas, will be in the British capital as part of the Observer's Programme, with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and bringing positive experiences.

It will be a unique opportunity to study in detail the operation of the Summer Paralympic Games before it is Rio's turn to host them.

London 2012 will be even more special because the Paralympic Games will return to the country where the idea of sports competitions for people with an impairment was born.

In addition, every aspect involving the execution of the Games will be analysed, the Rio 2016™ team will have members

experiencing the routine of specific jobs or even working in the organisation of the event.

The London 2012 Games will also be a chance to showcase what can be expected from Rio and Brazil in 2016.

During the London 2012 Paralympic Games, Casa Brasil (Brazil House), in Somerset House, will be an exciting focal point for everyone to experience Brazil's vibrant culture and creative energy.

This effort will culminate in Rio 2016™'s segment during the London Paralympic Games Closing Ceremony, when Rio de Janeiro will receive the Paralympic flag and invite the world to visit the city in four years' time.

The experience of being part of this extraordinary event in London – along with the confidence that in 2016 the Brazilian team will consolidate its position as a Paralympic power – will certainly make the Rio Games equally unforgettable.



Lighting up Great Britain with the Paralympic Spirit

Building on the traditional Torch Relay format, the London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay will begin in London on 24 August with the lighting of England's flame. The United Kingdom's other three capital cities – Greater Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh – will then light a flame on each of the following days, at special Flame Lighting events, followed by Flame Festivals, which are public enter-

tainment events staged by LOCOG with the assistance of the host Local Authority.

Once a national flame has been lit, it will multiply, visiting local community groups and key locations in and around Britain in Flame Celebrations.

The **Edinburgh Flame Festival** celebration will be held in Inverleith Park on **26 August** including music and entertainment.

A procession of athletes (past, present and future) will carry the flame to light a cauldron on stage at the end of the evening.

The **Belfast Flame Festival** will be a three-hour packed programme of activity and entertainment starting at 18:30 on **25 August** on the lawns in front of City Hall.

On **28 August**, all national Flames will be combined at a **Paralympic Flame Lighting Ceremony in Stoke Mandeville** to create the London 2012 Paralympic Flame, which will be taken in a 24-hour Torch Relay to the Olympic Stadium to light the Cauldron at the Opening Ceremony.

The **Cardiff Flame Festival** will take place on **27 August** beginning with the lighting of the Flame in the morning and continuing throughout the day.

The **London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay** will begin in London on **24 August** with the lighting of England's flame. The flame will then spread to each of the UK's capital cities for Flame Festivals and split into smaller flames to the surrounding areas for Flame Celebrations. It returns to London in the Torch Relay on **29 August**, which culminates at the Opening Ceremony in the Olympic Stadium.



Tokyo 1964
Caz Walton
Athletics (in 1964)
Great Britain



Heidelberg 1972
Sir Philip Craven
Athletics (in 1972)
Great Britain

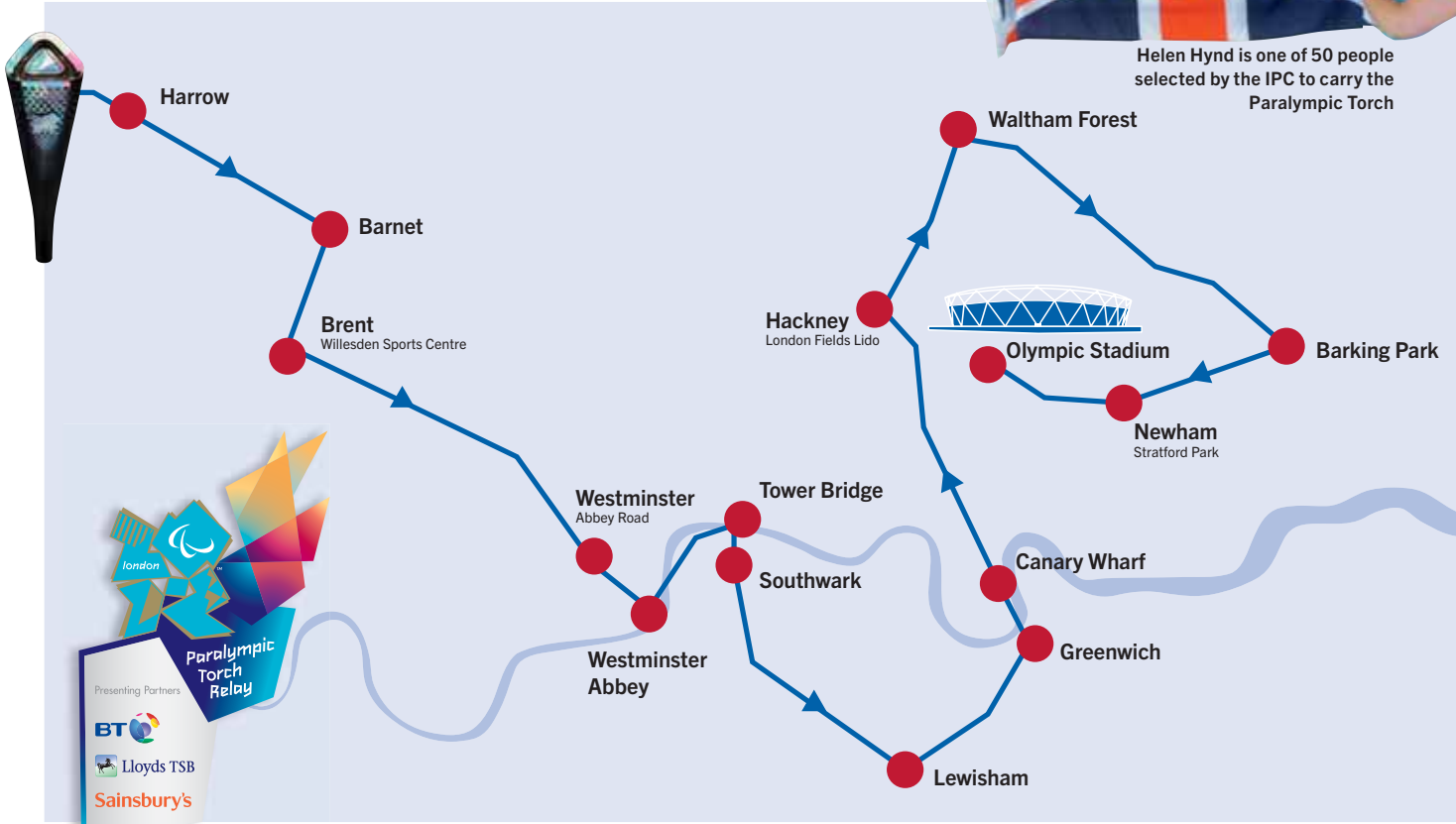


Arnhem 1980
Jan Wilson
Swimming
USA



Helen Hynd is one of 50 people selected by the IPC to carry the Paralympic Torch

London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay Route



In total 580 Torchbearers will light the way to the Paralympic Games by carrying the Paralympic Flame on a 24-hour overnight journey from Stoke Mandeville, the spiritual birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, to the Olympic Stadium for the Opening Ceremony.

Athletes from all the past Paralympic Games from 1960 to 2012 will take part in the Torch Relay, as well as a group of inspirational people, who were nominated by members of the public on www.paralympic.org earlier this year.

One of those was Helen Hynd, the mother of S8 swimmers Sam and Ollie Hynd, who have both been selected to represent ParalympicsGB at London 2012.

Both Helen's sons took up swimming at a very early age and for the last eight years she has had six 05:00 starts a week taking Sam and Ollie training, and made various other sacrifices, so they could pursue their Paralympic dreams.

"At first I thought it was a hoax when I found out I was going to carry the Paralympic Torch," said Helen. "But then I felt a feeling of shock, disbelief and delight when it started to sink in."

Helen Hynd is one of 50 torchbearers selected by the IPC to take part in the London 2012 Paralympic Torch Relay.



Stoke Mandeville / New York 1984
Paul Noble
Swimming
Great Britain
























Athens 2004
Jon McCollough
Football 7-a-side
USA



Barcelona 1992
Esther Weber
Wheelchair fencing
Germany

Paralympic Games Planner

Sport	Day 1 30.8.	Day 2 31.8.	Day 3 1.9.	Day 4 2.9.	Day 5 3.9.	Day 6 4.9.	Day 7 5.9.	Day 8 6.9.	Day 9 7.9.	Day 10 8.9.	Day 11 9.9.
 Archery											
 Athletics											
 Boccia											
 Cycling road											
 Cycling track											
 Equestrian											
 Football 5-a-side											
 Football 7-a-side											
 Goalball											
 Judo											
 Powerlifting											
 Rowing											
 Sailing											
 Shooting											
 Sitting Volleyball											
 Swimming											
 Table Tennis											
 Wheelchair Basketball											
 Wheelchair Fencing											
 Wheelchair Rugby											
 Wheelchair Tennis											

 Medals contested

Opening Ceremony
Wednesday 29 August

The Paralympics will open with a ceremony called “Enlightenment”. This spectacular celebration will reflect the inspirational spirit of the Paralympic Games and challenge the perceptions of human possibility.



Day 1
Thursday 30 August

The first day of competition will go off with a bang with the first medal going to the winner of the women’s R2 10m air rifle standing SH1. Do not miss the highly competitive equestrian mixed team test events at Greenwich Park with Great Britain and Germany traditionally fielding the strongest teams. The Aquatics Centre will be action-packed for the swimming heats in the morning and finals in the evening. Ukraine’s Yevheniy Bohodayko is expected to shine in the men’s 100m backstroke S6, whilst Spain’s Serai Gascon will likely go head to head with South Africa’s Natalie Du Toit in the women’s 100m butterfly S9.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

09:30 Swimming: men’s 100m backstroke S6, women’s 100m butterfly S9
14:00 Equestrian: mixed team test 1b
16:50 Cycling: women’s individual C5 pursuit



Day 2
Friday 31 August

Start the day watching Brazil’s football 5-a-side team, the current world champions, face France at the Riverbank Arena. Venezuela’s Naomi Soazo is a favourite for the -63kg judo competition in ExCeL, whilst the China v USA women’s sitting volleyball match in the same venue is likely to be one of the most exciting and closely fought of the preliminary round. The afternoon also promises great action in the pool featuring Great Britain’s Sam and Ollie Hynd, Brazil’s Andre Brasil, Australia’s Matthew Cowdrey, Spain’s Sarai Gascon and France’s David Smetanine.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

09:00 Football 5-a-side: Brazil v France
16:00 Judo: women’s -63kg
16:00 Sitting volleyball: China v USA (women)
17:30 Swimming: men’s 400m freestyle S8, men’s 50m freestyle S10, men’s 100m backstroke S9, women’s 100m backstroke S9, men’s 50m freestyle S4



Day 3
Saturday 1 September

This is another great day to head down to the Aquatics Centre. Expect to see stunning performances from Great Britain’s Eleanor Simmonds and Brazil’s Daniel Dias amongst others. Go for the morning heats, then spend the afternoon watching judo in ExCeL where Brazil’s Antonio Tenorio is expected to dominate the -100kg event or go to shooting at the Royal Artillery Barracks where Great Britain’s Matt Skelhon and Sweden’s Jonas Jacobsson are top medal contenders. Stay late at the Olympic Stadium to watch two great men’s 100m races featuring Australia’s Evan O’Hanlon (T38) and Ireland’s Jason Smyth (T13).

NOT TO BE MISSED !

16:00 Judo: men’s -100kg finals
16:00 Shooting: mixed R3 10m Air Rifle Prone SH1 finals
20:00 Athletics: men’s 100m T13
21:06 Athletics: men’s 100m T38



Day 4
Sunday 2 September

Take a trip to Eton Dorney and watch the men's arms and shoulder's single skulls finals in which Great Britain's Tom Aggar is the favourite to win. An alternative would be the morning athletics with the likes of Australia's Kelly Cartwright doing the long jump and USA's April Holmes racing the 100m. The afternoon promises gripping wheelchair basketball matches and Great Britain's Will Bayley will likely star in the men's table tennis singles class 7 finals.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 11:00 Athletics: women's long jump F42/44
- 12:28 Athletics: women's 100m T44
- 11:10 Rowing: men's arms and shoulder's single skulls final A
- 17:15 Table tennis: men's singles class 7 finals



Day 6
Tuesday 4 September

Check out the Royal Artillery Barracks in the early afternoon to watch the women's compound open finals for which Great Britain's Danielle Brown is the favourite. At ExCeL Great Britain are also the favourite for the BC1/2 boccia team event whilst Hong Kong's Chan Yui Chong and Hungary's Pal Szekeres will likely star in the wheelchair fencing foil events.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 16:00 Archery: women's compound open finals
- 16:00 Sitting volleyball: Iran v Bosnia & Herzegovina (men's)
- 17:50 Boccia: BC1/BC2 team event
- 18:30 Wheelchair fencing: men's and women's individual foil Category B



Day 5
Monday 3 September

Today marks the halfway point of the sailing event when sailors hope to consolidate leads and stay in the race. The equestrian mixed individual freestyle test will also be a crowd-puller with riders performing routines to music. Great Britain's Lee Pearson is a favourite for the 1b class. Pop down to the archery in the late afternoon to catch the men's compound finals where Switzerland's Philippe Horner will likely be hitting the mark or watch the class 10 women's singles finals in ExCeL where Poland's Natalia Partyka will likely star.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 10:45 Wheelchair basketball: Canada v Columbia (men's)
- 14:15 Equestrian: mixed individual freestyle test 1b
- 16:00 Archery: men's individual compound W1
- 19:30 Table tennis: women's singles class 10



Day 7
Wednesday 5 September

Watch Iran's Siamand Rahman wow the crowds with his powerlifting abilities and do not miss the swimming sessions featuring Great Britain's Sam and Ollie Hynd, Russia's Olesya Vladykina, Brazil's Andre Brasil, Ukraine's Maksym Veraksa, South Africa's Natalie Du Toit and France's David Smetanine. The evening session in the Olympic Stadium will be one of top-class 100m-sprints from Brazil's Terezinha Guilhermina (T11), Australia's Kelly Cartwright (T42) and Canada's Michelle Stilwell (T52).

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 18:00 Powerlifting: men's +100kg
- 20:18 Athletics: women's 100m T11
- 20:42 Athletics: women's 100m T42
- 21:36 Athletics: women's 100m T52



Day 8
Thursday 6 September

Visit the coast at Weymouth & Portland where for the final sailing race or go to Brands Hatch for top performances expected from the Czech Republic's Jiri Jezek and Great Britain's Sarah Storey in the cycling road races. The evening's athletics will be all about the men with Great Britain's Dan Greaves up against USA's Jeremy Campbell in the discus, Switzerland's Marcel Hug and Great Britain's David Weir going head to head in the 800m wheelchair race and South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, USA's Jerome Singleton and Great Britain's Jonnie Peacock meeting in the men's 100m.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 11:00 Sailing: final race
- 14:32 Cycling: women's individual C 4-5 road race
- 20:31 Athletics: men's discus throw F44
- 21:46 Athletics: men's 800m T54
- 21:58 Athletics: men's 100m T44



Day 10
Saturday 8 September

Wheelchair rugby semi-finals begin today, but all attention will be on three gold-medal matches: football 5-a-side, men's sitting volleyball and men's wheelchair basketball. The morning athletics session will also be exciting with Australia's Evan O'Hanlon running the 200m T38 and Brazil's Shirlene Coelho likely to shine in the javelin.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 10:40 Athletics: women's javelin throw F37/38
- 11:36 Athletics: men's 200m T38
- 15:30 Football 5-a-side: gold medal match
- 18:00 Sitting volleyball: men's gold medal match
- 21:15 Wheelchair basketball: men's gold medal match



Day 9
Friday 7 September

Watch the women's wheelchair tennis singles finals in which the Netherlands' Esther Vergeer may well be defending her title against teammate Aniek van Koot. The Aquatics Centre also promises some great performances from Australia's Matthew Cowdrey, South Africa's Natalie Du Toit, Ukraine's Maksym Veraksa and Russia's Oxana Savchenko. Semi-finals get underway for football 7-a-side, as well as finals in the men's and women's goalball, women's sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 12:00 Wheelchair tennis: women's singles gold-medal match
- 15:00 Goalball: women's gold medal match
- 17:30 Swimming: men's and women's 100m freestyle S9, men's and women's 50m freestyle S12
- 20:00 Goalball: men's gold medal match
- 21:00 Sitting volleyball: women's gold medal match
- 21:15 Wheelchair basketball: women's gold medal match



Day 11
Sunday 9 September

The day begins at 8:00 with the men's visually impaired and arm amputee marathon races. At 11:30 the wheelchair marathon kicks in, the men's event likely being fiercely contested by Great Britain's David Weir, Australia's Kurt Fearnley and Switzerland's Marcel Hug. USA are expected to defend their title in the wheelchair rugby gold-medal match, and the football 7-a-side final will round off competition before Coldplay headline the Closing Ceremony.

NOT TO BE MISSED !

- 11:30 Men's and women's T54 marathon
- 12:00 Wheelchair rugby: gold medal match
- 16:00 Football 7-a-side: gold medal match



London 2012 Sports Profile

In this issue of The Paralympian, all 20 London 2012 sports are profiled, including quick facts, ones to watch, which teams have qualified and how the medal standings looked for Beijing 2008.

Archery

Make way for the closest competition yet



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: The Royal Artillery Barracks

Dates: 30 August - 5 September

Medal Events: 9

Classification:

- **ST:** standing athletes
- **W1 and W2:** wheelchair athletes, with W2 athletes' impairments having less of an impact on their ability to compete

Paralympic Games debut: Rome 1960

Athletes expected to compete: 88 men and 52 women


London 2012 will be the first Paralympics where athletes play the best of five sets, rather than shooting 12 arrows and seeing who has the highest score.

Each set consists of three arrows with two points awarded for a win, one for a tie and zero for a loss. The first to six points wins the match.

"This [set system] will make the matches even more exciting. It also permits an athlete who has one big mistake to come back," said Tom Dielen, Secretary General of World Archery.

Men and women compete separately, both as individuals and in teams of three, and all matches follow a straight knockout format.

Spectators coming to watch archery at the Royal Artillery Barracks will be able to follow scores easily on the video board.

BEIJING 2008			
			
China	2	3	2
Great Britain	2	1	1
Republic of Korea	2	1	–


"It's going to be a very exciting and tense competition and the spectators will quickly feel the atmosphere and excitement," said Dielen.

"They'll see some fantastic things like people shooting an arrow without using an arm, like drawing back the bow with their mouth. This is one of the fantastic things. It shows that disabled athletes can perform at a very high level."

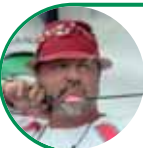
Since Beijing, when the Paralympic archery events attracted more spectators than the Olympic ones, the sport has seen more archers with an impairment begin to compete in the sport at a high level. Now many para-archers, like Great Britain's Danielle Brown, are also top-ranked in the able-bodied competition.

[web >> www.archery.org](http://www.archery.org)

Ones to watch



Danielle Brown (Great Britain)
Currently world No. 1 in the Compound Open category, the 24-year-old is on target for gold in London.



Philippe Horner (Switzerland)
The 52-year-old, who styles himself on Yoda from Star Wars, will hope to beat arch-rival and gold medallist from Beijing John Stubbs of Great Britain.



Gizem Girismen (Turkey)
The 31-year-old, who won her country's first Paralympic gold in the Individual Recurve W1/W2 event in Beijing 2008, is a podium favourite for London.


We also have a handy ticket availability colour coding:
(as of 1 August 2012)

[web >> www.paralympictickets.com](http://www.paralympictickets.com)

- Green (Good availability)
- Amber (Some availability)
- Red (Limited availability)

Athletics

Bringing Paralympic sport to new heights



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Olympic Stadium

Dates: 31 August - 9 September

Medal Events: 170 (96 track, 70 field and four road)

Classification: Athletes are grouped into classes according to how much their impairment impacts their event-specific performance.

In each class, the first digit indicates the nature of an athlete's impairment, and the second indicates the amount of functional ability the athlete has. The lower the second number, the greater the impact the impairment has on the athlete's ability to compete. A T or an F before each two-digit number shows whether the athlete is competing in a track event or a field event.

- **Classes 11-13:** athletes with a visual impairment
- **Class 20:** athletes with an intellectual impairment
- **Classes 31-38:** athletes with co-ordination problems, e.g. due to cerebral palsy, with classes 31 to 34 using a wheelchair to compete
- **Classes 40-46:** athletes with a loss of limb or limb deficiency, who compete standing
- **Classes 51-54:** wheelchair racers
- **Classes 51-58:** field athletes who throw from a seated position

Paralympic Games Debut: Rome 1960

Athletes Expected to Compete: 740 men and 360 women

As the biggest sport on the Paralympic Games programme and the one that has been hyped up the most, the London 2012 athletics competition at the Olympic Stadium is bound to include some performances of a lifetime.

The IPC's Ones to Watch list for London 2012 includes 16 athletes who could win multiple medals and set new world records in the process.

"Athletics is the biggest and purest of the Paralympic sports – running, jumping and throwing form the core of nearly all sports and hark back to ancient Greece and the original Olympics," IPC Athletics Sport Technical Committee Chairperson Ed Warner said.

The men's 100m T43/44 has been deemed the race of the Games already, with South African "Blade Runner" Oscar Pistorius, Great Britain's Jonnie Peacock and USA's Jerome Singleton ready to sprint for the title. Great Britain's David Weir, Switzerland's Marcel Hug and Australia's Kurt Fearnley headline a strong T54

BEIJING 2008			
			
China	38	21	18
Australia	10	9	7
South Africa	10	2	4

class. Irish sprinting sensation Jason Smyth will try to uphold his title as the world's fastest Paralympian in the 100m T13 spring, whilst Australia's Evan O'Hanlon hopes to snatch it from him racing in the T38 class.

Wheelchair racers Michelle Stilwell of Canada and Tatyana McFadden of USA will try to set new top marks in the women's T52 and T54 classes, respectively.

Because there are a wide range of impairment classes at the Paralympics, many of the field events combine a number of classes and are decided by a point-scoring system.

London's Olympic Stadium is bound to be a historic setting for all of the events set to take place in front of fans from all around the world.

[web >> ipc-athletics.paralympic.org](http://www.ipc-athletics.paralympic.org)


Ones to watch



David Weir (Great Britain)
The three-time T54 world champion will look to take back his world records in several distances from Swiss "Silver Bullet" Marcel Hug.



Jason Smyth (Ireland)
The visually impaired sprinter will hope to repeat his 100m and 200m T13 Paralympic golds and retain his title as the fastest Paralympian.



Tatyana McFadden (USA)
The wheelchair racer will compete in potentially five events in London in the hope of winning her first ever Paralympic gold.

Boccia

Athletes with severe impairments showing incredible abilities



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: ExCeL

Dates: 2-8 September

Medal Events: 7

Classification:

- **BC1:** Players with Cerebral Palsy (CP) who are able to use their hands or feet to propel a ball into play.
- **BC2:** Players with CP with a greater functional ability than BC1 players.
- **BC3:** Players with CP or other impairment who use a ramp to propel the ball into play and are supported by a sport assistant or ‘ramper’.
- **BC4:** Players who do not have CP but have another impairment with very limited leg and trunk function, but the ability to grasp and throw the ball

Paralympic Games debut: Stoke Mandeville 1984

Athletes expected to compete: 104

web >> www.CPISRA.org

BEIJING 2008			
Brazil	2	–	1
Korea	2	–	1
Portugal	1	3	1

Boccia is a game of skill, accuracy and mental cunning where players with cerebral palsy and other physical impairments try to aim coloured balls as close to a jack ball as possible.


Athletes play against the clock. There are four Ends in each match and during each End, each individual or pair throws six ball. Although it is a physical game, above all, boccia is a game of strategy.


“When players are sitting there looking at the game, you wonder what’s going on in their mind? How are they going to play this one out? For them to nail the jack right on is totally amazing,” Leslie Halicki, Chair of the CPISRA Boccia Committee explained.


After new qualification rules were introduced, London 2012 will be the first time individual players can qualify without being part of a team.

“It’s the first time we’re going to be highlighting the verybest players in each class,” said Halicki.

Ones to watch

- 

Greg Polychronidis (Greece)
The Beijing silver medallist will be looking to do one better in the BC3 category in London.
- 

Nigel Murray (Great Britain)
The world number one BC2 player will hope to take advantage of being on home soil to play for gold.
- 


Marco Dispalto (Canada)
The former rugby player has come out of nowhere to become a real medal contender in the BC4 class.



Cycling

Pedalling to the podium

BEIJING 2008			
Great Britain	17	3	–
USA	5	5	4
Germany	3	6	4



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Velodrome (track) and Brands Hatch (road)

Dates: 30 August - 2 September (track), 5-8 September (road)

Medal Events: 18 (Track), 32 (Road)

Classification: Athletes are classed based on their functional ability and which type of cycle they can compete on – tandem, handcycle, tricycle or bicycle. The lower the athlete’s class number, the greater the impact of their impairment on their ability to compete.

- **TB:** Athletes with a visual impairment who compete on a tandem with a sighted pilot on the front
- **H1-H4:** Athletes with an impairment that affects their legs and so compete using a handcycle
- **T1-T2:** Athletes with an impairment that affects their balance and so compete using a tricycle
- **C1-C5:** Athletes with an impairment that affects their legs, arms and/or trunk but compete using a bicycle

Paralympic Games Debut: Atlanta 1996 (track), Stoke Mandeville/New York 1984 (road)

Athletes expected to compete: 155 men and 70 women

Cycling was originally developed as a sport for visually impaired athletes who first used tandem bicycles.

Today, it is offered to a wider range of athletes and has quickly expanded to become the third largest sport on the Paralympic Games programme in terms of medal events.

The track competition will take place at the Velodrome, which is banked from 12 degrees at its shallowest point to 42 degrees at its steepest. Athletes will compete in the time trial, individual pursuit and the individual and team sprints.

“We expect to have several world records on the track,” the UCI’s Louis Barbeau said.

“Great Britain will be one of the leading nations, especially on the track, but they will face fierce competition from several other nations.”

As for the road competition, road races, time trials and team relays will take place at Brands Hatch in Kent on the slightly adapted motor racing circuit that athletes had the chance to test out on 19 June.

Watch out for Italy’s former motor racer Alex Zanardi, as he returns to Brands Hatch as a handcycler to claim the gold that eluded him on the circuit as a driver.

Strong delegations from Great Britain, USA, Australia and Germany, along with Spain and the Czech Republic, are expected to lead the cycling medals table.

web >> www.uci.ch

Ones to watch

- 

Jiri Jezek (Czech Republic)
If Jezek wins two more medals he will become the most successful Paralympic cyclist ever.
- 

Sarah Storey (Great Britain)
Storey holds 16 world titles and will look to defend her individual pursuit and time trial golds from the Beijing 2008 Games.
- 


Colin Lynch (Ireland)
After only taking up competitive cycling in 2008, Lynch is on the fast track to reach the podium in as many as three events in London.




Equestrian

Coming home

QUICK FACTS



Ticket availability: 

Venue: Greenwich Park

Dates: 30 August - 4 September

Medal Events: 11


Classification: Based on the riders' impairment, which influences their ability to ride, they compete in one of five grades (1a, 1b, II, III and IV). Riders in 1a have the least functional ability and riders in IV have the most functional ability. Athletes with a visual impairment compete in grades III and IV.


Paralympic Games debut: Stoke Mandeville 1984


Athletes expected to compete: 78

web  >> www.fei.org

Ones to watch

- 

Lee Pearson (Great Britain)
The Paralympic legend is bouncing back from an injury to compete for home crowds.
- 

Hannelore Brenner (Germany)
At her fourth Paralympic Games, the 49-year-old will hope to repeat her two individual gold medals from Beijing.
- 

Pepo Puch (Austria)
The 46-year-old is the highest ranked rider on the FEI Paralympic Athletes Individual Ranking List going into London 2012.



BEIJING 2008			
Great Britain	5	5	—
Germany	3	1	2
South Africa	2	—	—

There is only one gold for the Team Test, making it very prestigious.

“It’s a fantastic event when you have a mix of different grades which work together to obtain the best possible result,” said Asmyr. Each test is divided into between 20 and 40 movements. Five judges sit around the arena to mark the movements from 0 to 10 and the marks are added to give the final result.

Equestrian is unique in that it involves a special co-operation between an animal and a human being, something Asmyr says will transfix the crowds.

“That is the most fascinating both for those involved in the sport and also for those who are watching,” he said.

Riders are able to adapt their riding style, depending on their impairment, such as carrying the reins in their mouth or carrying extra equipment, like a second whip.

Football 5-a-side

One of world’s hottest sports to rock Riverbank Arena

QUICK FACTS



Ticket availability: 

Venue: Riverbank Arena

Dates: 31 August - 8 September

Medal Events: 1

Classification: There is only one sport class for Football 5-a-side and all players are visually impaired. The players have a very low visual acuity or no light perception and during the game all players must wear eyeshades.

Teams Qualified: France, Spain, China, Iran, Brazil, Argentina, Great Britain, Turkey

Paralympic Games Debut: Athens 2004

Athletes expected to compete: 64

Since its Paralympic debut at the Athens 2004 Games, football 5-a-side has expanded to 44 countries and four continents.

At London 2012, the competition will use the World Cup format, with two groups of four teams squaring off on the blue-coloured field at Riverbank Arena.

The pitch will be surrounded with a rebound wall, and each squad – made up of visually impaired athletes – will field four outfield players and a goalkeeper. They will play using a ball with a bell fitted inside.

To ensure fairness, all outfield players wear eyeshades, though the goalkeeper may be fully or partially sighted.

During matches, which consist of two 25-minute halves, each team will be allowed one guide for each third of the pitch to call out instructions.




Brazil is the only country to have ever won football 5-a-side gold, beating Argentina and China in the past two Paralympics. They also won the 2010 World Cup and the 2011 Pan American Games.


“We’ve seen similar levels of development and growth in all the continents over the past few years,” said IBSA’s football 5-a-side Chairman Carlos Campos Lopez.

“Having said that, it’s difficult to ignore the sport’s roots and traditions, so Brazil and Argentina, countries synonymous with blind futsal, will be up there battling for the gold medals.”


Spain could also fight their way into the medal round, as could China, who have come on leaps and bounds as of late. Host Great Britain have also benefitted from training with former England captain David Beckham.


“It’s a special sport,” Lopez said. “It’s exciting and passionate, and the public can easily relate to it.”


BEIJING 2008			
			
Brazil	China	Argentina	

web  >> www.IBSA.es

Ones to watch

- 

Brazil
As the only team to ever win Paralympic gold, Brazil boasts a Paralympic Pele in star striker Jefferson da Conceicao Goncalves.
- 


Argentina
The 2004 runners-up will look to seek revenge on rival Brazil in London.
- 

Spain
The squad fell just short of a world title in 2010, losing to Brazil in the gold-medal contest.



Football 7-a-side

Exciting end-to-end action guaranteed



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Riverbank Arena

Dates: 1-9 September

Medal Events: 1

Classification: All players have co-ordination problems, e.g. due to cerebral palsy. They are grouped in four sport classes: C5, C6, C7 or C8, with C8 having the most functional ability. Each team must field at least one class C5 or C6 player at all times, and they can have a maximum of two C8 players on the field at once.


Teams Qualified: Ukraine, Iran, Brazil, Great Britain, Russia, the Netherlands, Argentina, USA


Paralympic Games Debut: New York and Stoke Mandeville 1984 Games


Athletes Expected to Compete: 96

web >> www.CPISRA.org

Ones to watch

- 

Russia
The squad reached the podium at the last four Paralympic Games and won the 2011 CPISRA World Championships.
- 

Ukraine
The team could win its third Paralympic gold in London.
- 

Iran
The bronze medallists from Beijing 2008 have made vast improvements since winning their first Paralympic medal.

The field is a little smaller, the goals are a bit tighter and there are no offside rules, but football 7-a-side is still a rendition of football, one of the world's most entertaining sports.




The Paralympic sport for ambulant athletes with cerebral palsy will be played at Riverbank Arena at the London 2012 Games, where eight teams will play a 20-match tournament culminating in the gold-medal match on 9 September.

"The game is very exciting because the top teams are very equal and a lot of goals are scored and that's what the people want to see," said CPISRA football 7-a-side Chair Tom Langen.

Since football 7-a-side began in 1978, Brazil has been an obvious pick as a powerhouse in the sport, but in recent years, Russia, Ukraine and Iran have risen to the top.

The point system in football 7-a-side, based on the severity of an athlete's impairment, makes the coach's job that much more interesting in deciding which players to put on the field together.


Many times the matches are extended an extra 20 minutes if the score is tied at the end of full-time, and matches are decided by a penalty shootout if still tied after extra time.

BEIJING 2008			
			
	Ukraine	Russia	Iran



Goalball

Putting your body on the line in front of a 80km/h ball



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Copper Box

Dates: 30 August - 7 September

Medal events: 2

Classification: Athletes have varying degrees of visual impairment. In order to ensure fair competition between the teams, all players must wear eyeshades during the game.

Paralympic Games debut: 1984

Teams qualified:

- **Men's:** Great Britain, Lithuania, China, Iran, South Korea, Finland, Brazil, Algeria, Turkey, Canada, Belgium, Sweden
- **Women:** Great Britain, China, USA, Sweden, Japan, Denmark, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Finland

Athletes expected to compete: 132 (12 men's teams and 10 women's teams)

Goalball is a game for visually impaired athletes. The aim is to throw the ball into the opponents' net. But there is one catch – all players wear eye masks, so cannot see anything.

Teams consist of six players, with only three on the court at any one time.

When a team throws, the other team has to listen to the bell in the ball to identify where it is and defend their net. Players make reactions within split seconds.

"When the men play, the ball speed is 70 - 80km per hour. It's fast and the ball is rather heavy, so it's a big effort for your body to stop it, so you have to be brave," Kari Marklund, IBSA Goalball Manager, said.

The sport originally started in Austria to rehabilitate visually impaired

BEIJING 2008			
			
MEN	China	Lithuania	Sweden
WOMEN	USA	China	Denmark

soldiers from World War II, and has grown to become one of the most popular Paralympic sports in the world with over 100 countries playing it.

In London, there will be a new, longer, much tougher match format, with teams thrashing it out for 12 minutes per half as opposed to the normal 10.


"Players have to be more prepared. And I tell you after playing 24 minutes, the players' heads are completely empty because all their effort goes on concentrating on where the ball is," said Marklund.


It is a game of mental toughness as much as tactics and physical strength, says Marklund.


"Goalball requires much mental strength, but it is about technique."

web >> www.IBSA.es

Ones to watch

- 


Denmark (women)
The team won the European qualification tournament and are destined to make waves in London.
- 

Lithuania (men)
A strong team at the 2010 World Championships, they will hope to bounce back after a disappointing 2011 European Championship.
- 

China (women)
With a great technique and tendency not to throw balls straight on, but rather bend or bounce them, China is difficult to beat.

Judo

Quick, fierce and easy to follow



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: ExCeL

Dates: 30 August – 1 September

Medal events: 13

Classification: Athletes are classed as B1, B2 or B3 based on the degrees of their visual impairment, though all athletes compete together in the same events.

Paralympic Games debut: Seoul 1988


Athletes expected to compete: 84 men and 48 women

web >> www.ibsa.es

Judo will be a very easy and thrilling Paralympic sport to follow for spectators at the ExCeL arena in London, as battles will last up to five minutes between visually impaired judokas. All of the 13 events across seven weight categories at London 2012 will be played in a knockout format with double repechage and



Ones to watch



Antonio Tenorio (Brazil)

The legend is out to get his fifth consecutive Paralympic gold in London and solidify himself as the world's best in the sport.



Naomi Soazo (Venezuela)

After taking silver and bronze at the last two world championships Soazo is ready to top the podium once again as she did in Beijing.



Oleg Kretsul (Russia)

The -90 kg judoka won gold at Beijing 2008, but he will have to fend off the host nation's Sam Ingram to repeat that in London.

BEIJING 2008			
China	4	2	1
Algeria	2	0	1
Russia	1	0	4

will end with two finalists going head to head in the gold-medal contest.

The main difference between Paralympic competitions and able-bodied is that visually impaired judokas are allowed to have contact with their opponents to orientate themselves before each round begins.

But that does not mean the level of competition is any different according to IBSA Judo Director Jean-Claude Prieur.

“Most judokas have joined able-bodied judo centres, so the judoka’s training has become as professional as the International Judo Federation circuit judokas at practice level,” he said.

In judo, athletes are awarded points for throws, holds, arm locks and strangles, and the one with the highest number of points reigns victorious. The contest stops immediately if one judoka achieves

“ippon” – putting his/her opponent on his/her back – and it enters a golden period if the score is tied after the end of the five minutes.

London 2012 will mark the third time women have participated in judo at the Paralympic level, and Prieur insists there will be a few surprises in both the men’s and women’s competitions.


“All teams will have their chance because if we have a look on the ranking list, seven different countries lead the way for the seven weight categories for the male and for the female,” he said.



“Two Russians, two Chinese, one from Chinese Taipei and one Azerbaijani are leading the way in six different weight categories.”

Powerlifting

The world’s strongest athletes



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: ExCeL

Dates: 30 August – 5 September

Medal Events: 20

Classification: All athletes have an impairment affecting their legs and hips. Athletes are classified by body weight.

Paralympic Games Debut: Tokyo 1964

Athletes Expected to Compete: 120 men and 80 women

web >> www.ipc-powerlifting.org



At London 2012, all powerlifters will compete together regardless of which impairment they have and will be classified by bodyweight alone.

This allows for the sport to convey athletes’ pure strength and combat their abilities against one another.

“Fans can certainly look forward to watching some of the world’s strongest athletes irrespective of any impairment, because pound for pound, some of these athletes are the very best and strongest in the world,” IPC Powerlifting Sport Technical Committee Chairperson Jon Amos said.

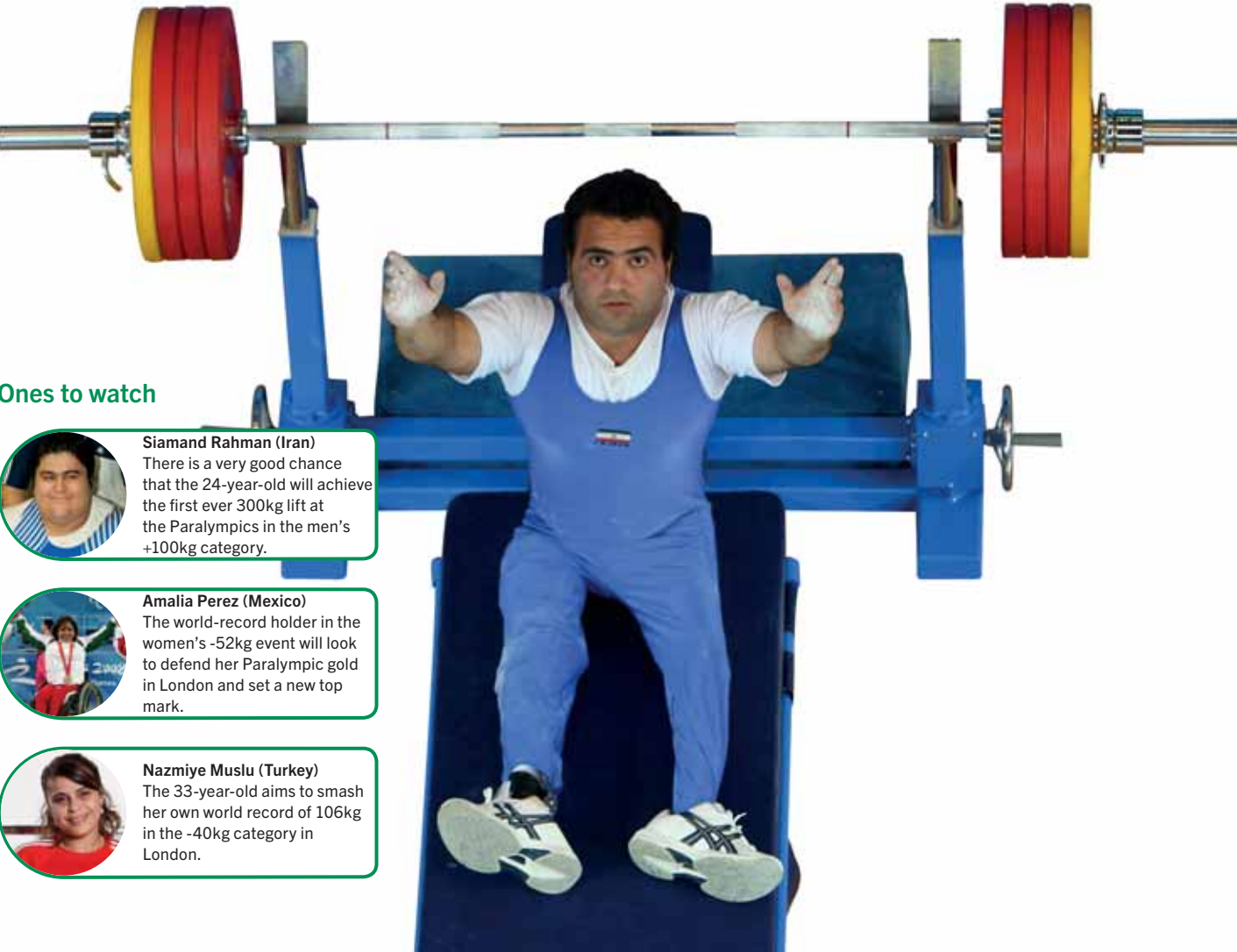
“In no other sport will spectators be able to watch male and female athletes show such

focused approach and raw power, bench pressing weights close to three times their own bodyweight in respect to the women and closer to four times their own bodyweight for the men.”


At the Paralympics, powerlifters only compete in the bench-press discipline. Competitors lie out completely flat on a specifically designed bench and are not allowed any assistive lifting devices. They have a maximum of three attempts per competition and every event only consists of a final round.

“Unlike other sports, there are no heats,” Amos said. “Every session the spectators will watch is part of a final.”

BEIJING 2008			
China	9	2	3
Egypt	4	3	3
Nigeria	2	3	1



Ones to watch




Siamand Rahman (Iran)

There is a very good chance that the 24-year-old will achieve the first ever 300kg lift at the Paralympics in the men’s +100kg category.



Amalia Perez (Mexico)

The world-record holder in the women’s -52kg event will look to defend her Paralympic gold in London and set a new top mark.




Nazmiye Muslu (Turkey)


The 33-year-old aims to smash her own world record of 106kg in the -40kg category in London.

Rowing

An intimate fan experience

QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: 
Venue: Eton Dorney



Dates: 31 August – 2 September

Medal events: 4


Classification: Paralympic Rowing has three sport classes for athletes with different functional abilities, depending on what they primarily use to accelerate the boat:

- **AS:** arms and shoulders
- **TA:** trunk, arms and shoulders
- **LTA:** legs, trunk, arms and shoulders

Paralympic Games debut: Beijing 2008

Athletes expected to compete: 48 men and 48 women

web  >> www.worldrowing.com

BEIJING 2008			
			
Great Britain	2	–	1
China	1	–	–
Italy	1	–	–

Spectators who see rowing at the London 2012 Paralympic Games will get to train their eyes on both the start and finish lines.

With the races spanning 1,000m, rather than 2,000m in Olympic rowing, they will see the excitement of the race from beginning to end.

“The venue is like an arena because it’s very compact at Eton Dorney,” said Matt Smith, Executive Director at FISA, the governing body of rowing.

“Where we had big vast distances in Beijing, we have a more compact situation in Eton, which will make an even better atmosphere,” added Smith.

Paralympic rowing is often referred to as ‘adaptive’ rowing, because the equipment rather than the sport is adapted.

“Persons with a disability are participating in the same sport [as able-bodied rowers],” said Smith. “That is why we’ve had our inclusive approach for all of our events with our para-rowers. They are absolutely part of the team and part of the experience.”


Paralympic rowing events at London 2012 will all begin with heats, with two boats from each heat qualifying directly for the final. All remaining boats will then compete in two repechage races, which offer a second chance to qualify for the final.

With Great Britain fielding a strong team, which includes Tom Aggar, who has dominated the men’s Single Sculls since before Beijing, Smith is confident that the crowd atmosphere will be something exceptional.

“The big group of British fans that we expect at the Games regatta will create a really exciting atmosphere,” he said.



Ones to watch



Tom Aggar (Great Britain)
The 28-year-old has dominated the men’s arms and shoulders single scull for the last five years and will be tough to beat in London.



Alla Lysenko (Ukraine)
The world champion will have to out-row Beijing silver-medallist Liudmila Vauchok (Belarus) and 2010 world champion Nathalie Benoit (France).



Legs Trunks Arms Mixed Coxed Four (Great Britain)
Pamela Relp, Naomi Riches, David Smith, James Roe and Lily van den Broecke make a strong home team.

Sailing

A sport in full bloom

QUICK FACTS



Ticket availability: FREE

Venue: Weymouth and Portland

Dates: 1-6 September

Medal events: 3

Classification: Sailors with a physical or visual impairment compete in sport classes 1-7, with 1 point being the least functionally able.

2.4mR is open to all athletes meeting the minimum eligibility criteria

SKUD – In the two-person team, one athlete has to be female and one must be a 1 or 2 pointer.




Sonar – the total classification points have to add up to 14 or less.

Paralympic Games debut: Atlanta 1996

Teams qualified

- **Single-Person Keelboat, 2.4mR**
Great Britain, France, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Norway, Greece, Denmark, United States of America, New Zealand, Finland, Argentina, Australia, Italy
- **Two-Person Keelboat, SKUD18**
Great Britain, Malaysia, New Zealand, United States of America, Singapore, Canada, Australia, Italy, Israel, Spain, Brazil, France
- **Three-Person Keelboat, Sonar**
Great Britain, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Greece, France, United States of America, Ireland, Australia, Canada, Austria, Japan

Athletes expected to compete: 80

BEIJING 2008			
			
Canada	1	–	1
USA	1	–	1
Germany	1	–	–

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will showcase sailing like never before. In the four years since Beijing 2008, sailors have had more opportunities than ever before to race.

“ISAF opened up the World Cup competitions to Paralympic classes. A lot of the boats have been taking advantage of those events to improve their skill level and it’s really made a huge difference,” said Linda Merkel, President of the International Disabled Sailing Federation (IFDS), adding that it is not uncommon for Paralympic sailors to beat their able-bodied counterparts.

The Paralympic sailing competition consists of three boats: single-person keelboat (2.4mR), two-person keelboat (SKUD) and three-person keelboat (Sonar).

Boats will compete in 11 races. The boat that crosses the finish line first gets one point, second takes two points and so on. The boat that gets the least number of points in total wins.

Each boat can be adapted, for example with hand-holders, cushions, transfer chairs and bars to suit the disabilities of the crew.

“Once you get on the water, the wheelchairs are on the dock, and you cannot tell the difference between Paralympic and able-bodied sailors. To me it is the real beauty of the sport. We’re all just sailors,” said Merkel

This year’s Paralympic sailing is free of charge for spectators and takes place in a large enclosed bay in Weymouth, Dorset.


web  >> www.Sailing.org/Disabled



Ones to watch



Damien Seguin (France)
He stormed ahead to win the 2.4mR competition at the 2012 IFDS World Championships.




SKUD-18 (Great Britain)
Alexandra Rickham (helm) and Niki Birrell (crew) have won three SKUD-18 world titles in a row.



Sonar (Israel)
The team sailed to gold at the 2011 World Championships in Weymouth where the London 2012 event will also be held.

Shooting

A record-breaking performance in store



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Royal Artillery Barracks

Dates: 30 August – 6 September

Medal Events: 12

Classification: Athletes with different impairments compete together in two classes.

- **SH1:** for athletes who can support the weight of their firearm themselves
- **SH2:** for athletes who use a shooting stand to support their arm.

Paralympic Games debut: Toronto 1976

Athletes expected to compete: 100 men and 40 women

web 

www.ipc-shooting.org



new look

Shooting at London 2012 will have spectators on the edge of their seats as they watch the competition unfold with an immediacy that no other sport can offer.

At the very moment the bullet hits the electronic scoreboard, the score will be displayed on big screens, allowing fans to live every moment of the competition as it happens.

It will make for a tense and exciting competition in which shooters will have to hold their nerve and keep their calm to stay on top.

The sport has a broad appeal, with more than 400 athletes from 56 countries actively participating.

“It’s a big sport around the world with a lot of nations and athletes taking part,” said Rune Soerlie, IPC Sports Council Representative for shooting.

The sport features rifle and pistol events. In both events, competitors aim at a 10-ringed

target from a set distance (10m, 25m or 50m) and, depending on the event, athletes are required to shoot from standing, kneeling or prone positions.

In the qualification rounds, each ring on the target is worth points: one point for the outer ring and 10 at the centre.

In the final, the outside ring is worth 10 points and the centre is worth 10.9 points.

Paralympic shooting will take place in three temporary shooting ranges that have been erected at the Royal Artillery Barracks. The multi-coloured modern venues contrast with the historical building there.

“The facilities are very good and spectators will see athletes perform on a very very high level,” said Soerlie. “The scores will be very high and I think we will have a lot of world records.”

Ones to watch






Matt Skelhon (Great Britain)
The Beijing gold medallist will aim for a repeat performance in front of home crowds.



Jonas Jacobsson (Sweden)
The multi-Paralympic gold medallist often competes and wins against able-bodied shooters and will likely take a horde of medals home.



Veronika Vadovicova (Slovakia)
The 29-year-old will be up against 70-year-old Libby Kosmala from Australia in the hope of repeating her Beijing gold-medal performance.

BEIJING 2008			
			
Republic of Korea	4	3	2
Sweden	3	–	1
Russia	2	1	3



Sitting Volleyball

Veteran squads aim to keep momentum rolling



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: ExCeL

Dates: 30 August - 8 September

Medal Events: 2

Classification: All players have a physical impairment and are either allocated sport class “D” for disability or “MD” for minimal disability. MD indicates a higher functional ability than D. A team may only field one MD player at a time.

Paralympic Games Debut: Arnhem 1980 (men); Athens 2004 (women)

Teams Qualified:

- **Men:** Iran, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Great Britain, Russia, Brazil, Rwanda, Germany, Morocco and China
- **Women:** China, USA, Ukraine, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Brazil and Japan

Athletes expected to compete: 198



Four countries have established themselves as perennial powerhouses in sitting volleyball heading into London 2012.

Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina are the dominant teams on the men’s side, and China and USA are consistent contenders on the women’s end.

The competition in London will take place inside ExCeL, along with five other sports. However, the sitting volleyball schedule has been arranged so that matches take place during the downtime for many other sports.

“We’re the only team sport in there, so we’ll be trying to make as much noise as possible and getting as many people to come to us as possible,” WOVD Sport Director Dennis Le Breuille said.

“People should buy tickets for sitting volleyball because it’s an exciting game to watch. There are potentially some excellent matches, and it will be a show.”

Sitting volleyball, which started in the Netherlands in the 1950’s, requires a smaller court and a lower net than the standing game, yet is often considerably faster. Because the players are not in wheel-

BEIJING 2008			
			
MEN	Iran	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Russia
WOMEN	China	USA	The Netherlands

chairs, they rely entirely on their physical abilities and quickness, with six players per team on the court.

Two minimal disability players – those without any amputations – are allowed on a roster, though only one can be on the court at a time.

Teams win points by landing the ball on the opposition’s half of the court. The game is the best out of five sets. Teams win the first four sets by reaching 25 points, and the fifth set by reaching 15 points.


In London, the 10 men’s and eight women’s teams will be divided into two groups each, and will play round-robin matches prior to a playoff.

With the top four squads playing at their best, and a Rwandan team being the first ever squad to represent the sub-saharan zone, the competition is bound to be at its best.

web 

www.wvod.info


Ones to watch



USA (women)
After finishing second at Beijing 2008 and the 2010 World Championships, the Americans are hoping to upset China for gold.




Iran (men)
The Iranians have won gold at five of the last six Paralympic Games. Need anything more be said?




Bosnia and Herzegovina (men)
The team fell to Iran in the finals at the last Paralympics and World Championships, so the rivalry is bound to heat up.

Swimming

Athletes with an intellectual impairment return



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: 

Venue: Aquatics Centre

Dates: 30 August – 8 September

Medal Events: 148

Classification: Swimmers are classified according to how their impairment affects their ability to perform each stroke.

Classes are:

- **1-10:** athletes with physical impairments. Class 1 swimmers' impairment has the greatest impact on their ability to perform strokes; class 10 swimmers' has the least impact.
- **11-13:** athletes with a visual impairment. Class 11 swimmers have little or no sight; class 13 swimmers have limited sight.
- **14:** athletes with an intellectual impairment.

Breaststroke uses greater leg propulsion than any other stroke, therefore athletes with a physical impairment often have a different class for this event compared to freestyle, backstroke and butterfly.

This is also taken into account when athletes compete in the individual medley. Therefore swimmers can have different Sport Classes for the different strokes, which is indicated by:

- S before the class represents freestyle, backstroke and butterfly events.
- SB before the class represents breaststroke events.
- SM before the class represents individual medley events.

Paralympic Games Debut: Rome 1960

Athletes expected to compete: 340 men and 260 women

web  >> www.ipc-swimming.org



new look

Ones to watch



Yevheniy Bohodayko (Ukraine)

The 18-year-old was the most decorated swimmer at the 2011 European Championships, winning 10 medals in the S6 races.



Sarai Gascon (Spain)

The S9 swimmer will go head to head with South Africa's Paralympic swimming hero Natalie Du Toit.




Daniel Dias (Brazil)

The 24-year-old S5 athlete is likely to become one of the most successful swimmers in the Aquatics Centre.


BEIJING 2008			
USA	17	14	13
China	13	22	17
Ukraine	13	10	20

Table Tennis

All-inclusive sport promises an array of entertainment



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: 

Venue: ExCeL


Dates: 30 August - 8 September

Medal Events: 29

Classification: Athletes are grouped into 11 different classes. 1-5 are devoted to wheelchair athletes, 6-10 to athletes with a physical impairment competing in a standing position. Athletes in class 11 have an intellectual impairment.

Paralympic Games Debut: Rome 1960

Athletes Expected to Compete: 174 men, 102 women

web  >> www.ITTF.com

BEIJING 2008			
Brazil	2	–	1
Korea	2	–	1
Portugal	1	3	1

Paralympic Sport is already unique in itself, but table tennis is even more distinct in that it integrates a variety of disabilities.

For the first time since 2000 athletes with an intellectual impairment will be allowed to compete in the Paralympics.

“We’re able to offer the full spectrum,” said Alison Burchell, Deputy Director of the ITTF Para Table-Tennis division. “In each class, there is a level of excitement.”

Table tennis is similar to the able-bodied game, though wheelchair players must serve over the end line so that their opponents do not have difficulty reaching the ball.

Players will compete in singles, doubles and team events in London.

All-day passes are still available to see table tennis at ExCeL, and there is bound to be an equal representation of competitors from around the globe in London, insists Burchell.

“Table tennis is a fairly accessible sport for all people with disabilities,” she said. “I think that particularly in developing areas like Africa, South America and some parts of Asia and Oceania, there’s been a huge growth.”

Table tennis was handed over from the IPC to the ITTF in 2007, and since then, the sport’s number of national associations has increased to 215.

Ones to watch



Natalia Partyka (Poland)

The Polish Olympic and Paralympic star has claimed the last two Paralympic golds in the women’s Class 10 competition.



Will Bayley (Great Britain)

The British 24-year-old has jumped to the top of the standings after winning gold at the 2011 European Championships.



Mateja Pintar (Slovenia)

The Slovenian Paralympic champion always promises surprises once she hits the international stage.



Wheelchair Basketball

A Paralympic tradition just got a bit more exciting



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: North Greenwich Arena; Basketball Arena

Dates: 30 August - 8 September

Medal Events: 2

Classification: Each athlete is assigned a classification between 1-4.5 points, and could be classified as a 1.5, 2.5, etc. The more functional ability an athlete has, the higher the number of points he or she is awarded. For instance, a 1-point player could be a high-level paraplegic and a 4.5-point player typically has an impairment of a lower limb. A team may not play with more than 14 points on the floor at one time.

Paralympic Games Debut: Rome 1960

Teams Qualified:

- **Men:**
Group A: Australia, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Turkey, USA
Group B: Canada, Colombia, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Poland
- **Women:**
Group A: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands
Group B: China, France, Germany, Mexico, USA

Athletes expected to compete: 264

web >> www.iwbf.org

Ones to watch



Australia (men)
The defending world and Paralympic champions will be the ones to beat with experienced players on its squad.



Canada (men)
Arguably the world's best player, Patrick Anderson, will lead the team to better their bronze from the 2011 Parapans.



USA (women)
After winning gold at the last two Paralympics and 2010 World Championships, the Americans head to London as favourites.

Already one of the most dynamic Paralympic sports, wheelchair basketball will be more exciting than ever before at London 2012 thanks to tilting.

Allowing players to “tilt” and get up on one wheel to shoot or guard their opponents will make for an even more athletic game.

“We show athleticism,” said IWBf President Maureen Orchard. “We show a level of team sport that’s hard to show in some other para-sports.

“To think that an athlete can shoot a 3-point play sitting in a chair is exciting.”

BEIJING 2008

MEN	Australia	Canada	Great Britain
WOMEN	USA	Germany	Australia

Wheelchair basketball is played with similar rules to able-bodied basketball, and players are required to throw or bounce the ball after every two pushes of the wheels on their chairs.

“You don’t walk, you roll,” Orchard said. “I’ve often said to people, ‘It’s like ballet on the floor.’ What they can do in terms of moving the chair with their hips and getting down the floor is great to watch.”

Practiced in nearly 100 countries many players and coaches in the sport are now paid professional salaries in Europe.

In London, 12 men’s and 10 women’s teams will be divided into two groups each. The top four teams in each group will qualify for the quarter-finals.

With some surprise teams qualifying from Europe, and Colombia’s men joining the field for the first time, the traditional powerhouses of Australia, Canada and USA will face stiff competition this year.



“The competition in London on the men’s side will absolutely be closer between all of the 12 teams than it’s ever been before, and I think you’ll see the top six women’s teams be close as well,” Orchard said. “The bottom four women’s teams are still coming up to the level of the top, but the men were like that two Games ago.”

“I would not want to bet who is going to be in the gold-medal game.”

Wheelchair Fencing

Fast action and high drama



QUICK FACTS

Ticket availability: ●

Venue: ExCeL

Dates: 4–8 September

Medal Events: 12

Classification: A and B – athletes in the B category have an impairment with a greater impact on their functional ability.

Paralympic Games Debut: Rome 1960

Athletes expected to compete: 69 men and 36 women

web >> www.iwasf.com

Three types of weapons are used in wheelchair fencing: the foil, épée and sabre.

The target area for foil is limited to the opponent’s torso, while competitors in sabre and épée events may be hit anywhere above the waist.

“The rules for wheelchair fencing are similar to able-bodied fencing, but we have to sit on a wheelchair with a fixed distance. So the action in wheelchair fencing is even more speedy,” said Alison Yu, a Hong Kong wheelchair fencer.

Fencers wear protective gear including masks, jackets, breeches and gloves. They also wear a wire to enable hits to be recorded electronically.

“It’s a sport combining the good appearance and also the technical skills,” said Yu.

The one-on-one combat sport requires strength, endurance, quick reflexes and intuition. For the first time at the Paralympics, a video referee system will be used with which the referee can review calls.

BEIJING 2008			
China	6	6	1
Hong Kong	3	2	2
France	1	1	–

“It’s going to facilitate the referee’s work and boost the athlete’s confidence on the floor when he’s judged,” said Alberto Martinez Vassallo, President of International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) Wheelchair Fencing.

Spectators heading to ExCeL to watch the sport will also have the opportunity to see boccia, sitting volleyball, judo, powerlifting and table tennis.

“For sure it will attract,” said Vassallo. “Fencing is a very European sport. And the English will be very well represented by their team.”

With the competition more advanced than ever before, it is set to be very exciting for spectators.



Ones to watch



Pal Szekeres (Hungary)
The three-time gold and three-time Paralympic bronze medalist is the only person to have ever medalled in both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Chan Yui Chong (Hong Kong)
The 29-year-old has racked up six Paralympic medals since she became a member of the national team in 2002.




Zsuzsanna Krajnyak (Hungary)
Top-ranked in foil and épée, Krajnyak will hope to secure her first Paralympic medal in London.

Wheelchair Rugby

AKA ‘Murderball’ ... need we say more?

QUICK FACTS



Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Basketball Arena

Dates: 5-9 September

Medal Events: 1

Classification: All players have an impairment affecting the upper and lower limbs and are classified from 0.5 to 3.5 (most physical function). The total point value has to be 8 or less with a maximum of four players on the field of play

Paralympic Games debut: Atlanta 1996

Teams qualified: USA, Australia, Japan, Sweden, Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, France

Number of teams expected to take part: 8 (96 athletes)

web >> www.iwfr.com

Wheelchair rugby is a brutal team contact sport for both men and women who have upper and lower-limb impairments.

The aim of the sport sounds simple – to carry a volleyball across the goal line like in rugby – however, you have to do so whilst avoiding collisions that are so hard that they can bend the metal of wheelchair frames.

“It’s not a game for the faint of heart,” said Eron Main, Secretary General International Wheelchair Rugby Federation.


“It’s a full contact sport with wheelchair on wheelchair. The strength, the skill and the speed of the players is incredible. It will suck you in within the first 30 seconds and you will want to see every match.”

Wheelchair rugby was invented in 1977 in Canada, and is still affectionately known by its original name, ‘Murderball’. By 2011, there were 26 countries playing the sport and Main is predicting fierce competition in London.

BEIJING 2008			
	USA	Australia	Canada

“I’m expecting that this is going to be the most competitive closest-fought competition that we’ve had at a Paralympic Games. There’s not a team in this tournament that doesn’t have a shot at the podium,” Main said

Ones to watch




USA

They are the world champions and traditionally the most dominant team, but Australia will keep them under pressure.



Great Britain

The team has been fourth place more times than can be remembered and will hope to gain its first Paralympic podium finish.



Japan

The team recently broke into the top three at the World Championships. At the Paralympic Games, it will want to prove that was not a fluke.



Wheelchair Tennis

In its own venue

QUICK FACTS



Ticket availability: ●

Venue: Eton Manor

Dates: 1-8 September

Medal Events: 6

Classification:

- **Open class:** is for athletes with an impairment of one or both legs but does not affect their arms or hands
- **Quad class:** athletes with an impairment that affects their arms and legs, which limits their ability to handle the racket and to move their wheelchair compared with open class athletes

Paralympic Games debut: Barcelona 1992 (exhibition sport in Seoul 1988)

Athletes expected to compete: 80 men and 32 women

web >> www.itftennis.com/wheelchair

Wheelchair tennis is unique at the London 2012 Paralympic Games in that it takes place in a Paralympic-only venue.

“London has a venue built specifically for the Paralympic tennis event. The Olympic tennis event is being played in Wimbledon, so we’ll be in Eton Manor on the Olympic Park,” said Mark Bullock, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager.

The sport follows similar rules to tennis, with one key exception: the ball is allowed to bounce twice, and only the first bounce must be within the boundaries of the court.

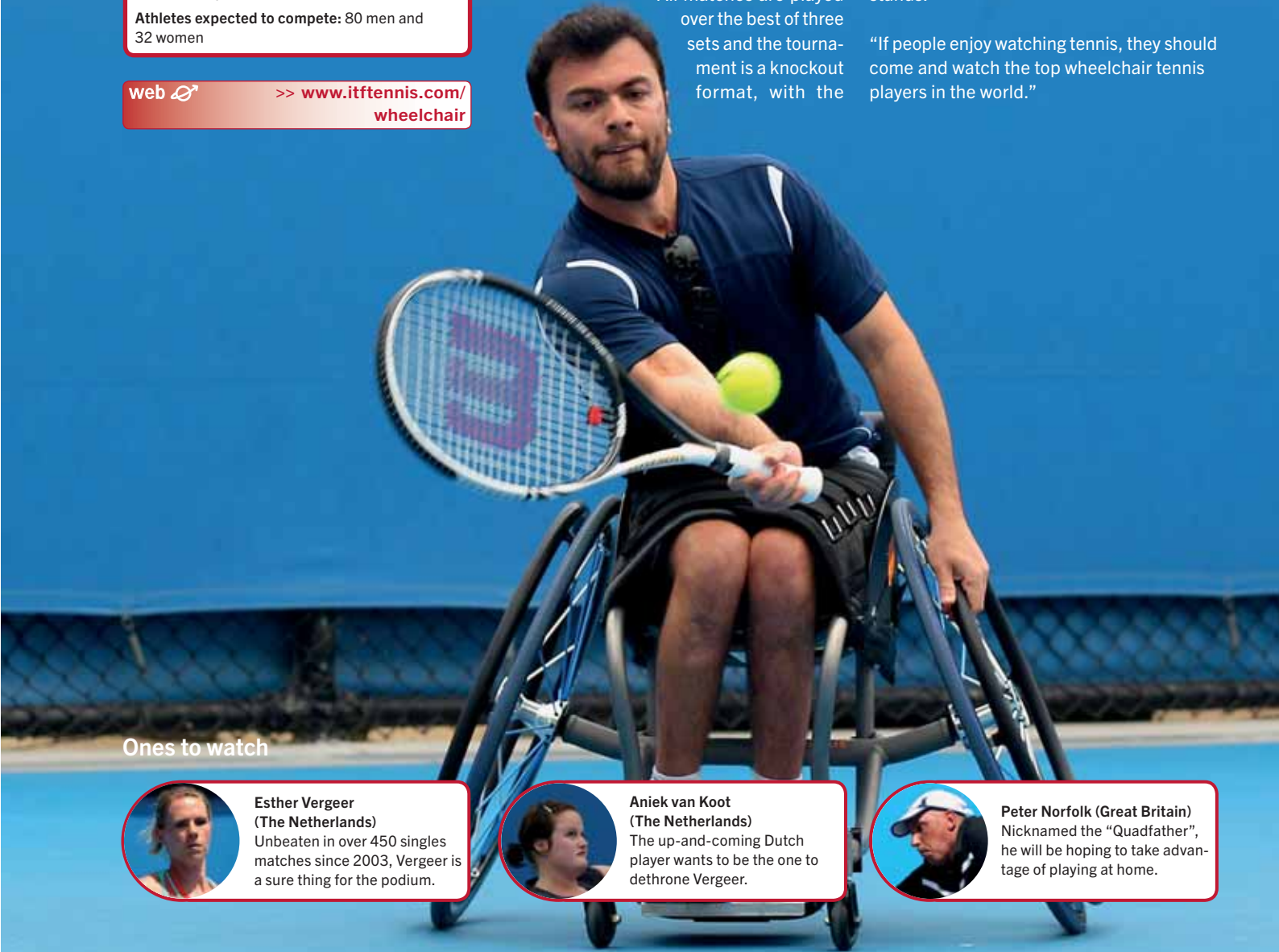
All matches are played over the best of three sets and the tournament is a knockout format, with the

BEIJING 2008			
The Netherlands	2	3	1
France	1	–	2
Great Britain	1	–	1

winners of the semi-finals in each event going head to head for the gold medals.

“The medals are by no means decided and it’s going to be some exciting competition,” said Bullock, who is excited by ticket sales and the prospect of athletes playing to full stands.

“If people enjoy watching tennis, they should come and watch the top wheelchair tennis players in the world.”



Ones to watch




Esther Vergeer (The Netherlands)

Unbeaten in over 450 singles matches since 2003, Vergeer is a sure thing for the podium.



Aniek van Koot (The Netherlands)

The up-and-coming Dutch player wants to be the one to dethrone Vergeer.



Peter Norfolk (Great Britain)

Nicknamed the “Quadfather”, he will be hoping to take advantage of playing at home.

Jiri Jezek

Riding into history



Jezek is often referred to as “the one-legged wonder”

Should the Czech Republic’s Jiri Jezek win two medals at London 2012, he would overtake Great Britain’s Darren Kenny and Australia’s Christopher Scott as the most successful Paralympic cyclist ever.

The “one-legged wonder,” as he has been referred to, already has five Paralympic golds, three silvers and a bronze on his resume spanning the last three Games on the road and track.

At age 37, Jezek, has achieved more than he ever imagined after losing his right leg below the knee in a car accident when he was 11. He now has the chance to crack the history books.

“Honestly, I do not think about that,” Jezek said. “I prefer to perform well in present races, to make a good show for the spectators and to please my fans. There are lot of successful riders in cycling history and I am happy just to be one of them.”

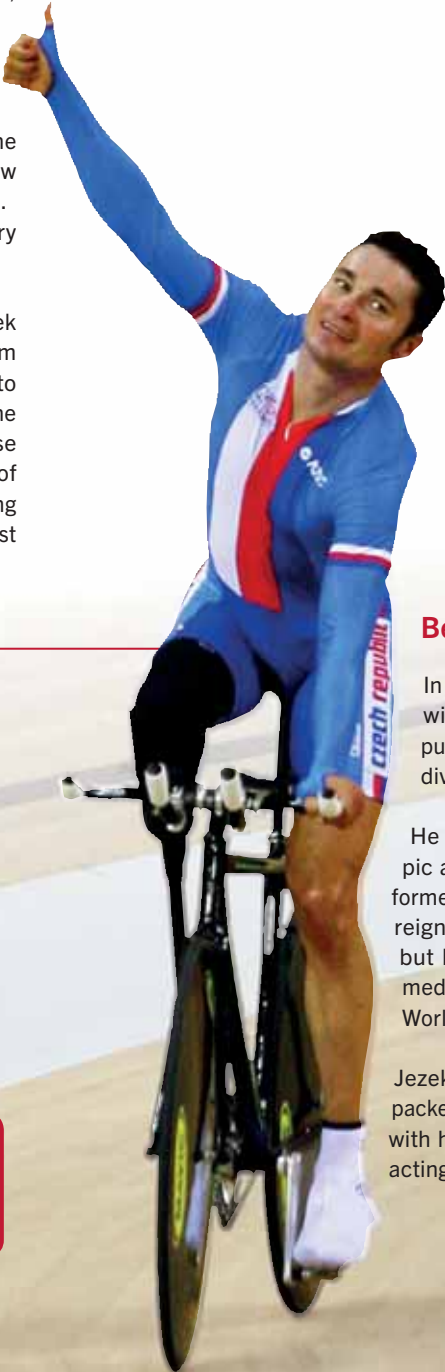
LATEST TRIUMPHS

2012 Track World Championships
Silver: 4km Pursuit C4

2011 Track World Championships
Gold: 4km Pursuit C4
Silver: Time Trial C4

Beijing 2008 Paralympics
Gold: Time Trial C4, 4km Pursuit C4
Silver: 1km C4
Bronze: Team Sprint

Athens 2004 Paralympics
Gold: Road Race Time Trial
Silver: 4km Pursuit C4



Best in show

In London this summer, Jezek will race the 4km individual pursuit on the track and the individual time trial on the road.

He is the defending Paralympic and world champion in the former and in the latter, he is the reigning Paralympic champion but hopes to better his silver-medal finish from the 2011 UCI World Championships.

Jezek said his schedule is jam-packed from now until the Games, with his wife, a travelling singer, acting as his manager.

“There are still some weeks till the Games, so you can improve a lot or you can make lot of damage. I know that, and I have to be very careful.”



Jiri Jezek is riding into the Paralympic Games fresh off a top finish at the 2012 UCI Road Cycling World Cup

Always on the go

“There is not much space outside of cycling for me,” Jezek said. “Four to six hours a day on my bike, then some other training, active recovery, massages. It’s some nine, 10 hours a day for just the sport activities. Then I have to take care of my sponsors, media, and fans.

“I am very busy, but I like it. I believe that when people show their interest in you, you should be prepared to fulfill their expectations and be open to communicate. Professional sport is like show business. You are here for the people.”

Jezek is in better shape now than ever before. He defended his UCI Para-Cycling Track world title in March, finished atop the standings in the UCI World Cup and took home the crown at the UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships in September.



The Czech cyclist wasted no time in going over to kiss his wife after winning gold at the Beijing 2008 Games

With several elite races in the Czech Republic already completed in 2012 as well as the UCI Para-Cycling World Cup, Jezek has almost spent more time on his bike than off in recent months.

“It’s always funny when my coach tries to keep me off of my bike,” Jezek said. “He thinks that I need more rest. Sometimes, I promise him not to go for a training session, but of course I do. Bad luck comes when I meet him somewhere on the road.”

No need to sweat

With more than a decade of Paralympic Games experience under his belt, Jezek knows what he needs to do this summer and does not feel as stressed as many of the newcomers on the cycling circuit.

“I just do what I feel I have to do,” Jezek said. “There are still some weeks till the Games,

so you can improve a lot or you can make lot of damage. I know that, and I have to be very careful. Anyway, I’m enjoying every single day of the preparations and I’m very excited about the Games.”

Just because Jezek is experienced, it does not mean he is just going through the motions for a fourth time.

“I take every day as a challenge, and that’s why I have different rituals every single day, based on my actual feelings,” Jezek said.

“Sometimes I am very open before the race, speaking, joking, singing, but other days, I am very focused, shy and calm. We will have to see what’s on my programme in London.

“I just hope that whatever ritual it will be, it brings me good luck.”

Other ones to watch can be found here:

web >> www.paralympic.org/MediaCentre/OnesToWatch

Classification at London 2012

The re-inclusion of athletes with an intellectual impairment is the result of just one of a series of successful classification research projects driving the Paralympic Movement to the next level.



Testing for athletes with an intellectual impairment is much more robust

For the first time since Sydney 2000, athletes with an intellectual impairment (II) will compete at London 2012 in swimming (S14), athletics (T/F20) and table tennis (T11).

II athletes were first included in the Atlanta 1996 Paralympics. However, at the following Games, it was found that some individuals without impairments had cheated by posing as II athletes.

As a result the IPC decided that II athletes should not be included in the Games until it could be shown that the systems of testing eligibility and classification were rigorous and robust.

The IPC and the International Federation for Para-Athletes with an Intellectual Disability (Inas) engaged a consortium of research centres and universities to lead the II classification research project. Following their findings, the 2009 IPC General Assembly decided to include II athletes for London 2012. The project was recently awarded the 2012 Podium Award for Exceptional Research Contribution to London 2012.

“On the eligibility side of things, we have a very robust system in place now where we set very clear criteria about the evidence we ask people to submit to show that the athletes have intellectual dis-

abilities,” said Jan Burns, Head of Eligibility for INAS and clinical psychology professor at the Canterbury Christ Church University, one of the Research Group members.

Evidence based

The eligibility system is based on professional reports, which confirm the presence of intellectual impairment as defined by the World Health Organization. These reports are then evaluated by a panel of psychological experts.

“There are three criteria which must be met”, explained Burns. “Significant impairment in intellectual functioning, usually an IQ less than 75, significant impairment in adaptive behaviour, which are the skills needed to manage daily life, and onset before the age of 18, to discriminate from people with acquired head injury later in life”.

If the athlete passes the eligibility assessment, they then go through to a sport-specific athlete evaluation process. The choice of tests that the athlete undergoes is defined through scientific research, and assesses the impact of the impairment on the performance of that specific sport.

Sport specific

Classification involves assessment of generic cognitive skills which are important in most

sports such, as reaction time, and more sport specific skills, such as ability to adjust one’s pace, strategise, recognise patterns of play or anticipate game situations.

These cognitive abilities are measured through computerised tests, sport-specific technical assessments and observation in competition.

Burns is confident that the system is robust, and believes other sports can benefit from the experiences and expertise gained from this project.

With the adoption of the IPC Classification Code, other sports, like swimming, athletics and wheelchair rugby have begun a similar process to review their systems.

“Sport-specific evidence-based classification will drive classification in all the sports in the future,” said Anne Hart, Chairperson of the IPC Classification Committee. “Over the next 10 years, this is going to be the primary focus for all Paralympic sports.”

Hart has spent the past years reviewing wheelchair rugby, a sport originally invented for and by athletes with spinal-cord injuries. But as athletes with different impairments started playing, the classification system needed to be reconsidered.

Athlete focused

Athletes told researchers they did not think trunk control was properly taken into account within the classification process.

In reviewing related research in wheelchair propulsion, evidence suggested trunk control provided an advantage in the first few pushes. In wheelchair rugby, this could mean the difference between getting around a block and scoring.

Based on athlete priorities, available evidence and current research, researchers and classifiers began to examine trunk function more accurately in the wheelchair rugby classification system.

Other significant research includes the IPC Athletics Classification Research Project, which began in 2003 and is led by Dr. Sean Tweedy, also a member of the IPC Classification Committee.

Stage One was completed in 2006 and recommended important changes to minimum impairment criteria (i.e. who is eligible to compete). After an extensive period of review, the changes were approved by the Governing Board in 2009 and will come into effect after the London Games.

From 2006 onwards, a full battery of new, objective, reliable methods for assessing athletes were developed and piloted. Reports in the meantime have been published in scientific journals, and

Research at the London 2012 Paralympic Games:

The Paralympic Movement has progressed dramatically over the last decade and with this, the importance of and interest in sport science. Research projects at the London 2012 Paralympics on the following subjects have been approved:

- On-site research:
 - Surveillance of sport injuries and illnesses in athletes
 - Autonomic cardiovascular function in athletes with a spinal cord injury
 - Goalball game performance
 - Kinematic analysis of swimmers, including drag tests
 - Kinematic analysis of long jump athletes
 - Experiences of volunteers and volunteer legacy

- Questionnaire surveys:
 - Sleep pattern and complaints by athletes
 - Investigation of Paralympians’ experiences of injury
 - Wheelchair skills and upper body complaints/injuries in ambulant wheelchair athletes
 - Sources of stress and coping related to participation in the London Paralympics
 - Barriers and facilitators of sports in athletes
 - Comparison of types of sporting prosthetics used
 - Nutritional supplement habits and perceptions of elite Paralympic athletes
 - Urine leakage during training and competition in female athletes
 - Coverage of the Paralympic Games in Spanish media

Details on these project and criteria to participate are available at:

web >> www.paralympic.org

VISTA2013

The International Paralympic Committee is pleased to announce that the next edition of VISTA, the IPC’s sport science conference, will take place in Bonn, Germany, from 1-4 May 2013. The theme of VISTA2013 will be “Equipment and Technology”, and will provide a platform to exchange scientific knowledge on all themes of interest to athletes, coaches and NPCs.

web >> www.paralympic.org/events



researchers are now collecting data to learn how the outcomes of tests can be used to place athletes in classes.

The strength of any classification system depends on the amount and diversity of athlete data that has been collected.

Call for volunteers

“To do this, we require athletes – wheelchair racers, throwers and runners from the 30s and 50s classes – to complete the tests,” said Tweedy.

“We are confident that, as athletes, coaches and administra-

tors recognise the importance of robust scientific classification, we will be able to recruit the numbers we need,” said Tweedy, indicating that the development of evidence-based methods of classification is a long-term project.

Other Paralympic sports, including swimming, nordic skiing, wheelchair curling and new sports on the Paralympic programme, such as triathlon and canoe, also initiated a review of their actual classification systems, as well as the IPC and IBSA bringing experts together to develop sport-specific systems for athletes with visual impairment.



Researchers examined trunk function in wheelchair rugby players



The Passion for Paralympics Exhibition is a hands-on experience

Passion for Paralympics

The IPC and Ottobock launched the travelling exhibition, “Passion for Paralympics,” which has already travelled to the Glasgow Science Centre in Scotland and Manchester Arndale Centre in England.

It will open in London at the Westfield London shopping centre from 27 July - 12 August before heading to the Olympic Park for the Games.

The exhibition, designed to raise awareness of Paralympic Sport and its athletes heading into London 2012, offers the public a chance to learn about the technology, history and spirit behind the Games.

It includes stories of Paralympic and recreational athletes who use

prosthetic limbs and a history of Ottobock’s 24 years of involvement with the Paralympic Movement.

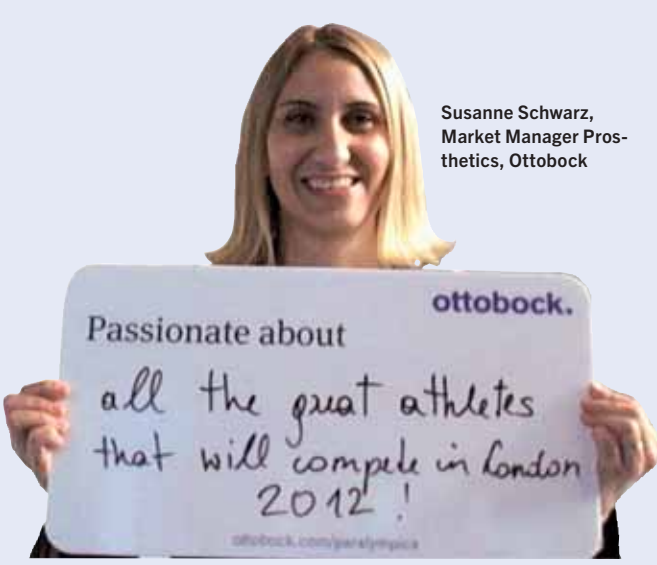
Interactive exhibits provide visitors with a hands-on experience of the most exciting Paralympic sports, including ones designed to enable visitors to feel the strength required to power a carbon-fibre running blade or hand cycle.

In addition, visitors have the chance to share their passion for Paralympics in a photo-booth.

web >> www.passion.ottobock.com



Heinrich Popow,
German track and
field athlete



Susanne Schwarz,
Market Manager Pros-
thetics, Ottobock



Joe Delegrave is looking ahead to his future after competitive sport

Pursuing two paths at once

Joe Delegrave, a member of USA's wheelchair rugby team and on the IPC's “ones to watch” list for London 2012, has been devoting the majority of his time to preparing for the Paralympic Games, but that is not everything in his life.

Delegrave, who suffered a severe spinal-cord injury from a boat accident that left him a quadriplegic in 2004, has recently partnered with Adecco, which supports several Olympic and Paralympic athletes with career placement programmes.

This allows Delegrave to pursue his dreams in sports while also building the skills and experience necessary for the working world. Adecco recently connected Delegrave with a position as a lobby ambassador for a Hilton Hotel in Arizona, and he is now responsible for making a positive first impression and setting the right tone for a guest's entire stay at that hotel.

web >> www.adecco.com

Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame

For the first time since its introduction six years ago, the IPC allowed members of the public to nominate retired Paralympians and coaches to be inducted into the Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame during the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

This August there will be five new inductees – two female athletes, two male athletes and one coach – to the Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame, all of whom have been chosen by the IPC Governing Board from the nominations.

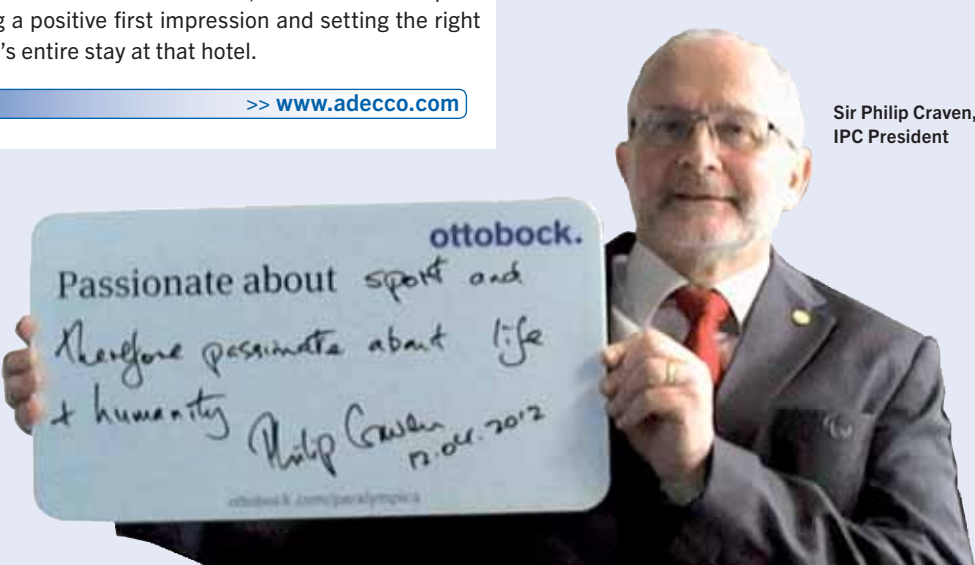
To be eligible for induction in the Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame, candidates must have participated in at least two Paralympic Games and won a number of medals or, in the case of a coach, through athlete(s) or team(s) they coached. Candidates must also have retired either before or shortly after the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

With this year's induction coinciding with the London 2012 Paralympic Games, only athletes and coaches involved in summer sports have been considered.

“Visa’s sponsorship of the Paralympic Hall of Fame recognises and celebrates the universal values of sportsmanship, excellence and the commitment embodied in these amazing athletes and coaches. It recognises the great influence they have had on the Paralympic Games and the broader Paralympic Movement,” said Kevin Burke, Chief Marketing Officer, Core Products, Visa Inc.

All candidates are elected based on athletic performance, fair play and service to the community.

web >> www.paralympic.org/Athletes/Halloffame



Sir Philip Craven,
IPC President



London 2012
Spectator Interactivity

To enhance the spectator experience, LOCOG has launched two free apps: Join In and the Results app.

Key features of the Join In app include comprehensive event listings for thousands of exciting events across London and the UK; and spectator information and interactive maps, news and photos - all integrated with Facebook, Twitter and FourSquare.



The companion app, the Official London 2012 Results app, provides all the latest news, schedules and results, allowing users to keep up-to-date with the latest action live across all Paralympic sports.

web >> www.london2012.com/mobileapps

Tickets for London 2012 can be purchased through the IPC's official ticket reseller at:

web >> www.paralympictickets.com



Sochi 2014
Snowboarding to Debut at Sochi

For the first time, two medal events in snowboarding will be included in the alpine skiing programme at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, bringing the total number of medal events to 72, with 692 athletes competing across five sports.

This will make it the biggest Paralympic Winter Games ever.

Originally called adaptive snowboard, the fast-paced sport is practiced worldwide by hundreds of athletes.

"It is important for the growth of the Winter Games that there are more sports and more medal events to contest," said Xavier Gonzalez, the IPC's Chief Executive Officer.

"I am particularly looking forward to see how athletes perform in this exciting new discipline and believe it will prove extremely popular with spectators and TV viewers alike."

The qualification criteria for the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games were published in May.



With preparations in full swing, IPC President Sir Philip Craven made his first visit to Sochi to inspect the city's preparations for the Games. During the visit to Russia, he received the prestigious Order of Friendship for his outstanding contribution to developing the Paralympic Movement from acting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak in Moscow.

web >> www.sochi2014.com

PyeongChang 2018
IPC Orientation Seminar

From 2-3 July a delegation from the IPC delivered an Orientation Seminar to the PyeongChang 2018 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG). This is the first action of a comprehensive Knowledge Management programme that is now available for the Paralympic Games organisers and also includes a series of educational workshops, observer's programmes, simulations and consulting.

Female athletes are looking forward to more events at Rio 2016



Rio 2016

Record Number of Female Athletics Events

IPC Athletics, the international governing body of para-athletics, published the first draft of the medal event programme for 2016, after several months of consultation with NPCs.

The draft Rio programme features 176 different medal events, six more than at London 2012, and proposes a record 78 medal events for female athletes as well as greater opportunities for some impairment groups that have been underrepresented at previous Paralympic Games.

One major change from previous Paralympic Games in the draft programme is a move towards single class throwing events, removing the need for Raza points scoring, a system used to rank athletes in combined class events.

After a final draft is published on 15 October, NPCs will then have until 1 November to give any feedback ahead of an IPC Athletics Sport Forum later that month to be held in Germany.

The final medals programme will be published on 31 December 2012 after IPC Governing Board approval.

web >> www.rio2016.com

Candidate Cities
Announced for 2020
Paralympic Games

Three cities – Istanbul (Turkey), Tokyo (Japan) and Madrid (Spain) – have been shortlisted as Candidate Cities to host the 2020 Paralympic Games following the elimination of Applicant Cities Baku (Azerbaijan) and Doha (Qatar).

The three Candidate Cities will now prepare their Candidature File with an in-depth description of their Paralympic and Olympic Projects which needs to be submitted by 7 January 2013.



Anne Harewood, Jamol Pilgrim, Louise Tack, Vivian Richards, Kirsy Charles Kullman and Nigel Pigott attended the launch of NPC Antigua & Barbuda (top right) to send Pilgrim (bottom right and left) to the Paralympics

NPC Antigua & Barbuda

Doing it right. Putting the athlete first.

NIGEL PIGOTT



As the Vice President of the newly formed National Paralympic Committee in Antigua & Barbuda, Nigel Pigott has taken charge of most of the day-to-day work and is collaborating with the organisation’s only athlete, Jamol Pilgrim, to send him to London 2012.

Although he has no sports background, as a personal friend of Pilgrim’s with a high-profile business background, he has worked closely with both the IPC and Antigua & Barbuda’s Olympic Committee in recent months to ensure a solid foundation is being laid for the Paralympic Movement.



Most National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) around the world form first, then develop their athletes.

In Antigua & Barbuda – a twin-island nation of just over 80,000 people in the Caribbean – it has been just the opposite.

On 15 March of this year, the Antigua & Barbuda Paralympic Committee officially launched with one initial purpose – to send 100m T42 sprinter Jamol Pilgrim to London 2012. It will be one of 19 NPCs to make their summer Games debut this year.



OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

A wide range of people from the local business and sporting communities on the islands gathered at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and Spa to witness March’s official launch of the NPC, with all of them rallying behind Pilgrim to drum up the resources and financial support needed to send him to London this summer.

Pilgrim, who lost his right leg above the knee in a car accident on 22 November 2009, has always had a passion for running. In 2011 he achieved a time in the 100m that would have qualified him for London, and approached his parents, Ann-Marie and Nigel, with the idea of starting an NPC.

His parents were immediately behind him, and Pilgrim then recruited a friend of his, Nigel Pigott to be a crucial part of the Movement.

“It was almost like I started it,” Pilgrim said. “I needed one to be able to compete in the Paralympics. I, along with Nigel and my parents, got a committee started and then contacted the IPC to take care of all the documentation we would need.”

As Vice President, Pigott has been a vital part of the committee, especially with Pilgrim’s mother having to leave the island this spring to tend to a family emergency.

DOING WHAT IT TAKES

Pilgrim has been granted a wild card to compete in the 100m, 200m and long jump at London 2012.

As NPCs are responsible for organising their athletes’ participation in the Paralympic Games, Pilgrim is now relying on the new organisation to take care of all the work that goes into sending him to the world’s second-largest sporting event.

“Once he gets there, it doesn’t really matter who else doesn’t go or does go,” Pigott said. “Whatever we have in the account on the day is his.

“We’re sort of a very minimalistic people, and once he’s there, he’ll run. Even if he doesn’t have an entourage, and even if he doesn’t have some of the things the other guys have, once he’s there, he’ll run and that’s good enough for us at the moment.”

AN INSPIRATION

In a country where the top sports are extreme and the most popular one is kite surfing, the committee is still in the red at the moment, as it started out with nothing.



Jamol Pilgrim, fourth from front, races the 100m

“I’m a big optimist, so I’m hoping that if he can medal, then he’ll become sort of the front-man, the beacon for something that will grow.”

There are not a lot of resources available on the island, and thus the country’s National Olympic Committee has been kind enough to extend a hand to send Pilgrim to the US to train and provided the resources to get him to the Paralympic Games.

“I’m a big optimist, so I’m hoping that if he can medal, then he’ll become sort of the front-man, the beacon for something that will grow,” Pigott said.

“I’m also hoping that when you have a Caribbean athlete who’s fast without a leg, and you have a Caribbean athlete like Usain Bolt who’s fast with a leg, and it’s someone that we can meet, we can come up with all kinds of little marketing things.”

Pilgrim, who has a legitimate shot at placing high in his Games debut, hopes he can single handedly create the foundation for a Paralympic legacy in Antigua & Barbuda.

For two tiny islands, this could all be just the beginning of something big.

“When I officially go to the Paralympics and make a name for myself, then people will show interest,” Pilgrim said.

FAST FACTS

- Antigua**
 - 280 square kilometres
 - 80,000 people
 - Born out of a volcano 30 million years ago
- Barbuda**
 - 161 square kilometres
 - 1,300 people
 - Separated from Antigua when sea levels rose considerably around 10,000 B.C.

Source: www.ab.gov.ag



Jamol Pilgrim has moved to the US to train for London 2012, taking advantage of its resources and numerous competitions

IPC Athletics European Championships World Records Smashed

Even with wet weather conditions, there were 27 European record broken, including 14 world records, at the IPC Athletics European Championships in Stadskanaal, the Netherlands, from 24-28 June.

Russia finished atop the Championships medals table with 29 gold and 76 overall medals. Ukraine was second with 17 gold and 41 overall medals, and Germany came third with 14 gold and 29 medals in total. Poland placed fourth, followed by Spain, Greece and host nation the Netherlands, respectively.

Russia's Evgenii Shvetcov was the top individual medallist, winning gold in the 100m, 400m and 800m T36 events. He broke the world

record in the 800m T36 semi-final and then broke it again in the finals with a top time of 2:05.05.

Richard Whitehead of Great Britain set a new world-record time of 24.93 in the 200m T42 sprint, and Germany's Birgit Kober won gold in both the javelin F52/53/33/34 and shot put F34, setting a shot put world record in the process with a throw of 10.06m.

Marlou van Rhijn starred for host nation the Netherlands, as the double-amputee sprinted to gold in both the 100m and 200m T43/44 events, recording a season best of 13.62 in the former.

web >> www.ipcathleticseurochamps.org

Great Britain's Hollie Arnold won silver in the women's javelin F46

BT Paralympic World Cup

May's BT Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, Great Britain featured competitions in three sports: athletics, football 7-a-side and wheelchair basketball. Boccia was also an exhibition event there.

Athletics
The event kicked off with intense sprints on the track, as Great Britain's Graeme Ballard, became a crowd favourite when he set a new world record in the 100m T36 sprint – the first race of the competition – with a time of 11.98. He then later won the 200m with a mark of 25.12.

The men's Discus F42/44 competition also stole some of the spotlight, as USA's Jeremy Campbell threw a new world-record distance of 62.18m en route to defeating British favourite and world champion Dan Greaves, who is still aiming to crack the 60m mark in a competition.

The Netherlands' Marlou van Rhijn set a new world record of 13.58 in the women's 100m T43, and Italy's Martina Caironi ran a new top time of 16.25 in the T42 class of the same event.



Germany's Marina Mohnen was a top scorer at the BT Paralympic World Cup

web >> www.btparalympicworldcup.com

Football 7-a-side
Brazil's team went undefeated and triumphed with a 4-2 victory over host nation Great Britain in the gold-medal game.

USA defeated Ireland 2-1 in the bronze-medal match, picking up their first win when it mattered most.

Wheelchair basketball
In a highly anticipated gold-medal matchup in the men's final USA reigned supreme, beating host nation Great Britain 61-57.

Meanwhile, Germany beat Japan 59-54 to grab the bronze medal.

Germany's women's team won a thrilling 47-40 victory over Australia to claim gold.

Cobi Crispin led the Australian attack with 14 points and six rebounds in a game that included 13 lead changes and was a brutal back-and-forth battle.

In the women's bronze-medal contest, USA defeated Great Britain, 51-40.

2012 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships

USA defended their world title at the 2012 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey World Championships in Hamar, Norway, by defeating Korea, 5-1, in the gold-medal game.

The Americans have now finished first at the last three major international tournaments – the 2009 and 2012 World Championships, as well as the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Alexi Salamone, Taylor Chace and Steve Cash were named to the All-Tournament Team for the Americans, joining Korea's Seung Hwan Jung and Canada's Adam Dixon and Billy Bridges. Salamone and Taylor Lipsett worked together to anchor a powerful front line for USA in the Championships, notching two goals and four assists and six goals and two assists, respectively.

In the bronze-medal contest, Canada beat Czech Republic 2-0.



USA's ice sledge hockey team proved themselves to be unbeatable yet again

Canada, who outshot the Czech Republic, 23-8, have now medalled at five of six World Championship appearances, garnering bronze in the last two.

web >> www.icesledgehockeyworlds.com

Getting the Vote

web >> www.paralympic.org

Fans around the globe flocked to paralympic.org in droves this spring to vote for the best performances from the world’s leading para-athletes in the IPC’s Athlete of the Month contest. The winners for the last four months are as follows:

MAR

Nikolay Polukhin



Russian nordic skier Nikolay Polukhin had a top finish in the men’s biathlon visually impaired class at the 2011-12 IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup, in which he won all three events in the discipline at the final competition in Vuokatti, Finland.

APR

Itzhak Mamistvalov



Israeli swimmer Itzhak Mamistvalov set two new world records at the British Open Swimming Championships in Sheffield. In the S1 classification, for athletes with the most severe impairment, he swam a new world-best time of 2:20.61 in the 100m freestyle and recorded a mark of 4:57.79 in the 200m freestyle.

MAY

Gustavo Fernandez



Argentinian rising wheelchair tennis star Gustavo Fernandez, 18, won the singles events at both the Japan Open and Korea Open to vault himself into the world’s top 10 rankings. He beat then-No. 1 Maikel Scheffers along the way.

JUN

Richard Whitehead



Great Britain’s Richard Whitehead clocked a new world record of 24.93 to win gold in the 200m T42 event at the 2012 IPC Athletics European Championships in Stadskanaal, the Netherlands, where he also claimed bronze in the 100m T42 race.

World Sport Round-up

March

Germany topped the rankings in the **IPC Alpine Skiing Europa Cup**, with Austria and France in second and third place. Russia was the overall winner of the **IPC Nordic Skiing World Cup**, topping the rankings in three Cross Country and four Biathlon events.

web >> www.ipc-alpineskiing.org

web >> www.ipc-nordicskiing.org

April

Australia won the **London International Invitational Wheelchair Rugby Tournament** from 18–19 April, beating Great Britain in the final 71-48.

May

At the final London 2012 Test Events Great Britain won all the doubles events and the quad singles at the **Eton Manor Wheelchair Tennis International**. In the singles, the Netherlands’ Esther Vergeer and Robin Ammerlaan were victorious.

Great Britain topped the medals standings at the **Visa London Disability Athletics Challenge**. Ireland’s Michael McKillop set a new world record in the men’s 1,500m T37 and Great Britain’s athletes smashed another three: Hannah Cockcroft in the women’s 100m T34, Paul Blake in the men’s 1,500m T36 and Richard Whitehead in the men’s 200m T42, which he later bettered at the 2012 IPC Athletics European Championships.



Britain’s Danielle Brown came second at the London Test Event, something she’ll hope to better come the Paralympics

Korea, China and Russia took the top three spots on the medals tables at the **London Para Archery International Tournament**.

Great Britain won gold in the BC1 and BC2 individual events at the **London Boccia Invitational**.

Greece’s Greg Polychronidis won the BC3 individual competition, but Great Britain fought back to take gold in the BC3 pairs event. Korea won the BC1/BC2 team event.

web >> www.londonpreparesseries.com

June

Stephane Houdet of France won his first Grand Slam title, while Dutchwoman Esther Vergeer won her sixth title in Paris at the **Roland Garros wheelchair tennis** event.

web >> www.rolandgarros.com

At the 2012 Canada Cup, USA’s wheelchair rugby team took gold, Canada silver and Australia bronze.

web >> www.canadacupwcrugby.com

After seven regattas, Great Britain’s Helena Lucas topped the **ISAF World Cup** standings in the 2.4mR class, whilst her teammates Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birrell won the SKUD18 competition. The Netherlands’ won the Sonar with skipper Udo Hessesels and Marcel Van de Veen / Mischa Rossen.

web >> www.sailing.org/worldcup/



In his first season in para-Alpine Skiing, Matthias Lanzinger was part of the Europa Cup winning Austrian team

London 2012 Get Set – World Sport Day



Thousands of schools across the UK took part in London 2012 World Sport Day, presented by Lloyds TSB, on Monday 25 June celebrating the athletes and cultures of the world coming to the UK to compete in the London 2012 Games.

Students of all ages welcomed the world into their schools by having fun with the flags, showcasing global cultures and hosting their own opening ceremonies. Many schools highlighted Paralympic sports in exciting ways, too.

Students and teachers at Kirk Hallam School in Derbyshire found a creative way to support their chosen Paralympic team – by decorating the whole canteen in the colours and symbols of the Indian flag.

At Ayesha Community School students from Year two posed for a ‘flag moment’ photo in front of their handmade display board which

showcases everything they’ve learned about the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

After flag-making, Langtoft Primary School students in Peterborough spent the rest of their day playing sitting volleyball, goalball and boccia.

At Patcham High School in Brighton and Hove, students raised awareness by incorporating disability-based activities into their athletics day, for example competing in a trust-building race of blindfold running.

World Sport Day demonstrated that young people across the UK are engaging with the Paralympic values of courage, determination, equality and inspiration to welcome the world.

web >> www.getset.london2012.com

Partnering with FC Barcelona

The IPC joined forces with the FC Barcelona Foundation this spring to launch a campaign entitled, “We are what we do, we are what we achieve.”

The purpose is to raise awareness of people with an impairment and train teachers how to implement inclusive sport. It is supported by Barcelona players from four different sports, including the club’s all-time top goal-scorer, Lionel Messi.

The campaign will provide teachers with the tools required to adapt physical education classes so children with impairments can participate in sport on the same level as their classmates.

web >> www.foundation.fcbarcelona.com



Football legend Lionel Messi is supporting para-sport in Spain



Paralympics Ireland’s Follow Your Star



Paralympics Ireland has launched a new initiative aimed at developing a greater understanding of Paralympic Sport among Irish school children.

Targeted at primary school students and teachers, the “Follow Your Star” programme provides a free online resource that allows users to learn more about the Paralympic Movement and Paralympic Sport in Ireland.

web >> www.followyourstar.ie

The goal is to help establish positive perceptions of individuals with an impairment and to encourage support for the Irish Team at London 2012 and beyond.

It offers multimedia classes, lesson plans and activities, and 3,400 primary schools will receive promotional literature on the campaign. Participating schools will be in with the chance of receiving visits from some of Ireland’s top Paralympic athletes after the London 2012 Games.

Agitos Foundation Winter Youth Camp

The first ever Agitos Foundation Winter Youth Camp was held in March in La Cerdanya, Spain, which trained participants to develop and implement Paralympic youth winter sports programmes in their own countries.

Co-financed by the European Union’s Youth in Action programme, the EU and Charity & Sport, the youth co-ordinators were given the leadership tools and knowledge about equipment so they could know what to offer in their hometowns and help boost para-sport at the grassroots level.

“Our aim was to show the youth co-ordinators that it’s not so difficult to work with children with an impairment,” said Sylvana Mestre, Chairperson of the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee and founder of Play and Train.

Camp participants hailed from Azerbaijan, Serbia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, and the programme was co-ordinated by Play and Train in collaboration with Freewhite – two European-based organisations that promote sport for people with an impairment.



web >> www.agitosfoundation.org

President Awarded



[London]
IPC President Sir Philip Craven received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2012 Sport Industry Awards and the 2012 Global Sports Development (GSD) Humanitarian Award at separate ceremonies in London.



Extended IOC / IPC Agreement



[Switzerland]
The 2018 and 2020 Paralympic Games will be held in the same city as the Olympic Games after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) signed an extension to their current agreement which sees the IOC support the IPC and the Paralympic Games.



2013 Ice Sledge Hockey Worlds



[Korea]
The IPC announced that Goyang City, Korea, will play host to the 2013 IPC Ice Sledge Hockey A Pool World Championships, the first time an Asian country will stage the event. The world's top eight teams will compete from 12-20 April, 2013.

web >> www.ipc-icesledgehockey.org

IWAS Turns 60



[Great Britain]
IWAS will celebrate its 60th birthday in style at a gala banquet to be held in the Nave of Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 25 August. Participants will also be able to experience the Paralympic Torch Relay as the Coventry Paralympic Flame Celebrations take place the same afternoon.

web >> www.iwasf.com

Spirit of Sport Award



[Canada]
Chairperson of the IPC Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee, Sylvana Mestre, has won the prestigious Spirit of Sport Award at a Ceremony held in Quebec, Canada, during the 10th SportAccord Convention. The annual awards commend the commitment and humanitarian spirit of SportAccord members who have made an exceptional and lasting contribution to using sport as a tool for positive social change.



Going Global

As part of the its digital strategy, the IPC has worked with several National Paralympic Committees to launch new websites.



[Cameroon]

web >> www.camerounparalympique.org



[Panama]

web >> www.comiteparalimpicopanama.org



[Zimbabwe]

web >> www.zimparalympic.org

100-Day Milestone



[Iran]
Iran celebrated 100 days to go to the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Paralympic Games by paying tribute to the Iranian Paralympic medallists from the Seoul 1988 to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in a ceremony in the Iranian capital of Teheran.



Getting a Boost



[Papua New Guinea]

The Paupa New Guinea Paralympic Committee was given a financial boost of K300,000 (116,500 Euros) by Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to assist the national team heading into London 2012. It will also be used to fund classification courses and develop athlete pathways for future Games.



13

sports covered live with highlights packages of all sports

6

photographers

60

people delivering 7,700 man hours of work

35

up to online articles per day

2

daily news web TV shows

5

live streams

1,000

hours of videos on demand

24/7

media office

780

hours of live sport

100

tweets per day

100s

of photos shared on Facebook

www.paralympic.org

A hub of information for the London 2012 Paralympics

At the London 2012 Paralympic Games, the International Paralympic Committee will provide and facilitate the most comprehensive coverage of the Games ever.

The IPC will showcase Paralympic Sport on five online channels with English and Spanish commentary showing live feeds of different sports and videos on demand of many medal events. Two live channels will integrate statistics and Twitter feeds, to make it a more engaging and interactive viewer experience.

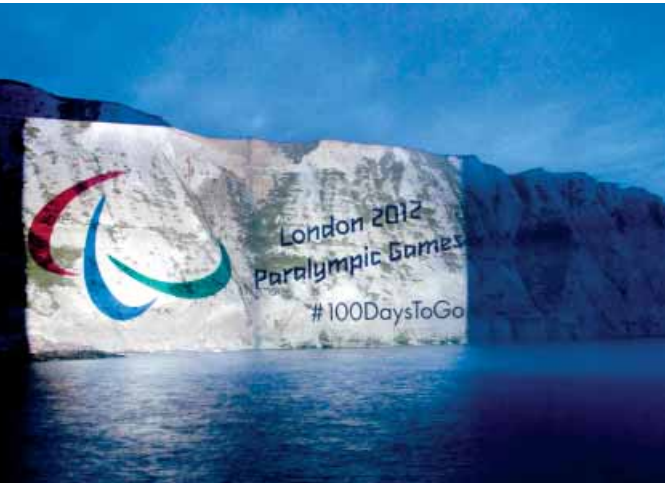
A team of six photographers will provide part of the visual flavour, capturing the emotion from venues and behind-the-scenes moments, and 27 writers and editors will cover every single sport in the most in-depth articles ever written about the Paralympics.

The IPC will use the latest mobile technology to bring you more photos and videos from the moment via Twitter and Facebook. Expect to see athlete video blogs, pictures from behind the scenes and guzzle up top facts and news from the day.

London 2012 will see sport like never before, covered by the media like never before.

Paralympic Symbol Appears Around Great Britain

To mark 100 days to go until the start of the London 2012 Paralympic Games, the Agitos – the symbol of the Paralympic Movement – were projected onto the iconic White Cliffs of Dover. For 50 days to go, the Agitos were sculpted into a Rhossili Beach in Wales.




IMAGES
© Photo Credits: LOCOG (p. 1/4/5/10/15/44/52/56/58), Marcus Hartmann (p. 2/5/44/45/48/50), IPC (p. 3/13/16/40/53), Getty Images (p. 3/4/15/16/17/19/20/21/22/24/26/27/28/29/30/31/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/50/51/52/57), Paralympics Ireland (p.4/53), Ottobock (p. 5/42/43), istockphoto (p. 7/8/12), Lieven Coudenys (p. 8/22/23/24/25/32), The Telegraph (p. 9), Australian Paralympic Committee/ Sport the Library (p. 9), Ideal Images (Scotland) (p. 11), Rio 2016 (p. 11), Caz Walton (p. 13), Jan Wilson (p. 13), Helen Hynd (p. 13), Paul Noble (p. 13), Esther Weber (p. 13), Jon McCollough (p. 13), FEI (p. 15/22), British Shooting (p. 15), World Rowing (p. 16/28), ITTF (p. 16), IWRF (p. 17), NPC Brazil (p. 17), World Archery (p. 18), GB Boccia (p. 20), Canadian Paralympic Committee / Matthew Murnaghan (p. 20), Jiri Jezek (p. 21/38/39), NPC Ireland (p. 21), Pepo Puch (p. 22), Lauretto Cheppi (p. 23), CPISRA (p. 24), Scott Odense (p. 25), Lithuanian Blind Sports Federation (p. 25), BPC (p. 26), NPC Iran (p. 27/55), NPC Turkey (p. 27), PhotoBoat.com (p. 29), IFDS (p. 29), British Shooting (p. 30), Martin Naucner (p. 30), Camera 4 (p. 32/50/57), Brazilian Paralympic Committee (p. 32), ITTF (p. 33), Richard Kalocsai (p. 35), NPC Hungary (p. 35), BPA (p. 36), Prezioso (p. 36), Paul Zimmer (p. 37), Viola Altmann (p. 41), Loren Worthington (p. 43), raggieleonora (p. 44), NPC Antigua & Barbuda (p. 46/47), EMPICS Sport (p. 49), Anita Hector (p. 49), ITF (p. 50), Nicholase Nereau (p. 51), Sport Industry Award (p. 54), SportAccord (p. 54), IOC (p. 55), NPC Papua New Guinea (p. 55), La Molina (p. 57)

The views expressed in The Paralympian are not necessarily those of the IPC. In case of republication of any part of The Paralympian, please send a copy to the IPC. The publisher reserves the right to edit submitted articles. The International Paralympic Committee endeavours to be as current and accurate as possible with this publication, aiming to treat all readers with courtesy and respect. We can not guarantee however that the information contained in this publication is complete and accurate in all respects and readers are taken to understand and agree to this disclaimer upon reading any part of The Paralympian. No infringements upon any law, including sport regulations, from people within the photographs and/or featured in the magazine's content were known at the time of publication. Articles, pictures and other written or graphic devices published in The Paralympian may not be reproduced without the prior written permission of the International Paralympic Committee.

PRINT



An aerial night photograph of London, showing the city's lights and the Olympic Stadium in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, with a crescent moon visible. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the River Thames is visible on the left. The Olympic Stadium is illuminated, and its distinctive curved roof is visible. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

“To Enable Paralympic Athletes to Achieve
Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World.”