

THE

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PARALYMPIAN

Celebrating 25 years of the International Paralympic Committee • 1989-2014

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► Sochi 2014:
Breaking down barriers

1 thing that
matters:
always face
forward.

Allianz cares about what
matters: supporting the
Paralympic Movement.

With you from A-Z

Allianz 

Marcel Hug, Wheelchair Racer



Partner of the International
Paralympic Committee.

“The Games exceeded all our expectations in every single
area and certainly raised the bar for PyeongChang in 2018.”

Dear Readers,

The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Games were a record-breaking success with the performances of athletes once again inspiring and exciting the world.

Para-snowboard made a spectacular Games debut, spectators turned out in huge numbers and more people around the world watched the event on television than any other Winter Paralympics.

The Games exceeded all our expectations in every single area and certainly raised the bar for PyeongChang in 2018.

Many highlights from the Games are included in this issue and I am sure they will bring back many great memories for you all.

I have many standout moments from Sochi 2014, but my favourite is the ice sledge hockey gold-medal match between Russia and the USA.

The game was shown live on NBC, which was quite possibly the biggest moment ever in Paralympic broadcasting history. This, combined with USA's victory, led to widespread media coverage in the States, showing a lot of progress has been made since London 2012.

The reactions of the crowd and the Russian team were also significant. The host nation's players were elated to win silver whilst the crowd was hugely supportive of both teams, clearly loved the sport, and was delighted to be part of a historic occasion. It had everything, apart from maybe a Russian goal for the home fans to celebrate!

The key now is to capitalise on this success, not just for future Games, but in terms of getting more people into para-sports and improving the standard and reach of the major events in between the Paralympics – both summer and winter.

As mentioned in the last edition, the IPC will celebrate its 25th anniversary later this year, a significant landmark for the whole Paralympic Movement.

This issue includes a very special “Silver Jubilee” feature, detailing how the IPC was formed in Dusseldorf, Germany, on 22 September 1989, and in the years since has been transformed from an organisation based in a spare bedroom in Belgium to a hugely respected global governing body responsible for organising some of the world's biggest sporting events.

This remarkable growth is down to you, the IPC membership, and I look forward to seeing you all at October's IPC gathering in Berlin to say thank you and to plan for the future.

Enjoy the magazine.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





Nikko Landeros celebrates after helping the USA become the first ice sledge hockey team to win back-to-back Paralympic titles at Sochi 2014

PRINT



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THE PARALYMPIAN

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Cover photo: The Netherlands' Bibian Mentel-Spee, centre, France's Cecile Hernandez Ep Cervellon and the USA's Amy Purdy embrace on the first-ever Paralympic podium for women's snowboard at the Sochi 2014 Games

Perales recognised by King of Spain



Teresa Perales, a 22-time Paralympic medallist and 11-time world medallist, is honoured by Spanish royalty

Spain's six-time Paralympic swimming champion Teresa Perales was recognised with the Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Sporting Merit by Juan Carlos I, King of Spain, in April at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid.

The honour is Spain's highest recognition in sport, and Perales, the most-decorated Paralympian from her country, became the first woman to receive the award. She is just one of 17 athletes in history to receive the honour.

IPC President receives Legion d'honneur

In March, IPC President Sir Philip Craven was appointed to the rank of Officer in the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur by French President Francois Hollande, the highest accolade a person can receive in France.

The distinction recognises Sir Philip's commitment to the IPC, of which he has been President since 2001, and his role as an IOC member. The honour is normally reserved for French nationals and the Order has a maximum quota of 10,000 officers.

Sir Philip received the award from the Grand Chancelier de la Légion d'Honneur, who said:

"Sir Philip, you're one of those outstanding figures whose action has helped inspire generations of young sportspeople all over the world. You've done crucial work on developing high-level sport for people with a disability. Thanks to the Paralympic Games, this area of sport is experiencing unprecedented interest in France."



Russian Federation bestows high honours on IPC leaders

Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin invited IPC President Sir Philip Craven and IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez to the Kremlin in Moscow in March to present them with the Order of Honour and Order of Friendship, respectively.

The two IPC representatives were among the 40-plus sport leaders and coaches who received state awards for their successful preparation and staging of the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi.

The private ceremony was broadcast on Russian television and marked the first time international Paralympic leaders received such high honours from the Russian government.

The Order of Honour recognises high achievements in government, economic, scientific, cultural, public, sport or charitable activities. The Order of Friendship is presented to those who emit a special merit in strengthening co-operation, peace and friendship between nations for fruitful work on the convergence of cultures and the promotion of major projects or ventures in Russia.

President Putin also presented state honours to all 30 Russian Paralympians who won gold for the host nation at the Sochi 2014 Games.



Vladimir Putin had the chance to meet with Sir Philip Craven during the Sochi 2014 Games

Organisational Capacity Programme kicks off



The Agitos Foundation's Organisational Capacity programme is providing resources to National Paralympic Committees to develop the Movement in their countries

The Agitos Foundation and IPC Academy held their first set of workshops for National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) in February to improve their overall capacity to develop and support para-athletes.

Participants from 13 countries were in Bonn, Germany, for the workshops, which focused on governance, management, leadership and sport promotion. They were equipped with enough knowledge to return to their own countries where they can now deliver workshops of their own via the "train the trainer" methodology.

Case study: Vanuatu

Andrew Bynon, Secretary General of the Vanuatu Paralympic Committee, returned home from the first Organisational Capacity Workshops and held his own sessions in Port Vila.



He expressed the power of para-sport as a tool for change to his NPC's new board and the necessary frameworks for developing a strategic plan for the next three years.

The workshops were run in two sections, one for the NPC's executive board that focused on athlete development and strategic partnerships and the second for all of the NPC's stakeholders, which focused on the Paralympic brand.

CHANGEMAKERS

The Agitos Foundation published a series of ChangeMakers stories to celebrate April's United Nations International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. They featured people whose lives changed due to para-sport participation, as well as organisations that use sport for development and peace.

WOMENTORING

The launch event of the Agitos Foundation's WoMentoring programme took place in May in Vienna, Austria, to create more female leaders in the Paralympic Movement. Mentoring relationships were made between more experienced or knowledgeable women or men who have already reached a decision-making level in their career fields, and emerging female leaders from a European NPC or NPC member association.

Bynon said: "Using the training and resources provided by the Agitos Foundation's Organisational Capacity Programme, the VPC was able to engage in a thorough self-assessment process that was led by the VPC Board and stakeholders, collaboratively identifying strategic priorities and resulting in the creation of a VPC 2014-2017 Strategic Plan and 2014 Annual Plan."

Marie Bochet wins Laureus Award



WHERE HAVE PAST LAUREUS AWARD WINNERS COME FROM?



	Australia	2000	2001	2003
	Brazil	2009	2013	
	Canada	2004	2005	
	Germany	2007	2011	
	Netherlands	2002	2008	
	South Africa	2006	2010	2012

French alpine skier Marie Bochet won the Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability award in March for being victorious in all five of her events at the 2013 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships in La Molina, Spain.

The awards ceremony was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and was hosted by British actor Benedict Cumberbatch.

The Laureus World Sports Awards are one of the top honours on the international sporting calendar. The winners are chosen by the Laureus World Sports Academy, which is made up of 46 of some of the greatest living sportsmen and sportswomen.

Allianz to support IPC Athletics



IPC Athletics signed a one-year agreement with Allianz, with an option for future years, for the international financial services company to become the sport's first official global partner.

Allianz has the global right to use the IPC Athletics brand in communications. In addition

to providing financial support, they will develop joint programmes and digital assets with the sport to help raise its profile. Allianz will be one of the main partners of August's IPC Athletics European Championships and will support three IPC Athletics Grand Prix events this year.

web >> IPC-Athletics.org

New World Anti-Doping Code to take effect

After a two-year review, a revised World Anti-Doping Code will take effect on 1 January 2015, with the IPC and all sport federations publishing their own rules to align with the new Code.

The 2015 Code will provide for longer periods of ineligibility and more flexibility in sanctioning, and it will support the increasing importance of investigations and use of intelligence in the fight against doping.

Amendments to the 2015 Code were made to better reach athlete support personnel involved in doping.

The IPC will finalise and publish the new IPC Anti-Doping Code in mid-2014 for implementation in 2015.

web >> www.WADA-ama.org

WADA had an educational outreach booth for athletes in the Paralympic Village in Sochi



Walt Thompson elected ACSM Vice President



Dr. Walt Thompson, a member of the IPC's Sports Science Committee was elected Vice President of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), which is the largest sports medicine and exercise organisation in the world. As a professor of kinesiology and health at Georgia State University, Thompson has published more than 125 research-based articles and raised over USD 20 million (EUR 14.7 million) for his various initiatives.

He has served as a member of the IPC Sports Science Committee for more than a decade and has been a member of the ACSM for more than 35 years.

Adecco launches new video



Adecco, which runs the IPC Athlete Career Programme, launched a new YouTube video

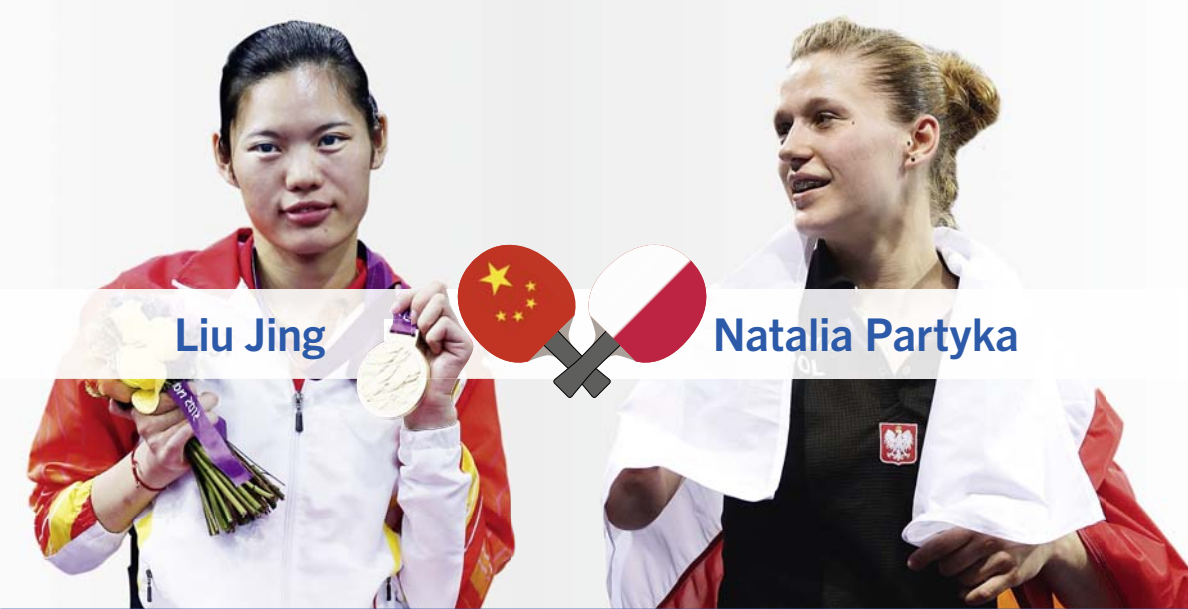
that shows how Adecco Belgium brought Paralympians and the Belgian Paralympic Committee together with companies to help transfer athletes' skills to the workplace.

The programme provides a platform for companies to meet with world-class talent for career development, internships and employment opportunities.

web >> www.ParalympicSport.TV

#AskAnAthlete

China's two-time Paralympic champion Liu Jing and Poland's three-time Paralympic champion Natalia Partyka will headline the women's field at September's ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championships, playing in Class 2 and Class 10, respectively.



Liu Jing

Natalia Partyka

To retain my world title, but there are many uncertain factors in the field.	What are your expectations for the ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championships?	To win the gold in the singles event, and it would be great as well to win a medal in the team event.
Although I was on the top of the world before, I will have to try my best to get there again.	Are you at the peak of your career or is there still more to come?	I hope it is not the peak of my career. I am playing really well, but I know that I can still be much better and play at a higher level.
I am not decisive enough when dealing with the "key ball." I have to practice repeatedly – which means more than anyone else – to overcome this.	What are your weaknesses?	Of course I have some weaknesses, but I can't tell you because my opponents might be reading this.
Countless. Table tennis has taken up a wealth of my lifetime.	How many table tennis balls have hit in your life?	Luckily, I am not good at math, but I am sure it's in the many millions, or even billions.
Learn more about and engage in sport-related activities.	What do you hope to do when you eventually retire from your table tennis career?	Something in sport. Maybe I will be a coach or establish my own foundation. I have already set up my own funds for helping talented kids from poor families achieve their sports dreams.

ITTF Para-Table Tennis World Championships

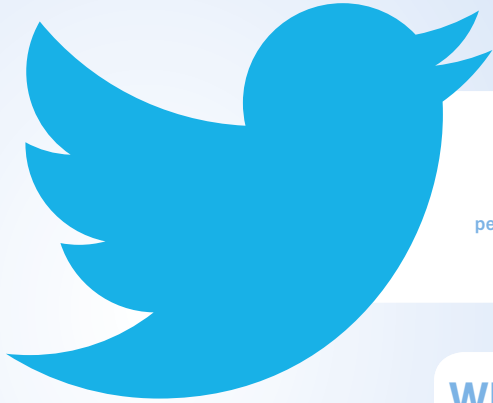
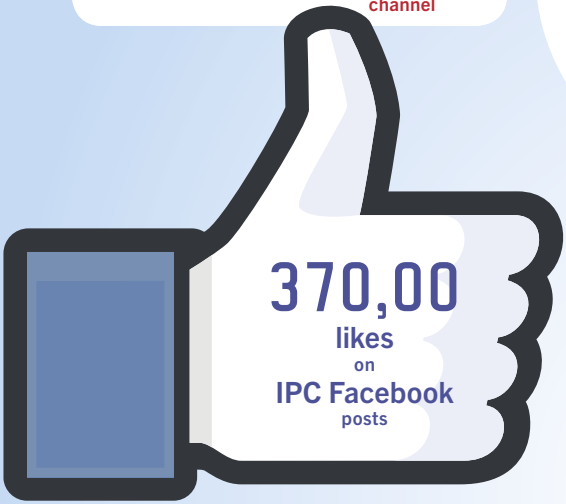
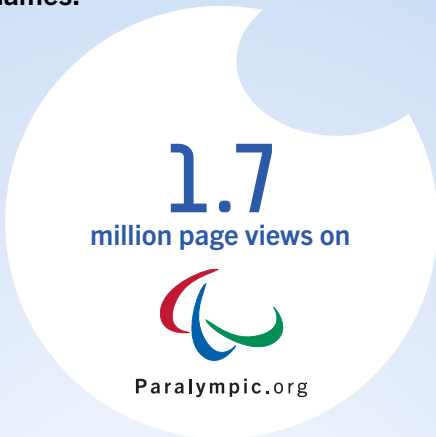
Dates: 6-15 September
Location: Beijing, China

web >> www.IPTTC.org



Sochi's social success

More than 160 million interactions with the Paralympic Movement – including Paralympic.org page views, Google searches and retweets – were registered during the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.



Who was popular on Facebook?

These five athletes had the most Facebook fans at end of Games:

- 1 Allison Jones (USA, alpine skiing)
- 2 Tatyana McFadden (USA, cross-country skiing)
- 3 Amy Purdy (USA, snowboard)
- 4 Marie Bochet (France, alpine skiing)
- 5 Matthias Lanzinger (Austria, alpine skiing)



Matthias Lanzinger



Trending!
"Josh Sweeney," "Goal USA" and "#USAvsRUS" were all trending worldwide on Twitter during the ice sledge hockey gold-medal game in Sochi.

Who was popular on Twitter?

These five athletes gained the most Twitter followers at the Games:

- 1 Amy Purdy (USA, snowboard)
- 2 Jade Etherington (Great Britain, alpine skiing)
- 3 Kelly Gallagher (Great Britain, alpine skiing)
- 4 Charlotte Evans (Great Britain, alpine skiing guide)
- 5 Bibian Mentel-Spee (Netherlands, snowboard)



Jade Etherington

Pushing boundaries

The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games were recording-breaking in terms of athletic performances, participation, media coverage and ticket sales.

SOCHI 2014					
					Total
1	 Russia	30	28	22	80
2	 Germany	9	5	1	15
3	 Canada	7	2	7	16
4	 Ukraine	5	9	11	25
5	 France	5	3	4	12
6	 Slovakia	3	2	2	7
7	 Japan	3	1	2	6
8	 USA	2	7	9	18
9	 Austria	2	5	4	11
10	 Great Britain	1	3	2	6
11	 Norway	1	2	1	4
12	 Sweden	1	2	1	4
13	 Spain	1	1	1	3
14	 Netherlands	1	0	0	1
15	 Switzerland	1	0	0	1
16	 Finland	0	1	0	1
17	 New Zealand	0	1	0	1
18	 Belarus	0	0	3	3
19	 Australia	0	0	2	2

IMPOSSIBLE

“The Paralympic spirit has united and infected us all. Proud Paralympians – your inspirational athletic performances have redefined the boundaries of possibility. You have shown the world that absolutely anything is possible and that life is about amazing capabilities and not perceived deficiencies.”

IPC President Sir Philip Craven



The success of young talent like Russia's Alexey Bugaev, France's Marie Bochet and Austria's Markus Salcher showed that alpine sport has some great years ahead



Cecile Hernandez Ep Cervellon, a relative newcomer, made her mark in Sochi



USA's 'Three Amigos' Mike Shea, Evan Strong and Keith Gabel shared the podium in Sochi

Alpine skiing

Young stars shine on the slopes

Of the 90 medals awarded at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic alpine skiing competition, 41 were won by athletes aged 25 or younger, and nearly half of the golds were won by athletes aged 23 or younger.

SOCHI 2014					
	Country				Total
1	Russia	6	6	4	16
2	Germany	6	4	1	11
3	France	5	3	2	10

Four skiers stood out in particular from the 250 competing across 32 medal events, which were watched by record crowds and an unprecedented number of TV viewers.

Anna Schaffelhuber, 21, won all five of her women's sit-ski races, becoming the second consecutive woman to sweep all alpine events at the Paralympics. Canadian Lauren Woolstencroft won five gold medals on her home soil in Vancouver in the standing class four years prior.

At 16, the host nation's **Alexey Bugaev** quickly became a crowd favourite, racking up five medals in the men's standing class, including super-combined and slalom gold.

In the women's standing class, France's **Marie Bochet** headlined broadcasts and newspapers after claiming gold in four events at just 20 years old. Austria's **Markus Salcher**, 22, won two of his standing events and took bronze in the other.

Both Bochet and Salcher are graduates of an IPC Alpine Skiing Development Camp in 2006, showcasing the strength of the grass-roots programmes.



THREE QUESTIONS FOR ANNA SCHAFFELHUBER

- 1. How does it feel to be a five-time Paralympic champion?**
It's an unbelievable feeling. I'm so happy that all the hard work ended up being showcased at the most highlighted event. It was a dream come true.
- 2. What song best exemplifies your Sochi 2014 journey?**
Bon Jovi's "It's My Life" or Pharrell Williams' "Happy."
- 3. What is next for you?**
Coming home, training again and several media meetings before the 2015 World Championships in Canada, where I want to improve my performance.

Snowboard

Top riders emerge in discipline's Paralympic debut

The highly anticipated Paralympic sport's debut lived up to its hype as an American trio swept the men's competition, and **Bibian Mentel-Spee** dominated the women's event at the age of 41.

SOCHI 2014				
Men	USA	USA	USA	
Women	Netherlands	France	USA	

The USA's Evan Strong snuck away with gold after a thrilling battle with teammate **Mike Shea** in the men's event.

Shea led after the first run with an impressive time of 52.29, however Strong stormed back into a commanding lead as he took gold with a combined effort of 1:43.61, with Shea one second behind to attain silver. Compatriot **Keith Gabel** joined them on the podium, taking bronze.

In the women's event, Mentel-Spee expectedly became just the second-ever Dutch athlete to win gold at a Winter Paralympics, and afterwards embraced her young son Julian in delight.

A real surprise was the silver-medal winning performance by France's **Cecile Hernandez Ep Cervellon**, who parted ways with her journalism career on the road to Sochi 2014 so she could focus fully on training.

Amy Purdy, meanwhile, caught a blaze of public support after winning bronze and going on to finish as the runner-up in the hit American TV show, 'Dancing with the Stars'.



THREE QUESTIONS FOR BIBIAN MENTEL-SPEE

- 1. How did it feel to make history?**
Amazing, of course. We've been working to get snowboarding onto the Paralympic programme for such a long time that it was great to even just be there.
- 2. How did you celebrate your victory?**
We had several moments where we were honoured as soon as we got back from Sochi. I even got to visit the King of the Netherlands. But the best celebration was with my family and friends.
- 3. What is next for you?**
I'm going to enjoy the summer and work with my own foundation, the Mentality Foundation, to inspire kids with a disability to come out and play sports.



Germany's Andrea Eskau is also a three-time Paralympic gold medallist in cycling



Russia's Elena Remizova won three golds and one silver in Sochi



Russia's Grigory Murygin won five medals in cross-country and biathlon



Sochi was the second Paralympic Winter Games for Ukraine's 23-year-old Oleksandra Kononova

Cross-country skiing

Experienced veterans prevail on trails

The host nation exerted their dominance on the cross-country skiing trails at Sochi 2014, with **Elena Remizova** winning three golds in the women's visually impaired class and **Roman Petushkov** amassing three titles in the men's sitting class.

The Russians won more cross-country skiing golds than the rest of the participating countries combined.

The host nation was also anchored by three podium finishes from **Rushan Minnegulov** and **Anna Milenina** in the men's and women's standing classes.

Arguably one of the greatest moments in cross-country skiing came from Canada's **Brian McKeever** in the men's 1km visually impaired sprint. McKeever, a triple gold medallist in Sochi, overcame a fall at the start of the race



THREE QUESTIONS FOR BRIAN MCKEEVER

- How does it feel to have 10 career Paralympic titles?**
Ten feels no different than one. The challenge is hitting that top level for a specific week, once every four years. It's amazing that we have been able to push the level for so long.
- What is the significance of growing sideburns for the Games?**
Truth is, I have sensitive skin, and I'm lazy so I don't like shaving. Plus, I go grey on my chin.
- What was your best moment of Sochi 2014?**
Watching Chris Klebl and Mark Arendz race well and collect their medals. Seeing my teammates succeed was the best part of the Games for me.

to come back and dramatically win gold. He went on to finish the Games with 10 career Paralympic titles.

Germany's **Andrea Eskau** and the USA's **Tatyana McFadden** and **Oksana Masters** – all medallists at the summer Paralympics – showed they can win on the snow as well, with each of them making the podium in the women's sitting class.

Russia were victorious in both the mixed and open relays, winning the former thanks to the support of the raucous home crowd. The Russians were in eighth place after the second leg, and just when it seemed they might not even finish on the podium, **Nikolay Polukhin** stormed home in the final leg of the race to snag the gold with teammates **Alena Kaufman**, **Remizova** and **Svetlana Konovalova**.

In that same race, which typically includes four athletes per team, Sweden opted to go with just two – 19-year-old **Zebastian Modin** and 42-year-old **Helene Ripa**. The pair won a silver medal, with each athlete skiing two legs of the race.

SOCHI 2014					
	Country				Total
1	Russia	12	9	11	32
2	Canada	4	0	0	4
3	Ukraine	1	6	3	10

Biathlon

Host nation scores big on home snow

In a sport dominated by Russia, Ukraine and Germany, **Roman Petushkov** was unstoppable, taking gold in all three distances in the men's sitting class in various weather conditions.

Just as impressive as the 36 year old were Russia's youth. **Natalia Bratiuk**, 16, claimed two bronze medals in the women's standing events; **Grigory Murygin**, 19, won a gold, silver and bronze in the men's standing events; and **Azat Karachurin**, also 19, won a bronze in the men's standing events.

Ukraine collected 15 medals in the sport, with **Vitaliy Lukyanenko** taking the podium three times in the men's visually impaired

SOCHI 2014					
	Country				Total
1	Russia	12	11	7	30
2	Ukraine	4	3	8	15
3	Germany	2	1	0	3

events and **Oleksandra Kononova** and **Olena Iurkovska** each winning two medals.

Anja Wicker of Germany, who is also an international handcyclist, won two golds in the women's sitting competition in her Paralympic debut, while athletes from Belarus, Canada, Norway and Japan also made it onto the podium.



THREE QUESTIONS FOR ROMAN PETUSHKOV

- How does it feel to be a six-time Paralympic champion?**
It feels great. After the Games, I went on vacation to Thailand to rest and regain my strength. During April, back in Moscow, I visited a lot of schools and fielded a lot of media requests.
- Where are you keeping your medals?**
My mother keeps all of my medals and prizes.
- What song best exemplifies your Sochi 2014 journey?**
Queen's "We are the Champions" and the Russian band Tatu's "Not Gonna Get Us."



The Canadian team only lost their matches against Norway and Finland in the round robin stage



Russia's Konstantin Shikov celebrated after defeating favourites USA in the preliminary round



Knut Andre Nordstoga of Norway is tackled by Canada's Anthony Gale, whose team went on to win the bronze-medal match

Wheelchair curling

Triple Paralympic gold for Canada

Canada won their third consecutive wheelchair curling Paralympic gold at the Ice Cube Curling Centre, defeating Russia in the final, 8-3.

Lead **Sonja Gaudet** has now played in all three of Canada's gold-medal winning Paralympic teams, which have all been coached by Joe Rea. For skip **Jim Armstrong** and third Ina Forrest it was their second Paralympic title, while for second **Dennis Thiessen** and alternate **Mark Ideson**, it was their first.

SOCHI 2014			
Team	Canada	Russia	Great Britain

Russia, led by skip **Andrey Smirnov** and second **Svetlana Pakhomova**, won silver in their Paralympic debut.

In the bronze-medal game, skip **Aileen Neilson** led Great Britain to a 7-3 victory over China.

One of the biggest surprises in Sochi, though, was the performance of Slovakia's team (right) in their Paralympic debut, winning their first three matches – and four in total – to finish in sixth place out of 10 teams.



SOUND-OFF:

THREE QUESTIONS FOR AILEEN NEILSON

1. What was your best moment of Sochi 2014?
Rolling onto the podium and having the bronze medal placed around my neck. All the hard work, dedication and time spent on and off the ice had paid off.

2. Where are you keeping your first Paralympic medal?
I carry my medal in a pouch in my backpack so I am able to share it with people who ask about my time in Sochi. "I can't believe how heavy it is" has been the most frequent response.

3. What song best exemplifies your Sochi 2014 journey?
David Cook's "We Believe," because our coach, Tony Zummack, used this track in a video montage and it really inspired and motivated me.

Ice sledge hockey

Fast-paced sport proves to be a media hit

The USA became the first ice sledge hockey team to win back-to-back Paralympic titles at Sochi 2014, and Russia won silver just five years after starting up their ice sledge hockey programme.

SOCHI 2014			
Team	USA	Russia	Canada

Both storylines were showcased heavily by renowned media outlets such as the New York Times, Russia Today, the Associated Press and the BBC.

War veteran **Josh Sweeney** – who lost his legs in Afghanistan in 2009 after stepping on an improvised explosive device – scored the lone goal in the final to lead the USA to a 1-0 victory over Russia. The game was the first-ever Paralympic sport competition broadcast live in America on NBC's main channel.

American **Steve Cash** led all goaltenders in Sochi with 43 saves, and

Goaltender **Vladimir Kamantcev** starred for Russia, playing 180 minutes and recorded 40 saves and a save percentage of 95.24 per cent.

Canada, meanwhile, avenged their bronze-medal loss from Vancouver 2010 by beating Norway in the third-place game, 3-0.

Arguably the top-performing defenceman at the Games, **Adam Dixon**, led Canada in the tournament with seven points, including four goals and three assists.

In the classification games, the Czech Republic beat Italy for fifth place and South Korea defeated Sweden for seventh place.



SOUND-OFF:

THREE QUESTIONS FOR JOSH SWEENEY

1. What was your best moment of Sochi 2014?
Watching that final game clock hit 0:00. I felt like that game would never end, and as soon as it did I became instantly exhausted.

2. Where are you keeping your gold medal?
Relatively close to me at all times since everyone I seem to meet wants to see it.

3. How did you react to trending worldwide on Twitter?
My first thought was of the guys on the team who are always comparing followers and the ratio of followers to following, and so I couldn't bear to tell them I was trending.

Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame

Spain’s alpine skier Eric Villalon Fuentes (pictured below), Germany’s Nordic skier Verena Bentele and American cross-country skiing coach Jon Kreamelmeyer were all inducted into the Visa Paralympic Hall of Fame during Sochi 2014.



Launched in 2006 by the IPC’s Worldwide Paralympic Partner Visa, the Paralympic Hall of Fame recognises retired athletes and coaches who have a track record of excellent athletic performance, history of fair play and participation in community activities.

PREVIOUS VISA PARALYMPIC HALL OF FAME WINTER SPORT INDUCTEES:	
2006	2010
Annemie Schneider (Germany)	Chris Waddell (USA)
Jouko Grip (Finland)	Tanji Kari (Finland)
Una Renvall (Norway)	Rolf Hettich (Germany)

Villalon Fuentes competed in three Paralympic Winter Games from 1998-2006, winning five golds, three silvers and a bronze to make him Spain’s most successful winter Paralympian of all-time.

Bentele is the most successful female biathlete of all-time and the second most successful cross-country skier. In four Paralympics, she won 12 gold, two silver and two bronze medals in the visually impaired class.

Kreamelmeyer served as the head coach of the USA’s Paralympic cross-country skiing team from 1998-2006, during which time American athletes claimed 11 Paralympic podium positions, as well numerous World Cup wins and podium finishes.

Paralympic Order

The IPC presented the Paralympic Order – the highest accolade a person connected with the Paralympic Movement can achieve – to seven individuals who played instrumental roles in the success of the Sochi 2014 Games.

The Paralympic Order was first awarded in 1994 and some of the most well-known previous recipients include Seb Coe, Juan Antonio Samaranch and Sir Ludwig Guttmann.

2014 RECIPIENTS



Whang Young Dai Award

At the Sochi 2014 Closing Ceremony, IPC Vice President Andrew Parsons presented the Whang Young Dai Award to the Netherlands’ Bibian Mentel-Spee and Australia’s Toby Kane for overcoming adversity and putting the spirit of the Games into motion.

The Whang Young Dai Award has been presented to one male and one female athlete at every Paralympics since the Seoul 1988 Games.

WHY TOBY KANE?

- Two-time Paralympic medallist in alpine skiing
- Ambassador for Australian Paralympic Committee
- After the death of teammate Matthew Robinson in February 2014 and other team setbacks, he stepped into a key leadership role

WHY BIBIAN MENTEL-SPEE?

- First-ever gold medallist in Paralympic snowboard
- Instrumental in getting snowboard onto the Paralympic programme
- Founder of the Mentality Foundation, which aims to get young people with an impairment into sport



Samsung Paralympic Bloggers

Thirty leading athletes gave fans an exclusive look at the Sochi 2014 Games, recording more than 100 behind-the-scenes video blogs as a part of Samsung’s Paralympic “Sport Doesn’t Care” campaign.

The campaign highlighted that everyone has problems in their lives to overcome, and that sport can help them do so.

The video blogs received more than 50,000 views, and on the field of play the athlete bloggers won a combined 29 medals, including 10 golds.



WATCH!
Norway’s Morten Vaernes (left) and Canada’s Graeme Murray (far right) – both ice sledge hockey players – as well as the USA’s Oksana Masters – a Nordic skier – won the Sochi 2014 Samsung Paralympic Blogger Awards

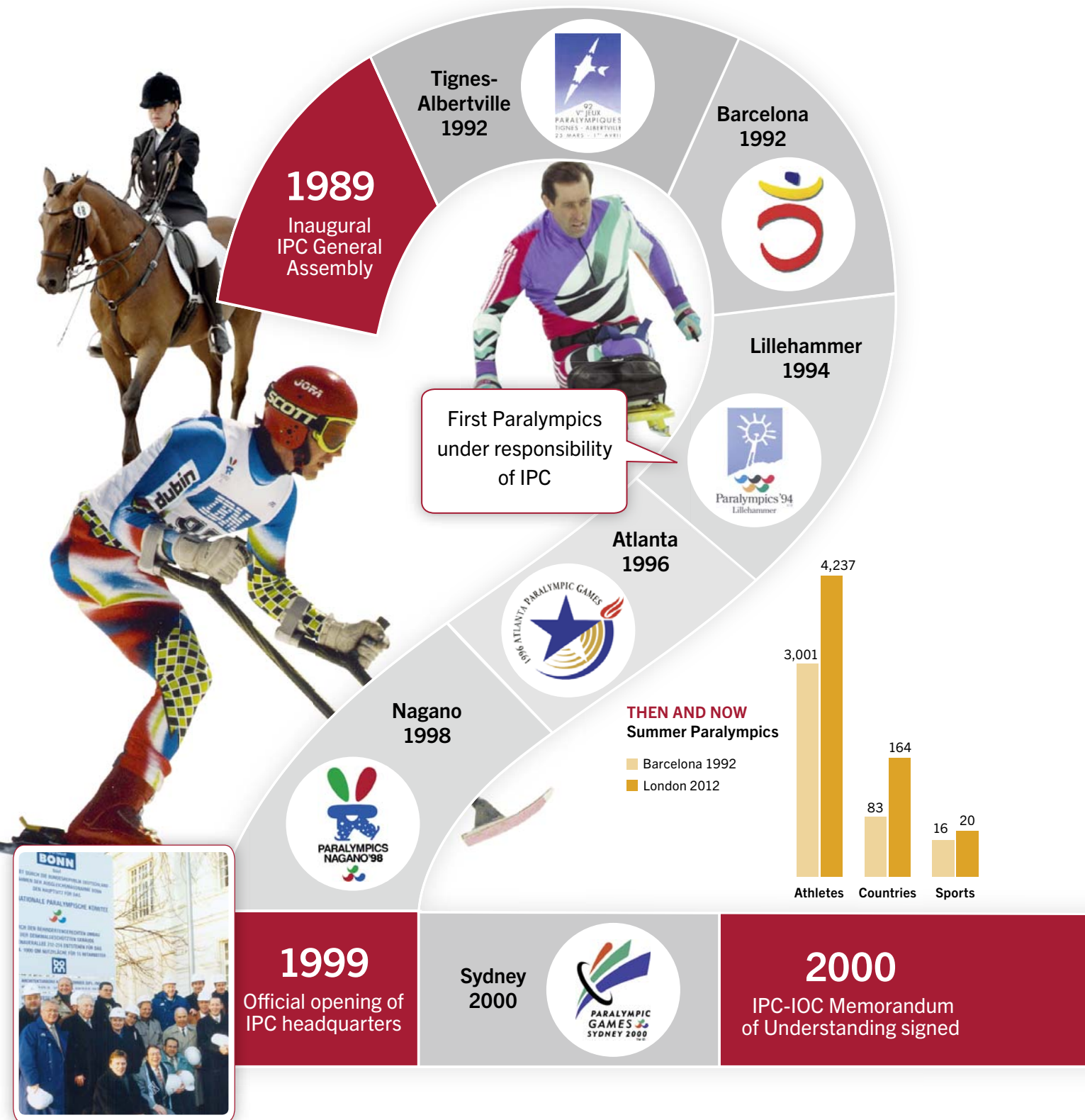
web

>> www.ParalympicSport.TV



IPC celebrates Silver Jubilee

The IPC has transformed para-sport from a recreational activity based on impairments to an entire Paralympic Movement all about ability.





Sir Ludwig Guttman initiated the Paralympic Games with an archery competition in 1948 to coincide with the Olympics

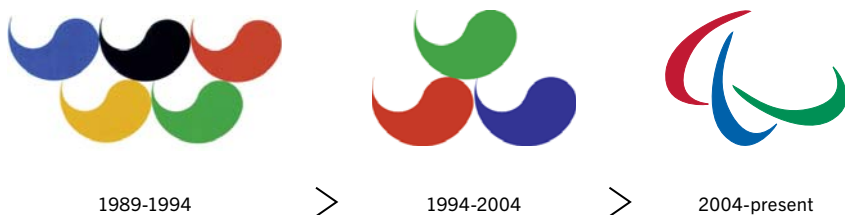
When Sir Ludwig Guttman pioneered the Paralympic Movement in the 1940's, para-sports were a rehabilitation activity, and in some countries, a way to entertain people with an impairment.

During the Movement's first 24 years, many para-sports were still in their early stages of development, as a medical model of sport slowly gave way to a recreational model for people with spinal-cord injuries.

Come 1975, the International Sports Organisation for the Disabled (ISOD) and International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation (ISMGF) combined their efforts to hold the Paralympic Games in Toronto, a successful joint venture that paved the way for collaboration between federations.

By the 1980's, four international organisations expressed the desire to better co-ordinate the Paralympics and improve sport structures for people with an impairment.

TRANSFORMATION OF IPC LOGO



Representatives from the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA), the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA), ISMGF and ISOD came together in 1982 to form the International Co-ordinating Committee for the Disabled in the World (ICC) with the aim of enhancing sport structures and using competitions as "eye-breakers" for society.

An initial proposal for a para-sport governing body was first circulated in 1984. Three years later, 43 countries agreed upon 23 resolutions in Arnhem, the Netherlands, to create a democratic organisation that was sport-specific as opposed to disability-specific.

In 1988, the Paralympics in Seoul became known as the "transition Games," or first modern Paralympics, because they were the first ones staged at the same venues as the Olympics.

Crowds were strong. Professional coaches were on the sidelines. Certified equipment was used. And most importantly, participants were viewed as athletes rather than patients.

Para-sport leaders attempted to meet during those Games to give life to their ideas about a sport governing body, but a tense and chaotic atmosphere due to the Games halted progress, and thus the meeting was postponed until the following year.

Founding the IPC

On 22 September, 1989, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) was finally founded in Dusseldorf, Germany, as an international non-profit organisation to act as the global governing body of the Paralympic Movement.

All national members of six IOSDs automatically became IPC members. Andre Raes was elected Secretary General to lead an Executive Committee that included 10 elected officers, six regional representatives, six IOSD representatives and one athlete representative.

Jens Bromann, the former IBSA President who was later elected IPC Vice President, said the new organisation was very much European influenced, with an aim of transitioning para-sport from disability-specific to



The Seoul 1998 Paralympics were the first staged at the same venues as the Olympics

sport-specific and personifying para-athletes as sportsmen rather than people with an impairment.

The IPC structure was similar to one between that of the IOC and a sport federation, and it was meant to be an inclusive organisation with a constitution and bylaws that represented all sports and countries.

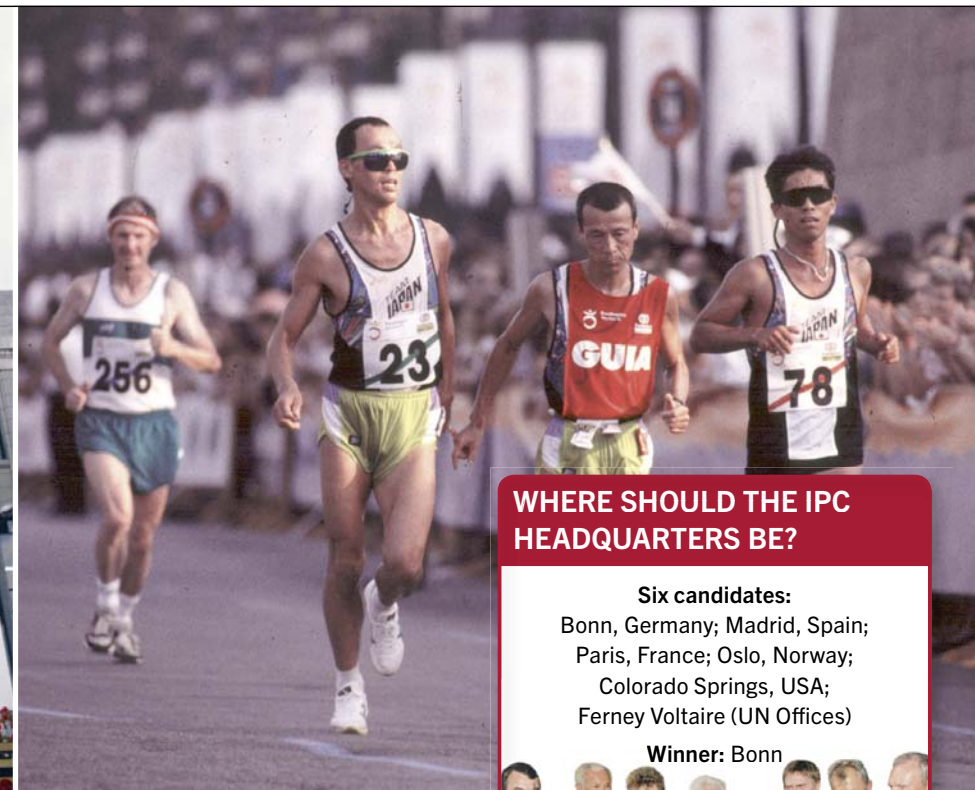
The structure resulted in a lot of tension between the IPC and IOSDs in the early stages, with a lot of strong personalities and bold ideas as the debate of sport independence initiated.

Always athletes first

Without that aforementioned passion and stubbornness from hard-working leaders, the IPC would not have risen off the ground to become the organisation it is today.

The first set of goals for the IPC focused on gaining better representation from around the world in order to broaden the foundation of sports and increase the number and level of athletes taking part in competition.

In the IPC's first two years, there was no headquarters office or full-time staff. Most of the work was done on a volunteer basis from a small office shared with the Flemish League in Bruges, Belgium, while Leen Coudenys' spare



WHERE SHOULD THE IPC HEADQUARTERS BE?

Six candidates:

Bonn, Germany; Madrid, Spain;
Paris, France; Oslo, Norway;
Colorado Springs, USA;
Ferney Voltaire (UN Offices)

Winner: Bonn



bedroom also served as work space. Elected officers, who worked from their homes, paid expenses out of pocket when they had to attend Executive Committee meetings.

Sometimes, the best ideas came from around a volunteer's kitchen table late at night.

Martin Mansell, who served as the first Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Commission from 1989-1996, said that during this time most IPC meetings and plans addressed only what was happening at the present time.

"The one thing that was always missing was how things related back to a strategic plan, because there was no strategic plan," Mansell explained. "It was going about one year to the next as opposed to long-term planning."

Despite that, Mansell said the aim was the same as today – to ensure athletes were the centre of the Movement.

The IPC set a precedent by establishing regular athlete elections, something the IOC then imitated with their own electoral model.

A major turning point came at the Barcelona 1992 Games, when para-sport was changed from a medical classification system to a functional classification system. Those would also be the last Paralympics under the ICC

before the IPC took over the Games responsibility in 1994.

This major shift in thinking, led by IPC Technical Officer Hans Lindstrom, focused on an athlete's ability rather than impairment. This addressed classification inconsistencies head-on and made the Games more professional and competitive by increasing the athlete quotas for medal events.

Linking with the IOC

The IPC tried to be as inclusive and transparent as possible during its early years, and leaders pondered whether sports would be stronger within the IPC or on their own, which is still an ongoing topic for debate today.

During his 12 years as IPC President, Bob Steadward consistently went to the IOC to seek base funding to establish a headquarters and staff.

With a growing need for a permanent headquarters, three candidate cities were short-listed to house the IPC in 1996, and on 3 September 1999, after a period of reconstruction work, the IPC headquarters officially opened with a full-time staff of 10 people in Bonn, Germany.

Then at the Sydney 2000 Games, the IPC-IOC Memorandum of Understanding was signed. In addition to hosting the Paralympics in the same cities as the Olympics, IPC representatives would be included on IOC commissions and the IPC President would be a co-opted member of the IOC.

Financial support would be extended for athletes from developing countries to attend the 2002 and 2004 Paralympic Games, while USD 300,000 (EUR 269,000) would be given to the IPC administration annually and USD 100,000 (EUR 90,000) would be granted to the IPC annually for development projects.

“My greatest unexpected surprise was the support, confidence and interest that the IOC took in our Movement – recognising that we were a very strong international sport governing body,” Steadward said. “That was monumental.

“To see how large our organisation had grown, the quality of our athletes and the professionalism of our sporting movement, and of course signing a formal agreement with the IOC in Sydney in 2000, was a huge legacy for our Movement.”

Vaulting to new heights

In the next decade, under the leadership of President Sir Philip Craven, the IPC expanded its horizons beyond the Games, enhancing development projects, athlete pathways, National Paralympic Committees and funding initiatives.

It became more than just the Games or series of World and regional championships.



The new IPC logo was revealed at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games

“When you concentrate on sport and athletes instead of impairment, along with having some very good people, the success should then be assured”

It became a Movement – a showcase of ability.

“The IPC did not exist when I started my career 47 years ago,” Sir Philip said.

“But sport was sport then as it is now. The capability of many different organisations has been the difference, particularly the IPC.

“When you concentrate on sport and athletes instead of impairment, along with having some very good people, the success should then be assured.

“Over the last 25 years, the IPC has become more professional in all areas, with full-time experts managing different functional areas. Volunteers are still at the core of everything we do, but in just a short space of time the IPC has gone from a spare bedroom in Bruges to two offices in Bonn and a workforce of over 70 people.”

Bulking up the IPC’s foundations and grass-roots programmes vaulted the ensuing Games to new heights.

The Athens 2004 Games unveiled the IPC’s new identity – the Agitos. The Beijing 2008



British swimmer Ellie Simmonds took to stardom at London 2012



Ice sledge hockey has started to be developed for youth now in North America

and Vancouver 2010 Games improved accessibility. The London 2012 and Sochi 2014 Games featured record crowds, athletes and media coverage.

The Paralympics have been transformed into the world’s third biggest sporting event in terms of ticket sales and media coverage.

What’s next?

In October, IPC members will meet in Berlin, Germany, for a major gathering that will contribute to the future of the Paralympic Movement, giving an opportunity for all members to have a say on a number of key topics.

“Whilst we should acknowledge the significant achievements of the first 25 years, we

should also look ahead to the next 25 years and how the IPC can drive forward the Paralympic Movement,” Sir Philip said.

“We have to capitalise fully on the situation we find ourselves in. The IPC must continue to drive growth and push the boundaries.

“Our focus should not just be on growing the Paralympic Games, but about increasing participation in all sports and countries, as well as improving the sport events between the Games.”

With the newly launched Agitos Foundation in 2012, the IPC is already experiencing massive growth in education, grant supports and organisational capacity to ensure future generations have the necessary tools to continue enhancing the Movement.

In order to keep growing at a rapid rate, though, former IPC Executive Board Member and IPC Shooting Chairperson Fred Jansen said the IPC must always remember to stick to its roots and its unique selling points, such as the approachability of athletes and the potential legacies events can offer.

“The IPC has to preserve its identity,” Jansen stressed. “The IPC has a lot to offer. The major difference between the Olympics and the Paralympics has always been the way people can approach the athletes and the organisations.

“The IPC was never about glitz and glamour.

Paralympic athletes are known to walk in the streets and talk to people about their journeys.”

WHICH SPORTS HAVE BEEN MANAGED BY THE IPC?

Today:



In the past:
Archery
(Transferred to FITA in 2009)
Cycling
(Transferred to UCI in 2007)
Equestrian
(Transferred to FEI in 2006)
Table tennis
(Transferred to ITTF in 2007)



Sir Philip Craven says volunteers are still at the core of the Paralympic Movement



IPC Powerlifting World Championships

Thirteen of the 18 events at April's IPC Powerlifting World Championships were won with world-record lifts in Dubai, UAE, where more than 330 athletes from 60 countries took to the bench.

Nigeria, Egypt and China finished as the top three in the medal standings, with 19 different countries making the podium.

Iran's Siamand Rahman proved he is the world's strongest Paralympian, breaking the world record three times en route to gold in the men's +107kg category with a top lift of 285.5kg.

Nigeria's Precious Orji (above) claimed the title of the strongest woman, also breaking the world record in the +86kg category three times with a final gold-medal winning lift of 151kg.



UCI Para-Cycling Track World Championships

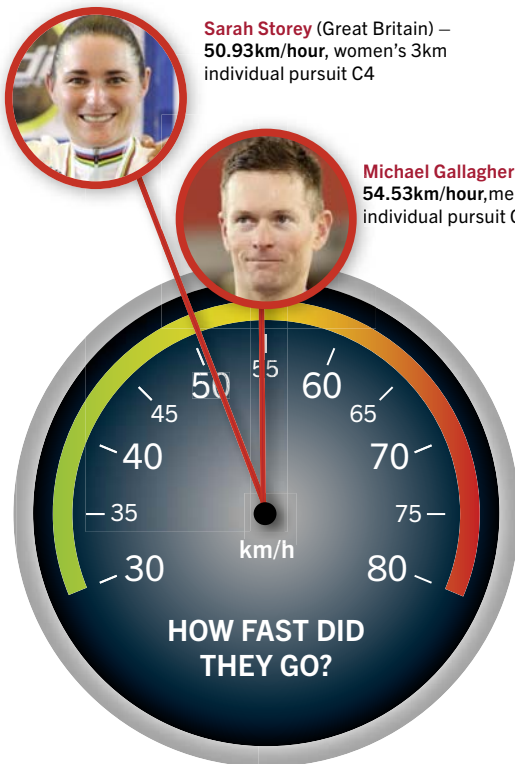
Great Britain and Australia asserted their track dominance by finishing one-two in the medal count at April's UCI Para-Cycling Track World Championships in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Twenty-three world records were set as Great Britain topped the medals table with seven golds and Australia left with the most overall medals, having made the podium 17 different times at the Championships.

Eight riders won two gold medals each at the Championships: Neil Fachie (Great Britain), Rodrigo Lopez (Argentina), Alexey Obydenov (Russia), Alyda Norbruis (Netherlands), Jayme Richardson (Australia), Sarah Storey (Great Britain), Sophie Thornhill (Great Britain) and Jamie Whitmore (USA).

Sarah Storey (Great Britain) – 50.93km/hour, women's 3km individual pursuit C4

Michael Gallagher (Australia) – 54.53km/hour, men's 4km individual pursuit C4



South American Para-Games

The first-ever South American Para-Games were held in Santiago, Chile, in March, as 583 athletes from eight countries competed across seven sports for five days.

The host nation had the largest delegation of athletes (103) and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet attended the Opening Ceremony, but it was Argentina who led the medal count with 49 golds and 112 total medals. Brazil finished second with 47 golds and Venezuela came third with 34 golds.

The highlight for Argentina was defeating arch rivals Brazil in the gold-medal men's wheelchair basketball game, while Paralympic champion runner Cristian Valenzuela starred for the host nation with titles in the 1,500m and 5,000m T11 races.



IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup

The IPC Athletics Marathon World Cup returned to London for its second year, as the USA's Tatyana McFadden defended her Virgin Money London Marathon title in a course-record time and Switzerland's world marathon champion Marcel Hug sealed his first career victory in the men's wheelchair race.

Spain's Maria Parades Rodriguez (above left) set a new T12 marathon course record to clinch the women's visually impaired race, while Morocco's triple world champion El Amin Chentouf (above right) won the men's visually impaired race for the second straight time.

The men's T51/52 wheelchair race, won by Spain's Santiago Sanz, was a new addition to the World Cup event, while Brazil's Paralympic champion Tito Sena won the men's T44-46 race and Richard Whitehead was the sole competitor in the T42 class.

QUICK HITS

#BostonStrong

South Africa's Ernst van Dyk won his 10th Boston Marathon in April, while the USA's Tatyana McFadden won her second.

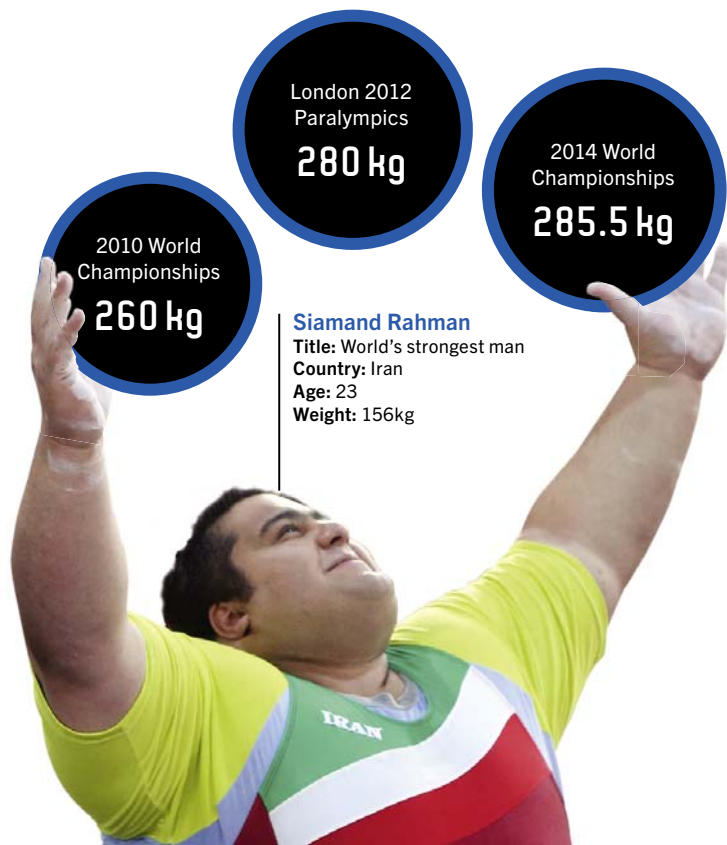
Americas Cup

Starting in August, IPC Athletics and the Brazilian Paralympic Committee have agreed to host an IPC Athletics Marathon Americas Cup with a marathon in Sao Paulo and a half-marathon in Rio.

Grand Prix

Want to follow the 2014 IPC Athletics Grand Prix series?

web >> www.ipc-athletics.org



World Championships

From August-November, World Championship events will take place across 10 para-sports.

Boccia

Dates:
19-28 September
Location:
Beijing, China
Country to beat:
Thailand
Follow:
@BISFed

Football 5-a-side

Dates:
13-25 November
Location:
Tokyo, Japan
Country to beat:
Brazil
Follow:
@IBSA_IBSA

Wheelchair rugby

Dates:
1-10 August
Location:
Odense, Denmark
Country to beat:
USA
Follow:
@IWRF

Canoe

Dates:
6-10 August
Location:
Moscow, Russia
Country to beat:
Ukraine
Follow:
@PlanetCanoe

Table tennis

Dates:
6-15 September
Location:
Beijing, China
Country to beat:
China
Follow:
@ittfworld

Judo

Dates:
1-7 September
Location:
Colorado Springs, USA
Country to beat:
Azerbaijan
Follow:
@IBSA_IBSA

Para-triathlon

Dates:
29 August - 1 September
Location:
Edmonton, Canada
Country to beat:
Great Britain
Follow:
@worldtriathlon

Road cycling

Dates:
28 August - 1 September
Location:
Greenville, USA
Country to beat:
Italy
Follow:
@UCI_cycling

Sailing

Dates:
16-24 August
Location:
Nova Scotia, Canada
Country to beat:
The Netherlands
Follow:
@IFDS_updates

Rowing

Dates:
24-31 August
Location:
Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Country to beat:
France
Follow:
@WorldRowing

Incheon 2014 Asian Para-Games



The Asian Para-Games will be held from 18-24 October in Incheon, South Korea, featuring 4,500 athletes from 42 countries across 23 sports – four more sports than at the last Games in 2010 in Guangzhou, China.

Asian Paralympic Committee President Dato Zainal Abu Zarin said that by staging the Games, Incheon can project itself as a disability-friendly city that promotes equality in sport and an inclusive society.



TOP FIVE ASIAN COUNTRIES IN PARA-SPORT:

Country	2010 Asian Para-Games	London 2012 Paralympics
China	1st place	1st place
Japan	2nd place	24th place
South Korea	3rd place	12th place
Iran	4th place	11th place
Thailand	5th place	31st place

SPORTS IN INCHEON

- Archery
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Boccia
- Cycling
- Football 5-a-side
- Football 7-a-side
- Goalball
- Lawn bowls
- Judo
- Powerlifting
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Shooting
- Sitting volleyball
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tenpin bowling
- Wheelchair basketball
- Wheelchair dance
- Wheelchair fencing
- Wheelchair rugby
- Wheelchair tennis



THREE TO WATCH

Yu Chui Yee
(Hong Kong, wheelchair fencing):
Seven-time Paralympic champion

Zhang Cuiping
(China, shooting):
Two-time Paralympic champion

Javad Hardani
(Iran, athletics):
Two-time Paralympic champion

Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

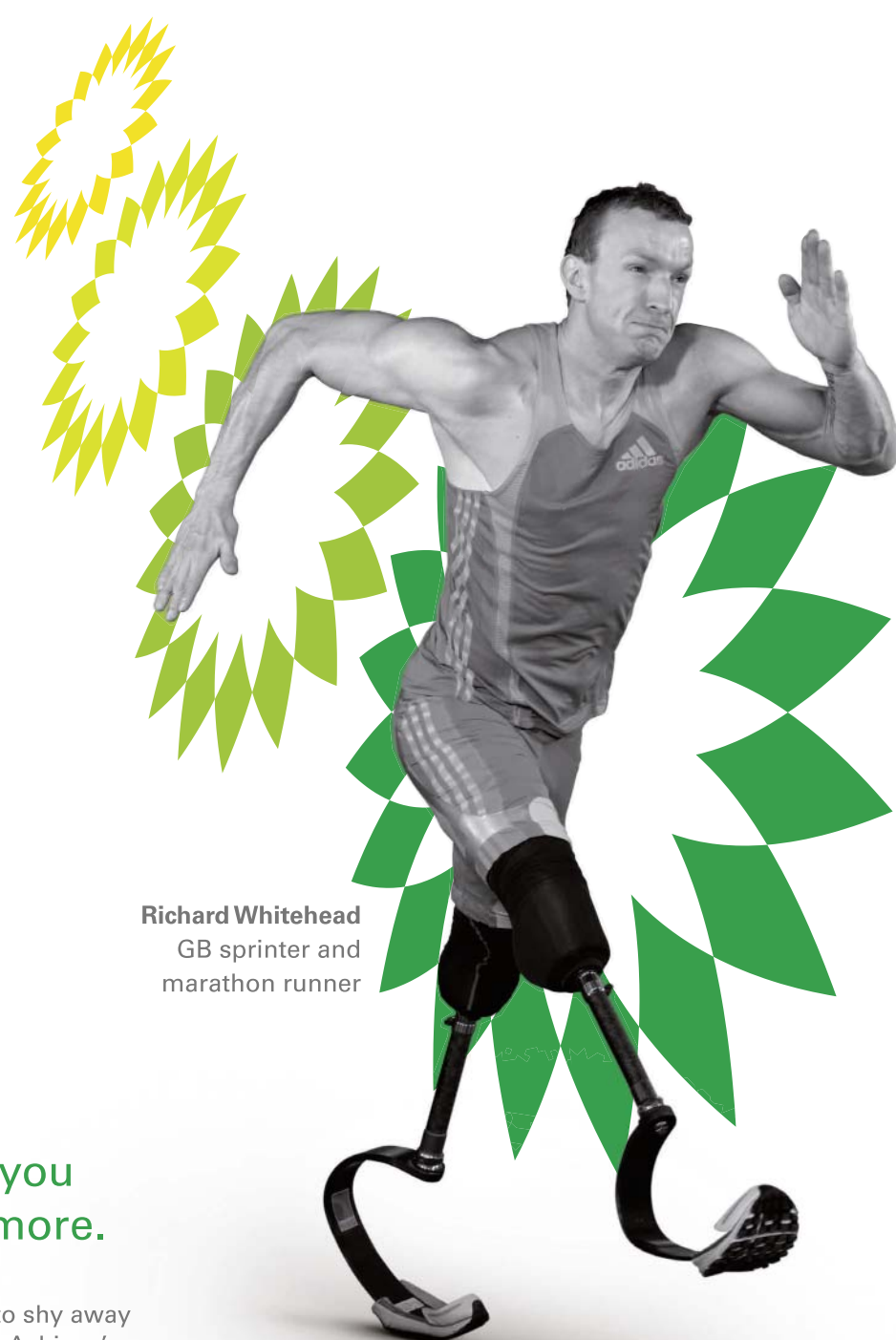
The largest Commonwealth Games will be held from 23 July - 3 August in Glasgow, Great Britain, with 22 medal events for para-athletes being integrated across five sports.



SPORTS IN GLASGOW

- Athletics
- Cycling
- Lawn bowls
- Powerlifting
- Swimming





Richard Whitehead
GB sprinter and
marathon runner

What do you do when you finish a marathon? 39 more.

Richard Whitehead has never been one to shy away from a challenge. His motto 'Believe and Achieve' has seen him complete 40 marathons in 40 days for his chosen charities, Sarcoma UK and Scope. He is a Paralympic gold medallist, world champion and world record holder at four distances, but most importantly to him, he's inspired millions along the way.



International Partner

Supporting those
who strive for better

IPC Swimming European Championships

Nearly 500 athletes from 40 countries will gather for the IPC Swimming European Championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands, from 4-10 August. The competition will be held at the Pieter van den Hoogenband Swimming Stadium, the same venue that housed the 2010 World Championships and has one of the fastest pools in the world.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AUGUST

5

Host nation star **Marc Evers** will be in action in his best event – the men's 100m backstroke S14, in which he is the Paralympic and world champion.

AUGUST

7

Watch the clash of veteran sprint stars **Teresa Perales** of Spain and **Sarah Louise Rung** of Norway in the women's 50m butterfly S5.

AUGUST

9

Arguably one of the most popular swimmers in the world, Great Britain's **Ellie Simmonds** takes to the pool in as she competes in the women's 100m freestyle S6.

HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW?

f/IPCSwimmng @IPCSwimming #Eindhoven2014

web

>> eindhoven2014.com

IPC Athletics European Championships

From 18-23 August, 600 athletes from 40 countries will compete at the IPC Athletics European Championships in Swansea, Great Britain, which will be the biggest para-sport ever to take place in Wales. There will be 199 gold medals up for grabs at the Swansea University International Sports Village across five days of competition.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

AUGUST

19

The world's fastest female Paralympian, **Marlou van Rhijn** of the Netherlands, could go up against her great rival **Marie-Amelie Le Fur** of France in the women's 100m T44 sprint.

AUGUST

20

Great Britain's Paralympic champion **David Weir** will take on Switzerland's current world champion **Marcel Hug** in the men's 1,500m T54 race.

AUGUST

23

Wales' own **Aled Davies** will hope to add a European title to his name in the men's discus F42, an event in which he is the reigning Paralympic and world champion.

HOW CAN YOU FOLLOW?

f/IPCAthletics @IPCAthletics #Swansea2014

web

>> swansea2014.com

ISSUE OF THE SEASON

ISSUE

What are the best ways to continue to elevate female participation in para-sport, and is it fair to have mixed gender events?

Background

The Rio 2016 Paralympics will feature more female athletes than ever before, and in shooting there will be a 25 per cent increase in quota places for women. Given that out of the 12 Paralympic shooting events, three are male, three are female and six are mixed events, many are eager to see how the increase in the female quota will play out, especially in the mixed gender events.



Veronika Vadovicova

Focus on classification, not gender

It is generally known that the genetic disposition of women is different from that of men, and that is why it is not correct to group women with men in the same sport.

In shooting, it would be better for women to have individual and separate events. It would be a greater motivator, especially for female shooters at the beginning stages, who would know they do not have to give the same performance as their male competitors.

However, shooting is a sport in which women do not fall behind men in mixed events. Across the podium, women are equal to men, which has positively influenced our self-confidence and fastens our leading position in this sport.

I can see disadvantages in the sport by not having mixed gender events, but what we must focus our efforts on is working to advance the sport's classification system before looking at mixed gender events.



success

With all of this said, though, I must say I do appreciate the increasing quota places for women on the Rio 2016 Paralympic programme.

There will be better opportunities for elite-level female shooters to compete with each other and take part in this magnificent occasion that connects the whole world and has such an important historical tradition.

2014 IPC SHOOTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Follow the sport's biggest event of the year from 17-26 July in Suhl, Germany.

@IPCShooting
/IPCShooting

web >> www.Suhl-2014.com



events

Matt Skelhon

Media coverage can increase female participation

Shooting compared to other para-sports has little media coverage, so promoting the success of all athletes – whether male or female – through a variety of media sources locally, national and internationally would help to raise the profile of shooting in general and attract more female athletes.

Sports such as athletics, swimming and cycling get a lot of air time and media coverage. Furthermore, female athletes in those sports such as Hannah Cockcroft, Ellie Simmonds and Sarah Storey are now household names in Great Britain and worldwide.

In shooting, the success of female athletes such as Veronica Vadovicova and Natasha Hiltrop in mixed events at the IPC Shooting European Championships and IPC Shooting World Cups has shown that men and women can compete together.

The British team is roughly 50/50 in terms of men and women, and there is a good camaraderie and competitiveness between us all.

Shooting is more about technical and psychological challenges and the ability to hold your nerve under pressure, whereas many of the other para-sports such as cycling and athletics need separate male and female events due to the physical aspects of the sport.

As shooting does not yet receive sufficient promotion, I would like to see more TV coverage and press attention, so the world knows about our sport. Promoting shooting as a sport for all, regardless of gender, will then likely



medal

result in more females taking up the sport and eventually lead to shooting at the Paralympic Games having equal representation of male and female athletes.

To me, it doesn't matter if I'm competing against a male or female competitor.

It's about being the best.

I can imagine this is also one of the attractions for female shooters, as they get to prove they are the best by winning against men as well as women.



mixed

gender

elite

men

competitive

representation

opponents

athletes

best

shooting

participation

sport

separate

males

women

at

ut

port

females

quota

from

together

Paralympics

Rio

heroic

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best



NPCs impressed by Brazil's progress
National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) visited Rio in May for the first NPC Open Day in the history of the Paralympic Movement. More than 40 delegates from 17 countries spanning the five continents spent two days in Rio being updated on the project by the Rio 2016 Organising Committee and visiting competition sites across the city.

While Rio 2016 and previous Games organising committees had already hosted numerous open days for National Olympic Committees, this was the first time such an event had been tailored specifically for NPCs – the organisations that prepare the athletes from their respective countries for the Games.

Volunteer recruitment to begin
The Rio 2016 Organising Committee launched the volunteer section of its website and will begin recruiting volunteers for the next Games on 28 August. Volunteers will be recruited in two categories –

general volunteers and specialist volunteers. The former will work in event services, while the latter will cater to specific knowledge areas, such as medical services, health professionals, sport language services or IT professionals. Volunteers must be 18 years old by May 2016 and have basic education.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT TIMELINE



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Tokyo 2020

Executive board
All 34 members of the Executive Board of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games met in March to finalise the Board's composition with the appointment of six Vice Presidents, a Director General and three Senior Executive Board Members.

Yasushi Yamawaki, IPC Governing Board Member and Vice President of Japan's Paralympic Committee, was among those selected for the Executive Board.

New sports
The IPC advanced the sports of badminton and taekwondo to the second phase of the application process to become a part of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games programme. For taekwondo, only the Kyorugi discipline is being considered for inclusion.

The 22 established sports on the Paralympic programme, plus badminton and taekwondo, have been invited to complete a comprehensive questionnaire before 25 July.



Passing the baton to PyeongChang
Delegates from PyeongChang 2018 took part in the IPC's Observers Programme at Sochi 2014, which allowed them to experience first-hand the planning and operations behind staging a Paralympic Winter Games. They participated in 30 venue and operational visits, took part in a number of workshops and were involved in a series of round-table discussions, all with the aim of giving them in-depth knowledge about how each functional area operates during the Games.

PyeongChang 2018 also took part in the Sochi 2014 Closing Ceremony as the Games were handed from one host city to the next. Visually impaired pianist Oleg Akkuratov played the Paralympic Anthem as the Paralympic Flag was lowered and passed on to the Mayor of PyeongChang. The South Korean flag was then raised as PyeongChang 2018 performers gave a magical performance.

On 11 April, which marked 1,400 days to go until the beginning of the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, a ceremony was held to officially raise the Olympic and Paralympic flags in front of the Gangwon Provincial Government building.

The event was attended by more than 500 people, including South Korea's sports industry experts and officials, as well as athletes and other Games stakeholders. The country's top ice sledge hockey player, Seung-Hwan Jung, hoisted the Paralympic flag.

The ceremony concluded with attendees shouting out slogans in unison, pledging a successful delivery of the 2018 Games.

In July, PyeongChang will host a debrief session, allowing for reflection and discussion of key outcomes from the Sochi 2014 Games.

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In October, the IPC Governing Board will meet to decide which sports will make up the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic sports programme.

1964 anniversary
November will mark 50 years since the Tokyo 1964 Games, which attracted 375 athletes from 21 countries who competed in nine sports. To mark the anniversary, the IPC will team up with Tokyo 2020 to highlight the growth of the Paralympic Movement in the last 50 years and how the performances of athletes have increased ahead of the 2020 Games.



The Sochi 2014 Paralympics proved a success in the US, thanks to inspiring athletes and performances as well as unprecedented TV coverage on NBC and NBCSN.

The Rio 2016 Games present an opportunity to build on that momentum. The platform is in place, with NBC Olympics set to produce more than 60 hours, a massive jump from five-plus hours of the London 2012 Paralympics.

The formula for American interest in the Paralympics is similar to that of the Olympics. US medal success, plus captivating storylines will earn an embrace of the Paralympic Movement.

We saw that in Sochi.

Tatyana McFadden added a winter medal to her track and field trophy case, the ice sledge hockey team, with the Bravo Delta Line, beat the Russians for gold, and the US men swept the podium in snowboarding's debut.

The ability for viewers to quickly transition from the Olympics to the Paralympics in Rio will be key. That break of a little more than



Nick Zaccardi's view

How can the Paralympic Movement crack America?

two weeks offers Americans the chance to be inspired by Olympic stars and keep their attention on Rio by learning about the great Paralympic hopes and storylines.

Nick Zaccardi

Nationality: American

Title: NBC OlympicTalk Editor

Most-well known for:
Covering the Sochi 2014 Games for NBC online

The late summer is a crowded time for US sports fans, with the NFL starting, the MLB play-off chase and the

US Open tennis tournament, among other events.

Yet there is unlimited space for audiences to consume content. Not only is NBC Olympics airing more coverage across NBC and NBCSN, but there is comprehensive live streaming of every sport from the IPC at Paralympic.org, the USOC at TeamUSA.org, and additional digital coverage of the Games at NBCOlympics.com.

Then there's social media, where some athletes have built their own brand.

The media landscape will change from Sochi to Rio, but the Paralympics have adapted well from Vancouver to London to Sochi. The US is embracing the Paralympics more than ever before.

It will take a collaborative effort from the Games themselves, the athletes and the media to keep that momentum going.



US President Barack Obama and wife Michelle honour US Paralympic and Olympic athletes at the White House after the Sochi 2014 Games



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