

THE

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PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org



A total of **59**
European records were
broken in Berlin, 31 of
which were world
records



“Vergeer is an amazing sports woman. She is a two-time Laureus Award winner and unbeaten in over 410 games. As the world number one tennis player, she will be aiming for her fourth consecutive gold in the Women’s Singles at London 2012.”

Dear Readers,

The London 2012 Paralympic Games are just one year away, and I, like you, am growing more excited by the day.

To celebrate the landmark countdown, this is a London ‘One Year to Go’ special of The Paralympian and features a guest interview by the Daily Telegraph’s award-winning writer Gareth Davies with Chris Holmes, London 2012’s Director of Paralympic Integration.

In addition, we have a guide to the London 2012 venues. Channel 4 and the BBC, the host broadcaster and radio partner of the Games also choose their ‘12 for 2012’ – the athletes they believe will be the star performers next year.

We also catch up with the latest progress from the Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Organizing Committees and get reaction from PyeongChang after they won the right to stage the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

After staging a successful international forum on Sports for People with a Disability in Abu Dhabi in May, NPC United Arab Emirates are the NPC in Profile this edition whilst Classification is the focus of the Medical and Science section. In the Partners and Patrons pages we look at how Allianz, DB Schenker and Visa are benefitting the Paralympic Movement.

Last time round we previewed an exciting Youth Workshop that was scheduled for April in El Salvador. Well, in this edition we catch up with a child and a trainer who took part in the weeklong initiative to find out what they thought of the workshop and how it will help them in the future.

We also take a closer look at Wheelchair Tennis, a sport which is growing in size and stature all the time, partly due to the success of Esther Vergeer, the Dutch tennis player.

Vergeer is an amazing sports woman. She is a two-time Laureus Award winner and unbeaten in over 410 games. As the world number one tennis player, she will be aiming for her fourth consecutive gold in the Women’s Singles at London 2012.

As usual we review a number of major events which have recently taken place in the Paralympic sporting calendar including the 2011 IPC Swimming European Championships, the 2011 IPC Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon World Championships and the BT Paralympic World Cup.

We also look ahead to August’s Boccia World Cup in Ireland, September’s All-African Games in Mozambique and November’s Parapan American Games in Mexico.

Last but not least, we’re delighted that The Paralympian has won a prestigious international accolade at the 2011 Communicator Awards, organized by the International Academy of the Visual Arts. The magazine beat off 6,000 competitors to scoop the Award of Excellence in the Best Print category for non-profit organizations.

Happy reading.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





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

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A Vision for the Future

Chris Holmes, Director of Paralympic Integration,
at the London 2012 Paralympic Games

“The Paralympic Movement is on a fantastic march and is just going to new places, experiencing new things and really just developing at a fantastic rate.”

Chris Holmes must have his fair share of sleepless nights in spite of his assertion that preparations for the 2012 Paralympic Games are in “tremendously good shape” with just over one year to go before the flame is lit in the cauldron in Stratford, London.

After all, the Paralympic Movement is returning to its spiritual birthplace in England, and Holmes, MBE, a decorated former Paralympic swimming star, has been at the coalface, overseeing all aspects of planning and integration for London 2012.

Holmes is a remarkable man. He lost his sight overnight aged 14, yet undaunted, went on to read Politics at Cambridge University and as an undergraduate, won a record six gold medals at the 1992 Paralympics.

Holmes was a Commissioner on the board of the Disability Rights Commission from 2002-2007 and left a leading City international law firm for this role within the London Organizing Committee.

Holmes has his feelers across many areas at London's Organizing Committee. “We're in tremendously good shape but the real focus now is the testing and readiness programme, ensuring all the Paralympic elements that we want to go perfectly at Games time are embedded into the testing programmes.”

Holmes has seen the advantages of an integrated bidding process, which has meant that all but a few venues – such as Wheelchair Tennis in Eton Manor – have been purpose-built for both Games.

Surely there have been some teething issues... “With any complex project of this size, you have to have a coherent, integrated programme on budget. The focus has been on the core programme, ensuring that some of the issues that have perhaps traditionally

been problematic for Games, such as having to build on time, the budget, have been scrutinised all the way through. There's thousands and thousands of elements and thousands and thousands of bits of detail that have been done, and thousands still to do, but we're in great shape.”

Holmes is particularly pleased with the transport programme. “We now have the prototype for the accessible bus for the athletes and on that, we're able to get six wheelchair users at any time and that's a fantastic step forward. It ticks all the boxes in terms of accessibility, it's inclusive because those guys can travel with their teammates and, in terms of the operation that we're running, it means we can run an effective, efficient operation.”

Great thought has also gone into how tickets have been structured. Holmes explained that the ‘day passes’ will create an open access atmosphere away from the most popular sports – Swimming, Athletics, Cycling and wheelchair basketball. “Sports such as Wheelchair Fencing, Goalball, Boccia will be opened up to spectators.”

The watchwords have been “affordability and accessibility”. Holmes explained: “Ninety five per cent of tickets are £50 or below, and the vast majority of tickets are within peoples price range – £20 and under. That's a great deal.

“In Beijing, what a lot of people talked about when the Paralympics were on, was that vibe, that energy, that buzz in the park. That's certainly what we're going to be looking at both at the venues, in the park and crucially throughout the whole of the city.

“The Paralympic Movement is on a fantastic march and is just going to new places, experiencing new things and really just developing at a fantastic rate. When I started competing, you'd never have believed that one day

By Gareth A Davies,
Paralympics Correspondent,
The Daily Telegraph



all the UK broadcasters would be vying to get the broadcast rights to show the Games. Phenomenal.”

In addition to the media attention, the Paralympic Games has also secured a multi-million pound sponsorship deal from the UK supermarket chain, Sainsbury's, which is visited by 21.5 million Britons each week.

The deal, which Holmes describes as “the biggest commercial deal ever done for a Paralympic Games”, will bring more exposure for Paralympic Sport and mainstream awareness, Holmes hopes.

“In one word, what I really hope is that London can be ‘transformational’.

“Personally, one thing that I think will really make London special is if we enable people, spectators, the general public, even tourists just passing through London, to have a really connective experience, to get closer to the athletes, closer to the sport, closer to the action and gain a real sense of what Paralympic sport is, with its unique sense of humanity and humility.”

If they do that, with Holmes at the helm, London 2012 will have sent a message to the world.

This Interview is also available on:

>> www.youtube.com/ParalympicSport.TV

Paralympic Sites

With one year to go until the London 2012 Paralympic Games, many of the venues are either completed or close to completion. Below is your guide to where the action will take place in the British capital and further afield.

web >> www.london2012.com

Olympic Park Locations



Athletes' Village
Cost: £711 million
Hosting: The Village will provide accommodation for 4,200 athletes and thousands of officials and will include shops, restaurants, medical and leisure facilities



Basketball Arena
Capacity: 12,000
Cost: £43 million
Hosting: Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby



Eton Manor
Capacity: 10,500
Hosting: Wheelchair Tennis, aquatics training



Velodrome
Capacity: 6,000
Cost: £93 million
Hosting: Cycling – Track



Aquatics Centre
Capacity: 17,500
Cost: £269 million
Role: Swimming

London Locations Outside the Olympic Park



Greenwich Park
Hosting: Paralympic Equestrian
Fact: Greenwich Park is London's oldest Royal Park, dating back to 1433. It has been a World Heritage Site since 1997. Within the Park is The Royal Observatory and the home of Greenwich Mean Time



ExCel
Hosting: Boccia, Judo, Powerlifting, Table Tennis, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Fencing
Fact: ExCel is one of Europe's largest and most versatile exhibition spaces



The Royal Artillery Barracks
Hosting: Archery, Shooting
Fact: Four temporary indoor shooting ranges will be built on the historical site of the Royal Artillery Barracks, which were built in 1776



North Greenwich Arena
Hosting: Wheelchair Basketball
Fact: Originally built for the Millennium celebrations, North Greenwich Arena has been transformed into a sports and entertainment arena with shops and restaurants

Paralympic Venues Outside of London



Eton Dorney
Hosting: Paralympic Rowing
Fact: Eton Dorney is a world-class training and competition facility



Weymouth and Portland, Dorset
Hosting: Sailing
Fact: The site of Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy



Brands Hatch
Hosting: Cycling – Road
Fact: Brands Hatch is one of Europe's leading motor racing venues



Hockey Centre
Capacity: 16,000
Hosting: Football 5-a-side and 7-a-side



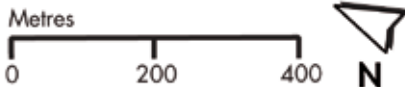
IBC/MPC
Cost: £301 million
Hosting: During the Paralympic Games, the International Broadcast Centre/ Main Press Centre will host thousands of the world's media in state of the art facilities



Handball Arena
Capacity: Up to 7,000
Cost: £43 million
Hosting: Goalball



Olympic Stadium
Capacity: 80,000
Cost: £486 million
Hosting: Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Athletics



Making the Most of the Opportunity



By Tim Reddish, Chairperson of Paralympics GB

As a nation, Great Britain has demonstrated considerable success, finishing second on the medal table at the last three Paralympic Games. Despite this, ParalympicsGB has a much lower profile than we would like.

A home Paralympic Games offers us a huge opportunity in this area and, despite being a small organisation of just 22 people, we are working flat-out to engage more people with our sports and athletes.

There is no doubt that a home Games will heighten interest in Paralympic Sport. The British public has a good appetite for more information on Paralympic sports and athletes, and we are working closely with all our partners and the media to maximise this interest.

Of course during the Games we will be focussing on chasing down as many medals as possible. We are very proud of our record at the Paralympic Games and we are

expecting to field our biggest and best team ever in London. So Games-time will be about winning medals and inspiring the nation to take up sport.

We want the Paralympic Games to bring about a major shift in the public perception of Paralympic Sport, and disability sport in general, to show that our athletes are equally talented and skilled as Olympic athletes. We want our athletes to go out and win medals, of course we do, but the



The Olympic Stadium, which is surrounded by waterways on three sides, can be reached via five bridges

real opportunity of the home Games lies in changing people's attitudes. Once people realise that Paralympic Sport is just as brilliant as Olympic sport, then that also brings about a shift in the way that people perceive disability in general.

After the Games, we want to maximise the public engagement and awareness to encourage more people to take up sport. Our long-term goal is to use the inspirational performances of our athletes on the field

of play to encourage the next generation of Paralympians to take up sport. That would be a great legacy for the London 2012 Paralympics.

To maximize the impact of the Games, we're working closely with the Government, the Organising Committee, National Governing Bodies and partners to ensure there is a sustainable legacy in the key areas of education, awareness, provision and participation levels.



Tim Reddish, Chairperson of Paralympics GB, is a man of action

Twelve Brits to Look Out For in 2012

Picked by Channel 4 Presenters Ade Adepitan and Rick Edwards

Ade's Pick



Helen Freeman
(Wheelchair Basketball)

Helen was in a class of her own at the BT Paralympic World Cup in Manchester in May, securing gold for the GB women's side with an average of 20 points per game. I'd bet on the team getting a medal in London.



Andrew Lapthorne
(Wheelchair Tennis)

Andy's young and hugely talented. He has an expert slice, cute drop shots and a good forehand. Ranked world number one doubles player, he and his partner Peter 'The Quadfather' Norfolk have Paralympic gold potential.



Sarah Storey
(Track/Road Cycling)

Sarah's a banker for the podium. Not only does she win medals in the velodrome (she won time trial and individual pursuit golds in Beijing), she's also a force on the road. And she could potentially ride at the Olympics too.

Rick's Pick



Hannah Cockroft
(Athletics)

Hannah pushed to gold in the 100m and 200m T34 at the IPC World Champs in New Zealand. Barring a serious setback in her preparations, Hannah should be unstoppable in 2012.



Stephen Miller
(Athletics)

Stephen's Paralympic record is outstanding – gold in Atlanta, Sydney, Athens, and silver in Beijing. Stephen hates to lose, so I will confidently back him to launch his club to gold in London.



Matt Skelhon
(Shooting)

Matt will be looking to defend the SH1 10 m prone air rifle gold he won (by half a point!) back at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. London 2012 may also see the return of his famous red spiky Mohican.

More Recommendations



David Weir
(Athletics)

On home territory, the 32-year-old multi World and Paralympic champion and five-time London marathon winner is the man to beat. Expect thrilling races with the likes of Switzerland's Marcel Hug and Australia's Kurt Fearnley.



Eleanor Simmonds
(Swimming)

After winning two golds in Beijing aged just 13, Simmonds has amplified her success: four-time World Champion, five World Records and Member of the British Empire. She is one of the most recognizable faces in British sport.



Danielle Brown
(Archery)

The 23-year-old Beijing gold medallist in individual compound open archery repeated her success with team gold on the able-bodied team at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Expect her to be on target for gold in London.



Deanna Coates
(Shooting)

A winner of eight Paralympic shooting medals, including three golds, London 2012 could be the 58-year-old's eighth Paralympic Games since 1984. Her experience could prove invaluable for the British team.



Nigel Murray
(Boccia)

A winner of team gold and individual silver in Beijing, Murray, who is now ranked world number one in the BC2 class for Boccia, will be going for gold in the individual event.



Tom Aggar
(Rowing)

The former rugby player took up rowing in 2006 to keep fit and has since dominated the scene, winning gold at the Beijing Paralympics and several World Championships in the ASM single scull boat class.



BBC Radio 5 Live presenter and former Paralympian Tanni Grey-Thompson gave The Paralympian her pick of world athletes to look out for in 2012 on the following pages...

Final Countdown



London 2012

With one year to go until London 2012, Paralympic preparations are hot-ting up.

On 8 September London's iconic Trafalgar Square will stage International Paralympic Day, an IPC event which plans to give the public a taste of what they can expect in 12 months time.

Featuring exhibitions in 10 Paralympic sports and public participation opportunities, International Paralympic Day aims to build on previous successful events which have attracted a combined audience of over 120,000 people.

"It's a fantastic way for the public to learn more about Paralympic sports and get a taster of the excitement that they will witness during the Paralympic Games," said Seb Coe, Chairperson of LOCOG.

One of the highlights of the day will be an attempt to break the world record for the longest ever Sitting Volleyball rally.

Chef de Missions attending a seminar in the British capital will also be at the event to accept invitations from London 2012 to attend the Games.

Mandeville, the Paralympic Games mascot who recently celebrated its first birthday, will also be attending.

The day after International Paralympic Day, on 9 September, tickets for the London 2012

Paralympic Games will go on sale.

Over one million people have already registered their interest in buying tickets at www.tickets.london2012.com, and 50 per cent of tickets are priced £10 or less – with £10 being the lowest adult price.

The Beijing 2008 Paralympics sold 1.8 million tickets and London 2012 is hoping to top that with two million tickets available to buy.

"The UK is the spiritual home of the Paralympic movement and with superb medal prospects for ParalympicsGB, we believe that the British public will come out in their thousands to watch," said Paul Deighton, CEO of LOCOG.

In the build-up to the Games, the IPC has appointed the Press Association as host national news agency to provide the most comprehensive coverage yet for events in the run up to London 2012 and the Paralympic Games themselves. A dedicated team of journalists will work across all 20 London 2012 Paralympic Games sporting disciplines to provide unrivalled coverage to national and regional media including distribution to over 400 local news websites, as well as to its extensive corporate client base.

www.london2012.com



Sochi 2014

Introducing Ray of Light and Snowflake

Ray of Light and Snowflake, the two mascots of the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, were on hand in June to help celebrate the 1,000-day-to-go landmark.

To mark the celebrations, the Sochi 2014 Organizing Committee launched an innovative "Accessibility Map" with the main objective being to help people with an impairment in Russia find easily accessible locations where they can engage in Paralympic sports. The map will also provide information about the elements that help to create barrier-free environments in local areas such as ramps, hand rails and non-slip surfaces.

A total of 14 Russian cities also hosted 1,000-day-to-go festivities, and in Sochi volunteers of the Russian State Social University organized a Flash Mob of Equal Opportunities. Lining up in a formation of the Paralympic Symbol, they released hundreds of balloons as a sign of their commitment to the Paralympic Movement in Russia.

Dmitry Chernyshenko, President of the Organizing Committee said: "On 11 June we started the 1,000 day countdown to this historic event for Russia. This event is destined to bring about radical change in the attitude of Russian society towards people with an impairment."

www.sochi2014.com



Rio 2016

Extracting the Essence

The design for the Rio 2016 Paralympic emblem has been chosen, but not yet announced. The Brazilian design agency Tatil Design de Ideias was commissioned to create the emblem, having successfully designed the Olympic emblem for Rio 2016.

Once extensive worldwide copyright checks have successfully been carried out, the new emblem will be launched in November.

The Paralympic emblem will gain national and international exposure in the run up to the Games and will be the symbol of the event on products, campaigns and TV images.

In designing the new emblem, Tatil Founding Partner and Creative Director Fred Gelli immersed itself in the "values and essence" of the Paralympic world and built on the agency's experience of creating the Rio 2016 Olympic emblem.

"We want to create a brand that can inspire the audiences as much as Paralympic athletes do by their determination and strength to overcome adversity," he said.

At an Executive Project Review in June, the the Organizing Committee presented to the IPC their plans on different areas including Rio 2016 organizational structure and its focus on the planning of the Paralympic Games. Sport and venue updates were also given after the inclusion of two new sports (Para-Triathlon and Para-Canoe) in the Paralympic Sport programme.

Another important part of the Project Review were the progress reports from all levels of government which demonstrated the intention to leave a long and lasting legacy for people with an impairment in Rio after the Games. Updates were given on accessibility initiatives, social inclusion as well as sport programmes.

www.rio2016.com



The judging panel is confident that the Rio 2016 Paralympic emblem captures the essence of the Games

Mallory Weggemann (USA)

At last year's IPC Swimming World Championships the 22-year-old claimed eight gold medals and smashed nine world records. Expect her or Natalie du Toit (RSA), who will be targeting seven golds in her last Paralympic Games, to grab the headlines in the Aquatics Centre. Also look out for Ben Huot (CAN), Daniel Dias (BRA) and Matthew Cowdrey (AUS).

World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

Wheelchair Tennis

One of the Fastest Growing Wheelchair Sports in the World

One Man’s Vision

Wheelchair Tennis was the brainchild of American Brad Parks. Paralyzed in a free-style skiing competition, his idea was to allow the tennis ball to bounce twice, but to keep the court, racket and balls the same, so that Wheelchair Tennis could be integrated easily with the able-bodied game.

The sport progressed quickly. During the 1980s Wheelchair Tennis had hundreds of players in the USA and spread to Europe and Australia. In 1988 the International Wheelchair Tennis Federation (IWTF) was formed and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) adopted the two bounce rule in the official Rules of Tennis, formally sanctioning the new sport.

At the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games Wheelchair Tennis became a full medal



Mark Bullock, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager is focusing on grassroots growth of the sport

Event. On 1 January 1998 the IWTF was full integrated into the ITF, and by 2007 it was sanctioned and integrated into the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments.

Developing the Grassroots

The ITF is currently focussing its efforts on increasing participation at the grassroots level, especially in developing countries. One way it is doing this is through working with the IPC and International Wheelchair Basketball Federation to develop a low cost wheelchair.

“It’s made a huge difference because through our events projects, instead of not being able to donate anything in the past, we’re now in a position where we can give 10 to 15 chairs when we do a project,” said Mark Bullock, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Manager “We’re pretty pleased with the way it’s gone.”

The ITF is also aiming to provide people with more opportunities to play at all levels, and this includes targeting able-bodied clubs and schools.

“We’re trying to work through our Tennis Federations to offer opportunities at the micro level so people can play the sport, even if people just want to play a couple of times a week and have no intention of getting into the world ranking,” said Bullock.

Fastest Growing Sport

Today, Wheelchair Tennis is one of the fastest growing sports in the world with more than 10,000 players worldwide.

The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, which originated in 1992 with 11 international tournaments, now features 173 tournaments that take place in 46 countries. Last year, the tour boasted more than \$1 million in prize money.

In addition, the World Team Cup has also enjoyed astronomical growth as Mark Bullock explained: “It originally started out in the 1980s as a friendly competition between some nations before the US Open but now has become our equivalent of the Davis or Federation Cup with 32 nations taking part.

“From 2012 we’re expanding it further with regional qualifications so that any nation that wants to play can enter.”

Looking Ahead to London

The ITF is also looking at more integrated events with able-bodied competitions, especially at outdoor events where there are a greater number of courts available. Growing the sport’s profile is also a priority especially with London 2012 approaching.

“TV is an area that we’re focusing on,” said Bullock. “We certainly get television

10,000 registered players

170 tournaments worldwide

35 years of Wheelchair Tennis

4 Grand Slams

2 bounces



at the Grand Slams because the crews are already there, and year-on-year, slam-by-slam, media and TV coverage increases.

“In London we’re really looking at putting on a great event and using it as an opportunity to promote the sport globally. We’re making sure we’re in the best position to take advantage of the media interest and TV interest around the world.”

The London 2012 Wheelchair Tennis events will be held at Eton Manor, a purpose built facility in Olympic Park featuring nine competition and four warm up courts and a seating capacity for 10,500 fans.

Tickets to London 2012 Wheelchair Tennis events start from £15 and are included in the Day Pass package which allows spectators to see all sports in the Park with the exception of Athletics, Cycling and Swimming.

web >> www.itftennis.com/wheelchair



FACTS

London 2012 Paralympic medal events
Men’s Singles – 64 Competitors
Women’s Singles – 32 Competitors
Quad Singles – 16 Competitors
Men’s Doubles - Maximum 32 Pairs
Women’s Doubles - Maximum 16 Pairs
Quad Doubles – Maximum 8 Pairs

NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour
Features 173 tournaments in 46 countries

Grand Slam
Wheelchair Tennis is fully integrated into all four Grand Slam events: the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon, and the US Open

Classes
Wheelchair: To be eligible to compete, a player must have a medically diagnosed permanent and substantial impairment in one or both legs

Quad: A quad player has an impairment in three or more limbs



- 1976** Brad Parks hits his first tennis balls from a wheelchair and sees the potential of the sport
- 1981** The first “Grand Prix Circuit” was established consisting of a series of four major events in different cities across the USA
- 1985** An international team competition, the World Team Cup, was established, with six men’s teams competing in the inaugural event
- 1988** Wheelchair Tennis featured as an exhibition sport at the Seoul Paralympic Games and The International Wheelchair Tennis Federation (IWTF) was founded
- 1998** The IWTF became part of the International Tennis Federation
- 1992** Wheelchair Tennis was introduced as a full medal event at the Barcelona Paralympic Games, and has featured at every Games since then
- 2007** The first year that Wheelchair Tennis was a fully sanctioned event at all four Grand Slams: the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open



- 2009** The world ranking structure was changed to make the Grand Slams the top tier wheelchair tennis events in terms of ranking points and prize money, to align themselves with able-bodied tennis
- 2010** Brad Parks was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame alongside able-bodied players, and continues to be an ambassador for the ITF
- 2011** The World Team Cup has grown to become the equivalent of the Davis Cup with 32 nations taking part. From 2012, it’ll be expanded with regional qualifications so that any nation that wants to play can enter

World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012



Esther Vergeer (NED)

The 30-year-old will be aiming for her fourth consecutive Wheelchair Tennis gold medal in London and will start as an overwhelming favourite in the Women’s singles as she is undefeated in over 410 matches dating back to January 2003.



Esther Vergeer

The World's Greatest Living Sportswoman



Vergeer has been nominated five times for the annual Laureus Award for Sportsperson with a Disability, winning it twice in 2002 and 2008

“I think it would be good if I lost, but I’m not going to lose on purpose. The other girls will have to work harder and find a way to beat me.”

Esther Vergeer is a phenomenon. Unbeaten in over 410 Wheelchair Tennis singles matches, dating back more than eight years, she is arguably the greatest living sportswoman on the planet.

It has not always been plain sailing though for the 30 year old from the Netherlands, as she told The Paralympian.

Life Changing

Vergeer lost the use of her legs aged eight, after doctors operated on her spinal cord to treat a condition. The surgeons removed some crucial nerve endings, and when she woke up after the operation, she was unable to walk.

At first, the abrupt change meant she struggled with fitting back into everyday life. She started playing sports at a rehabilitation clinic, where she met Monique Kalkman, the world number one Wheelchair Tennis player at the time.

“She was my role model and became my idol. She inspired me to play Tennis,” Vergeer said. “Sports made me realize what I could still do and made me overcome and accept my disability.”

At the time Vergeer was also playing Wheelchair Basketball and was part of the Netherlands team that won the 1997 European Championship. She found being dependent on the rest of the team for good results challenging and decided the individual sport of tennis suited her drive more. From then on, she channelled her energies into becoming world number one.

Most Recent Achievements

Beijing 2008
– Gold medal (singles),
Silver medal (doubles)

Grand slam titles won in 2011
– Australian Open (singles and doubles)
– French Open (singles and doubles)
Wimbledon (doubles)



The last time Esther Vergeer lost a Singles Wheelchair Tennis match...



...Manchester United were top of the Premier League and after the season, David Beckham signed for Real Madrid



...Martin Scorsese won the Golden Globes for Best Director for “The Gangs of New York”

...Women were wearing peasant tops, cargo trousers and Ugg boots

...Eminem’s “Lose Yourself” was a number one hit

...The Christian Democrats narrowly beat off Labour in the Dutch elections



...George W. Bush was US President



Inspired by Monique Kalkman, Vergeer is unbeaten in over 410 matches

Mind over Matter = World Dominance

It clearly worked as since October 2000 she has been the world’s number one and hasn’t lost a singles match since January 2003 when Australia’s Daniela di Toro beat her at the Sydney International, a defeat Vergeer puts down to a lack of preparation.

Whereas di Toro had been training in the Australian sun on the tournament surface, Vergeer came from a European winter, with little time to acclimatize. She has learned her lesson.

“Daniela was just better than me that day. I wasn’t prepared enough,” Vergeer admitted. “I don’t want to blame myself for not preparing well.”

Vergeer admits her winning streak could potentially be damaging to Wheelchair Tennis because people may not take the sport seriously.

“I think it would be good if I lost,” she quipped, “But I’m not going to lose on purpose. The other girls will have to work harder and find a way to beat me.”

Making a Difference

Vergeer’s achievements and experience have empowered her. “Having a disability isn’t the end of the world. The fact I can’t walk up stairs doesn’t influence my life so much.

“I’m really, really happy. I have a boyfriend, my own house, I travel around the world – all those things make me feel good.”

Vergeer’s experience with Kalkman in the clinic 17 years ago had a huge impact on her and she too decided she wanted to give something back. Six years ago, she set up the Esther Vergeer Foundation which aims to inspire Dutch kids with impairments to play sports.



Above with compatriot Maikel Scheffers after winning this year’s French Open

She also established Team ParaStars (www.teamparastars.nl), a team of Dutch Paralympians, who she hopes can enjoy a greater profile and fan base in the Netherlands.

“I want to ask everybody to become a fan of Team Parastars, by singing up at the website,” she said.

In the run up to London 2012, as well as training to win, Vergeer will hope to make her ParaStars household names.



World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

Siamand Rahman (IRA)

He surprised everyone last year setting a new world record of 285kg in the Men’s 100kg+ category at the IPC Powerlifting World Championships. He improved his record further at the Asian Para Games lifting 290 kg, almost three times his body weight.



T54 wheelchair racer Vahdani Mohamed in action

United Arab Emirates Paralympic Committee

Aspiring to Host an International Paralympic Event



Mohammed Al Hameli want to raise Paralympic sport to a whole new level.

UAE SPORTS SPECIALIST AT THE HELM

His Excellency Mohammed Mohammed Fadel Al Hameli began his career in finance and administration before joining the Zayed Higher Organization for Humanitarian Care and People with Special Needs in 2004.

Since then Mr. Al Hameli has been increasingly involved in the world of sport. In 2007 he was elected to the UAE Federal National Council for a four year term and in 2008 he became Chairperson of the UAE Paralympics Committee.

He is also Deputy Chairperson of the Asian Football Confederation Social Responsibility Committee, Board Member of the UAE General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare and Vice President of the UAE National Olympic Committee.



Having just hosted an international forum on Sports for People with a Disability, which tackled the challenges that impaired athletes face, the UAE Paralympic Committee now has its eye on hosting an international Paralympic event in the future.

To find out how the Paralympic Movement is gaining momentum in the UAE, The Paralympian spoke to H.E. Mohammed Mohammed Fadel Al Hameli, Chairperson of NPC UAE.



Abu Dhabi



Alzaabi Thuraya, Alzarouni Mohamed and Alaryani Abdulla Sultan all enjoying the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games



HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

The United Arab Emirates Paralympic Committee celebrated its 15th birthday in June this year, but UAE Paralympic athletes were active long before that. They competed for the first time internationally at the 1990 International Stoke Mandeville Games with five powerlifters and table tennis players. This December, the UAE will host the event's successor, the IWAS World Games.

A key milestone of UAE NPC's progress came three years ago when a new board was formed and Al Hameli became Chairperson of NPC UAE.

"We wanted to raise the Paralympic Movement in the UAE to a different level," Mohammed Al Hameli said.

The new board put in place a five year strategy in the run up to London 2012 focussing on making sports facilities available for Paralympians, which can be more difficult in rural areas of the Emirates.

Five clubs in the UAE help to prepare impaired athletes for competition: the Abu Dhabi Disabled Sports Club, Alain Disabled Sports Club, Dubai Club for Special Sports, Althiqah Club for the Disabled and the Khorfakkan Club for the Disabled.

FOOTBALL FEVER

Although the UAE NPC has been gaining momentum in the past few years, it

"We would love to have some major event hosted by the UAE"

faces an uphill struggle to compete for attention with other popular sports, like football.

"We're in a region where football dominates all sports, and in order for us to break that barrier, there are lots of things to do," said Al Hameli.

High up on Al Hameli's agenda is raising the profile of Paralympic sports in the media, and he's pretty satisfied with what the UAE NPC has accomplished so far.

"I think we've achieved more than we expected in increasing the awareness of Paralympic sports," Al Hameli said, adding that May's international forum received unprecedented press coverage and was broadcast live on the Abu Dhabi Sport Channel.

The NPC Chairperson wants to translate this growing attention into sustainable financial support, particularly by nurturing its relationship with the business world.

THE FUTURE

With a strong history of hosting major sports events, like the F1 Grand Prix, and pre-season football tours for major clubs, the UAE NPC is now keen to stage a major Paralympic

event such as a World Championships.

"That is a dream which we would like to see become reality," Al Hameli said, adding, "It requires lots of work to present to and convince the officials, but we would love to have some major event hosted by the UAE.

"Given all the support from the government and the President and Prime Minister and also the Crown Prince, who came to attend some of the conference, it gives us a lot of encouragement to organize a big event," Al Hameli said.

BUILDING A CHAMPION

With London 2012 a year away, the UAE is focusing on a select group of elite athletes, as part of their "To Build a Champion" programme.

"We hope this will bring the UAE to the winning stage for some of the athletes," Al Hameli said.

The country is focusing its efforts on Shooting, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Racing and hopes to repeat or better Mohamed Khamis Khalaf's silver in Powerlifting at the Beijing Paralympics.

Malaleih Hassan celebrates winning Shot Put gold at the Guangzhou 2010 Asian Para Games



World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

USA (Wheelchair Rugby)

Wheelchair Rugby is one of the toughest and fastest sports around and the USA are unbeaten in every major event since the 2006 Wheelchair Rugby World Championships. They have won four out of the last five World Championships and beat Australia in Beijing to take Paralympic gold.





DB SCHENKERSportsevents was instrumental in delivery equipment to the Beijing 2008 Paralympics

DB SCHENKERSportsevents Gears Up for London 2012

Over 1,000 days have passed since the Beijing 2008 Paralympics and there are now less than 400 to go until London 2012.

It is the calm before the storm for DB SCHENKERSportsevents which will take on the massive logistical challenge of transporting equipment, medication and other goods to London on behalf of National Paralympic Committees from all around the world.

At the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, the company provided logistical services to the IPC and about half of the 146 NPCs taking part. It will be Nina Schneider's responsibility again to liaise with NPCs and get their most precious cargo to London – something that won't come without its logistical challenges.



"Many participants remember the customs and security regulations, which had to be adhered to before the goods were sent to Beijing, like medicine and food imports and exports having to go on separate packing lists. DB SCHENKERSportsevents made sure we jumped through all the bureaucratic hoops to get everything delivered on time," Schneider said.

"Deliveries had to be made at night because of the high air pollution, and for the return flight back home, no liquids were allowed to be packed in the shipments," she said.

Despite all these logistical headaches, everything went smoothly thanks to the great co-operation between the NPCs and the largest DB SCHENKERSportsevents team that had ever worked on Paralympic Games.

For the last year the team has been preparing for the new challenges of London 2012. As a part of the DB Schenker Olympic & Paralympic Competence Centre, Nina Schneider is the main contact for London 2012 and other Paralympic events. If NPCs have any questions, they can contact Nina Schneider by email nina.schneider@dbschenker.com or by phone +49-6107-74905.

For DB Schenker's top 10 tips on how to transport goods to and from the UK, check out the next edition of The Paralympian.

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

Visa Pre-paid London 2012 Paralympic Games Themed Cards

Visa is pleased to offer our fellow Paralympic Family members a selection of great prepaid products that can help manage spending and hospitality at the London 2012 Games.

Whether it is paying expenses or just providing hospitality guests a memento for their special day at the London 2012 Games, Visa has a pre-paid solution.

You can choose from a reloadable card for employees, a range of gift cards that can be given to guests at the Games or to suppliers and employees as a gift at any time.

And they are not just for use during the London 2012 Games. All Visa prepaid cards can be used wherever Visa is accepted across the UK. Reloadable cards can be used internationally, so you can order now for delivery in late 2011, and use them right up until December 2012.

Please contact akhurnik@visa.com for further information.



Allianz has been upgraded to "International Partner"

Allianz Strengthens its Paralympic Support

Allianz SE, one of the world's leading integrated financial services providers, has strengthened its support of the Paralympic Movement by renewing its global partnership with the International Paralympic Committee and agreeing to six further partnerships with National Paralympic Committees.

After five years as Gold Patron of the IPC, Allianz has agreed a two year renewal which will see it upgraded to become the organization's first "International Partner".

"There is a strong link that ties Allianz to the Paralympics," said Werner Zedelius, member of the Board of Management of Allianz SE. "The topics of health, rehabilitation and reintegration after a casualty are part of our daily business. 650 million people worldwide are living with a disability, but disability is an issue not only for those directly affected: one in four Europeans has a family member with a disability. Extending your view on co-workers, neighbours and friends, you will find that disability is an issue that concerns all of us."

In addition to its support of the German and Portuguese National Paralympic Committees, Allianz has become "National Supporter" of six more National Paralympic Committees: Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Ireland, Switzerland and Turkey.

As well as promoting the Paralympic Movement, Allianz also believes company employees can learn from Paralympians.

"Allianz sees Paralympic athletes as role models for true motivation and as the most credible personalities to give advice on managing personal crisis," said Joseph K. Gross, Head of Group Market Management at Allianz SE. "Athletes help us understand our customers' needs even better by seeing how sport helps people master their personal challenges."

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

World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012



Tatyana McFadden (USA)

Born paralyzed from the waist down, McFadden was adopted from a St. Petersburg orphanage aged six and moved to the USA. The T54 racer won four gold medals and broke two world records at the 2011 World Championships and will be looking to improve on the four silver and two bronze medals she has won in Athens and Beijing.



El Salvador Workshop

In April 2011, the International Paralympic Foundation organized its first Youth Workshop in El Salvador aimed at helping young athletes and trainers from disadvantaged backgrounds and developing countries to train and prepare for international competition. It was funded by the Foundation of Global Sports Development with 50,000 US dollars. Here is how two of the participants found the experience:



Placido Crespo is a visually impaired athlete from Panama.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| After a long journey I was excited about visiting another country because I've never left Panama before or been with so many children with different impairments. | I was anxious because I am a person who likes to have fun and learn more every day. We went to the sports palace for the inauguration ceremony and afterwards we did a workshop about our rights. | After sports in the morning we did a workshop about strength and injury, which was important for me because I got injured. I can't do any physical activity, which is hard because I love running. | We left early for the track. While we were waiting for the day because I love running and competing afterwards we did a workshop on how to be an ambassador for Paralympic sport. | I'd never played table tennis before and found it quite demanding because you need strength and good technical abilities. The national workshop afterwards was useful to help me get healthy. | I gained confidence in the workshop because at school people make fun of me but at the workshop they said it's not important if you get something wrong as long as you participate. | I'd been looking forward to today. In the evening there was a party with lots of dancing. I found everything we'd done at the camp fun and learned a lot. Thanks for everything! |



Miguel Charris used to be a tennis coach in Panama until he suffered a stroke which paralyzed his left side. But it was not enough for him to retire from the sport that he loves.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| The welcome at Villa Cari was great. At first I felt nervous, excited and eager. But soon I felt like I was part of a family. The atmosphere was pleasant and cheerful. | El Salvador's First Lady, Vanda Piquero, opened the Youth Workshop and shook some of our hands, an experience which made me think having a disability isn't all bad. | I learned the technique for playing tennis in a wheelchair. I gained confidence with being able to return a tennis serve, even though I only have one hand that I can use. | Today I realized that disability is just a difference like being Chinese or Latino, fat or thin, footballer or tennis player, but other than that everyone is equal. | I learned that there are no obstacles in life unless we put them there. I saw blind people talking alone, helped by other blind people. | My favorite part of the day was being on the tennis courts. I really enjoyed playing tennis. I felt at home because it was a sport that I played and coached before I got sick. | The Youth Camp was an incredible experience, which made me realize that I can continue playing and coaching tennis, even with my disability. It inspired me to promote Wheelchair Tennis in Panama. |



NPC Rwanda Wins 'Spirit of Sport' Award



The National Paralympic Committee of Rwanda has won the SportAccord 'Spirit of Sport' award at the SportAccord General Assembly in London for its development project 'Engineering the future and promoting Paralympic Sport in Africa'.

SportAccord, an organization that aims to unite the world of sport, gives the award to commend its members who have used sport as a tool for positive social change.

"It was a pleasure for me and the whole team of the NPC Rwanda to win the award," said Dominique Bizimana, President of NPC Rwanda.

The NPC has almost 300 athletes competing in 13 sports, which in itself is a great achievement since sports for people with impairment is relatively new in Rwanda.

"Since the NPC Rwanda was established in 2001, a lot has changed in Rwandan soci-

ety. Sports for people with impairment have become stronger," said Bizimana, adding the NPC uses sport to advocate rights for people with a disability.

In 2008, the International Paralympic Committee selected NPC Rwanda as a target organization to begin an African Development Initiative to promote sports for people with impairment in Rwanda and East Africa.

"The NPC worked with different partners, like the Ministry of Education, to bring change to the education system and promote inclusive and integrated schools," said Bizimana.

Through an awareness campaign together with Rwandan authorities in 2008, the NPC helped to bring about the decision of the Rwandan Government to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.



NPC Rwanda has worked tirelessly to promote Paralympic Sport



"This award acknowledges the hard work and dedication that was put into this project by everyone involved," said IPC President Sir Philip Craven.

Get Set Goes Global



Get Set wants to link up schools around the world for the London 2012 Paralympics

In September, the London Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will launch a new strand of its education programme – Get Set goes global.

This gives National Paralympic Committees from around the world the opportunity to nominate a school to get connected with a UK school.

It's designed to encourage schools in the UK to learn about the competing nations of the world, to link up with young people from other countries and to help welcome the athletes, spectators and media of the world to the UK in 2012.

The schools will be encouraged to countdown to the London 2012 Paralympic Games together. They'll learn about Paralympic sports, venues, heritage and Mandeville the mascot of the Games.

Through Get Set goes global, UK schools will be encouraged to support a Paralympic team (along with ParalympicsGB) in the lead-up to the Games. LOCOG will provide schools with information about every team, including details of where teams are training in

the UK and a film about how athletes are preparing for the Paralympic Games.

Get Set is the official London 2012 education programme. It was launched in September 2008 and, to date, over 24,000 UK schools (approximately 80 per cent of the total) have undertaken London 2012 related activity through the programme.



World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

Marcel Hug (SUI)

The Swiss 'Silver Bullet' is the man most likely to spoil David Weir's (GBR) gold medal dreams. He holds the world record at every T54 track distance from 800m through to 10,000m but finished second to Weir over three distances at January's World Championships. He will be determined to win his first Paralympic gold in London.



From Visual Function to Functional Vision

What do you see?



Vision Acuity – people with acute vision see blurred objects, which is a problem for most sports



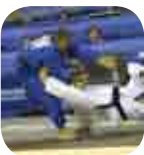
Motion Perception – how quickly an athlete can register a moving object and it's direction is crucial for fast moving sports like Alpine Skiing



Contrast Sensitivity – some people see images with very little contrast between light and dark shades



Vision Field – people with a small vision field see a small piece of the picture, which can be challenging in a fast moving environment like Alpine Skiing.



Colour Discrimination – some people can't distinguish between colours



Peripheral Awareness – not being aware of objects on the periphery of vision might make it more difficult for swimmers to see who's coming up alongside them.

Classification for athletes with visual impairment (VI) is moving towards a system based more on athlete abilities to play a specific sport, and one that will more accurately measure an athletes' vision from this perspective.

Until now, VI classification was derived from the World Health Organization (WHO) categories and based on visual acuity (clearness of vision) and visual field (the size of the area within the eye that is able to sense sight). The International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) adopted the WHO categories 2 to 5 as the criteria for eligibility in competition, and for over 20 years, these criteria have not been changed for all Paralympic Sport.

However, sight is more complex than just visual acuity and field. Other vision components need to be considered including motion perception, colour discrimination, contrast sensitivity, and peripheral awareness. (See the "What do you see?" box). Non-visual skills like memory, hearing, touch and training also play a role.

"It's challenging to quantify visual function because it's so complex to measure. One can't measure everything, so one will have to limit the number of parameters to be considered in the final decision-making process," said Dr. Colenbrander an expert in low vision rehabilitation from the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research Institute and California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco.

For Colenbrander, classification for eligibility poses additional challenges to low vision rehabilitation.

"Low Vision related sport needs a consistent, strict and rigorous assessment procedure to ensure that 'what you measure, you measure right'," he added.

The IPC and IBSA have initiated this process of deciding which aspects of low vision to test within the different sports, and other International Federations are likely to follow soon.



Video glasses may be the next step in testing visual impairment

Sports Specific Classification

As sight can affect an athlete's performance differently depending on which sport is played, it is important that all sports get involved in the classification process.

The new classification system will shift the focus away from visual function and how the eye functions towards 'functional vision'

with an emphasis on 'how the person functions' when playing sport – something that worldwide experts who attended a conference organized by the IPC and IBSA last year were all keen to implement.

"Sitting on a chair looking at a chart does not reflect running 100m. There is a significant disconnection in what we measure and what we do on the field of play," said Scott Field, former

low vision Paralympic Swimming medallist and current member of the IPC Classification Committee.

A VI swimmer, for example, needs to be able to register the black line on the bottom of the pool, whereas a VI skier must be able to follow the moving image of his guide against a fast-changing background of snow, sky and trees whilst travelling at speed. A VI judo competitor can function completely differently, because of constant bodily contact with his opponent on a well-defined Field of Play. In contrast, a VI athlete with a low peripheral awareness may make a different strategic decision if they see a competitor in the periphery of their vision.

Therefore, there needs to be an evidence-based sport-specific classification system which identifies which aspects of vision are important for each sport and how they affect performance.

Randomized Tests Pick out the Cheats

For now though, classification is still based on visual acuity and visual field, until more research is carried out.

But the IPC and IBSA have committed to change their methods for measuring these impairments, in the fight against athletes who may try to deceive the system.

"Peers want to compete on an equal and fair basis. The previous measurement techniques did not prohibit misuse by athletes," said Scott Field.

"Cheating in classification is just as bad as cheating through doping. The current protocols which allow for randomization of testing will make the process fairer."

The new measurement methods, which have been added to the IBSA and IPC Sports classification rules, include more randomized and better standardized tests, which can better pick up

on inconsistencies if an athlete is trying to cheat the system. It's hoped the criteria will be more objective and not as open to interpretation.

The method, which uses a randomly tumbling letter "E", was successfully implemented for the first time at the IBSA World Games earlier this year.

"A new standardized system of visual acuity testing was a significant step in the right direction towards uniformity of measurement and ultimately the credibility of the system," said Neil O'Donovan, Development Director of IBSA and classification project lead person for IBSA.

High-Tech Solutions

The next step to making testing more accurate and less easy to cheat may be computerized testing. One model presented at the IPC/IBSA conference last year, a pair of portable video glasses, looked more like something out of Star Wars than an optometrist's gadget.

Sold to play movies, the glasses could soon be used test how well athletes can see, by playing a series of randomized images. But experts say, although the technology is available, there are still challenges ahead.

"We are in the beginning of the process and this journey will include further thinking on measurement methods and tools, as well as investing in classifier training and education and awareness of the athletes and their support staff," said O'Donovan.

To get classifiers up to speed with the new testing methods, the IPC and IBSA jointly hosted an IPC Academy Classifier training course in Bonn in July 2011 for over 25 people. For the first time this course was also open to individuals with an optometrist qualification, sparking a lot of interest.



VISTA2011

Check out the next issue of The Paralympian for outcomes on the VISTA2011 Conference – a four day long event which brings together sport scientists and experts from around the world to discuss sport for athletes with a disability. Organized by the International Paralympic Committee this is the fifth VISTA conference and will take place in Bonn, Germany between 31 August and 3 September 2011.


But Dr. Peter Van de Vliet, IPC Medical & Scientific Director also maintains knowledge about specific sports is still very important for classification because this allows a classifier to better understand how different aspects of visual impairment affect performance for a particular sport.

"In view of the further development of sport-specific classification systems, we will continue to enforce a system where classifiers have an affinity with one or more sports, as it will be the

interaction between the different aspects of impairment that ultimately defines sport-specific classification" Van de Vliet said, referring to the long-term goals for classification in Paralympic Sport.

If you are interested in joining any of these sport-specific projects or in becoming a classifier for athletes with visual impairment, please contact the IPC Medical & Scientific Director at peter.vandevliet@paralympic.org.

web  >> www.paralympic.org


World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

Natalia Partyka (POL)

Being born without a right hand and forearm has not stopped the 23-year-old from competing in both able-bodied and Paralympic Table Tennis events. She won her first international medal aged 10 and took singles gold and team silver at Athens in 2004. In Beijing she competed in her first Olympics before duplicating her Athens results in the Paralympic Games.





June's winner was British Powerlifter **Zoe Newson**. The 19 year old lifted 85.5kg, almost three times her body weight, in the 40kg category at the IPC Powerlifting British Championships on 4 June to set a new European record.



Athlete of the Month Proves Facebook Hit



Parlympic fans have been voting for the IPC's Athlete of the Month in ever growing numbers since it was decided to allow fans to vote via www.facebook.com/paralympicsport.tv



Neil Fachie, Great Britain's World Champion Track Cyclist, claimed March's title with 44 percent of the vote. The visually impaired cyclist won two gold medals at the 2011 UCI Para-Cycling Track World Championships in Montichiari, Italy, in March. The 27-year-old is now setting his sights on gold at London 2012.

With 36 percent of the vote, Russia's World Champion **Mikhailina Lysova** became April's Athlete of the Month. The visually impaired biathlete and cross-country skier won four gold and three silver medals at the 2011 IPC Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing World Championships at the beginning of April in Khanty Mansyisk, Russia.



TV >> www.facebook.com/paralympicsport.tv



In May, Australia's **Kristy Pond** became the second youngest winner of the award after winning six gold medals at the Arafura Games in Darwin. She may just be 14 but she has already made the London 2012 qualification times for the 100m and 200m.



Breadth of Talent at Swimming Euros Promises Exciting Paralympics

The 2011 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Swimming European Championships in Berlin, Germany were the largest ever with more than 440 swimmers from 36 countries taking part.

During eight days of highly competitive competition 59 European records were broken, 31 of which were world records.

The tone for the Championships was set during the fifth race on the first day when Great Britain's Jonathan Fox set a new world record in the Men's 400m Freestyle S7.

One of the most memorable events during the Championships was the Women's 100m Breaststroke SB4. During the heats Ukraine's Natalia Prologaieva (1:49.91) and Norway's Sarah Louise Rung (1:49.33) traded world records, before Rung, the original record holder, set an even faster time (1:49.17) in the final to eventually take gold.

Arguably the star performer of the week was Ukraine's Yevheniy Bohodayko who left the German capital with eight gold and two silver medals. He also broke the world record in the 100m Breaststroke SB6, and set new European records in the Men's 50m Freestyle S6 and Men's 50m Butterfly S6.

His haul of 10 medals helped Ukraine top the overall medal table. In total his country took home 41 gold, 37 silver and 27 bronze medals.

The growth in swimming talent across Europe was underlined by the fact that 31 out of the 36 countries that took part won at least one medal.

In addition to 90 media covering the event, the most ever for a regional Swimming Championships, the event was broadcast live via www.youtube.com/paralympicsporttv. This gave billions of people around the world the opportunity to tune in on either their computer or mobile phone to watch the action.

Judging by the number of tweets on @paralympic, the IPC's official twitter account, people all over the world were tuning in, including fans in Australia, USA, Japan, Mauritius, Brazil and Canada.

One thing that Berlin did show is that the action in the Aquatics Centre will be one of the must have tickets for London 2012.

Medal Table

| | G | S | B | TOTAL |
|---------------|----|----|----|-------|
| Ukraine | 41 | 37 | 27 | 105 |
| Great Britain | 27 | 26 | 30 | 83 |
| Spain | 26 | 13 | 18 | 57 |
| Russia | 22 | 21 | 21 | 64 |
| Netherlands | 11 | 6 | 7 | 24 |

Watch races again:

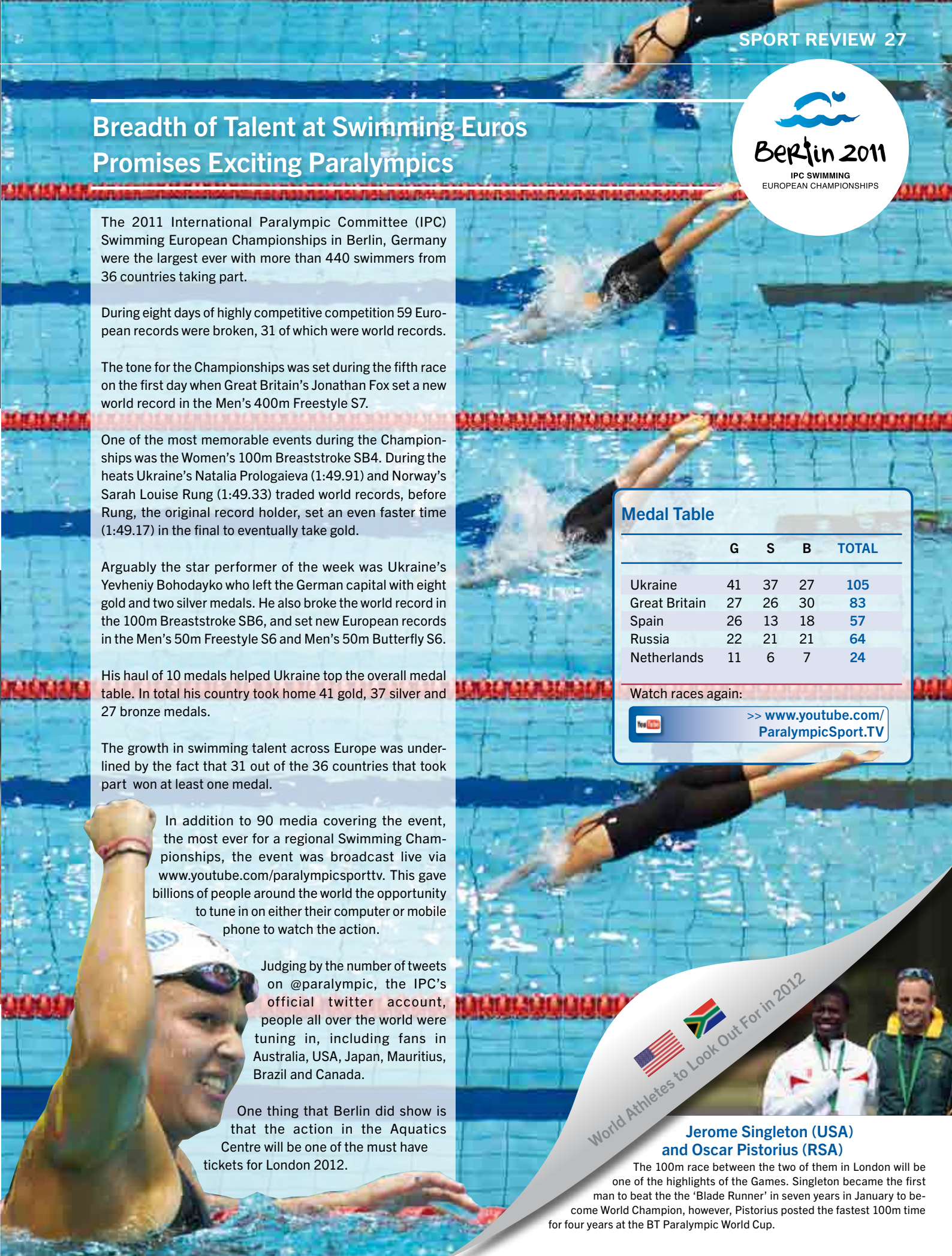
>> www.youtube.com/ParalympicSport.TV



World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012

Jerome Singleton (USA) and Oscar Pistorius (RSA)

The 100m race between the two of them in London will be one of the highlights of the Games. Singleton became the first man to beat the the 'Blade Runner' in seven years in January to become World Champion, however, Pistorius posted the fastest 100m time for four years at the BT Paralympic World Cup.



Great Britain Takes BT Paralympic World Cup Title

twitter @Paralympic

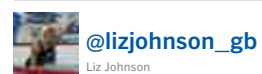
>> Ran the fastest 100m para time in the past 4yrs and clocked a paralympic WR in the 400m - 47.26sec. Really happy with the 2golds! :) <<



>> OMG! Could not be happier right now... PB and a new WR 59.26 thanks for all the kind messages of support! <<



>> Thanks for all of the good luck/congratulations messages and the #ff s. Another great race with @ermypops at the @BTPWC, bring on Europeans <<



Great Britain was crowned BT Paralympic World Cup team champions after winning eight out of 12 Swimming events on the sixth and final day of competition.

The event in Manchester, Great Britain saw over 245 athletes from 34 countries represent four different teams – Americas, Europe, Great Britain and Rest of the World – in Athletics, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.

In the pool good friends Charlotte Henshaw and Liz Johnson took the top two spots in the 100m Breaststroke SB6 with Henshaw just 0.28 seconds ahead.

Double Paralympic champion Eleanor Simmonds was in fine form taking gold in 200m Individual Medley SM6 in 3:09.36, just outside her own world record.

Away from the pool, 24-year-old South African Oscar Pistorius stole the show for the Rest of the World team. Affectionately known as ‘Blade Runner’, he stormed to gold in the 100m T44 in the fastest time for four years, before setting a new 400m T43 world record with a time of 47.28 seconds.

“I’m extremely chuffed. I came out here to enjoy the race and didn’t have any eyes on



breaking world records so to do it is fantastic,” Pistorius said after his 400m win.

In the field Great Britain’s Discus thrower Dan Greaves set a new world record with a distance of 59.27m as he romped to gold in the F42/44 competition.

“I am pleased that the hard work is paying off. My aim is to break new records and this is a great stepping stone.” Greaves said. Elsewhere there were victories for Brazil’s Terezinha Guilhermina in the 200m T12 and USA’s April Holmes in the 100m T44.

In Wheelchair Basketball, Great Britain took the Women’s title whilst Canada claimed victory in the Men’s competition.

This year also saw exhibition events in Boccia and Sitting Volleyball and coverage from all the sports was broadcasted on Channel 4, the host broadcaster of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

World Sport Round-up

March

Paralympic champions Canada won the 10 team strong 2011 World Wheelchair Curling Championships with a 7-3 victory over Scotland in Prague, Czech Republic.

Great Britain topped the medals table at the 2011 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in Montichiari, Italy winning nine golds. In total 230 athletes from 27 countries took part, breaking nine world records.

April

More than 1,000 athletes from 60 countries gathered in Antalya, Turkey for the 4th IBSA World Championships and Games which featured eight sports including Athletics, Swimming, Futsal, Goalball, Judo, Powerlifting and Chess.

In Wheelchair Tennis, the Netherlands claimed both the Men’s World Group 1 and Women’s titles in the ITF World Team Cup in South Africa.

May

More than 300 athletes took part in the 2011 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, which featured four para-sports – Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting and Table Tennis.



Melissa Tapper claimed gold in the Para Table Tennis singles and team events (class 10)

June

Maikel Scheffers claimed his first Wheelchair Tennis Grand Slam singles title winning the French Open while Esther Vergeer won her fifth Roland Garros crown to seal a Dutch title double.

The final list of qualified countries for the London 2012 Sailing events is now known after the IFDS Sailing World Championships in Weymouth, Great Britain.

The Netherlands’ Thierry Schmitter took the 2.4mR World title, Great Britain’s Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birreel the SKUD 18, and Israel’s Dror Cohen, Benni Vexler and Arnon Efrati were confirmed as Sonar champions.



Canada take Curling gold in Prague, Czech Republic

July

Russia are the CPISRA 7-a-side Football World Champions after beating Iran 6:1 in the final played in the Netherlands.

After winning four gold medals, a silver and bronze, China topped the medal standings at the 2011 World Archery Para Championships in Turin, Italy.

Eighteen out of the 22 2011 UCI Para-cycling World Cup champions were crowned during the world circuit’s final which took place in Baie-Comeau, Canada. Thirteen nations shared the titles at stake in the three-event series with the American delegation claiming the most titles with five World Cup winners.

There was further Dutch delight at Wimbledon after Maikel Scheffers and Roland Vink won their first Men’s Doubles title. Not to be outdone Sharon Walraven and Esther Vergeer also retained their Doubles title.

With 7 gold medals, Hungary topped the medals table at the 2011 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing European Championships in Sheffield, Great Britain.



GB’s Suzannah Rockett (left) in action at the 2011 European Fencing Championships



Jiri Jezek (CZE)

The five-time Paralympic champion's head-to-heads with Britain's Jody Cundy will be one of the highlights in the Velodrome. This is his fifth Paralympic Games, and he will be keen to add to the two golds, one silver and one bronze he won in Beijing.



Russians Dominate on Home Snow

The signs for home success at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games are looking good after the Russian team topped the medals table at the IPC Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing World Championships in Khanty Mansiysk, Russia.

With 48 medals in total, including 20 golds, the Russian team won twice as many medals as their nearest competitors, partly due to the heroics of Mikhalina Lysova.

The visually impaired 19-year-old Paralympic Champion won four gold and three silver medals at the Championships add-

ing to the five medals she won last year in Vancouver.

Another highlight of the Championships was the dual between Canada's Brian McKeever and Russia's Nikolay Polukhin in the visually impaired events.

McKeever, with guide Erik Carleton, took gold ahead of Polukhin in three events – the 10km Cross-Country Free, the 20km Cross-Country Classic and the 1km Sprint CC Free – whilst the Russian powered to gold in the 12.5km Biathlon, leaving the Canadian with silver.

McKeever’s success was instrumental in securing Canada’s third place finish on the medal’s table, winning over half of the country’s medals. Ukraine claimed second place with a total of 23 medals partly due to Oleksandra Kononova who won four gold medals, two silver and a bronze medal during the week long event.



For all the latest sport news, please visit

web >> www.paralympic.org

August 2011

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2011 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

August 10-14, 2011
More than 175 swimmers are set to take part in this long-course competition in Edmonton, Canada. Like July's IPC Swimming European Championships, this event will be a good indicator for the London 2012 Paralympics. Some of the countries set to take part include Canada, USA, Thailand, Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Brazil.



CPIISRA Boccia World Cup

August 18-27, 2011
The CPIISRA (Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association) Boccia World Cup 2011 will be held at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. Almost 200 athletes are expected to compete in what is the last opportunity for athletes to be classified and gain essential qualification points for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Portugal will be looking to retain the World Cup trophy they won in Vancouver in 2007, but they will face fierce competition from Spain and Great Britain as well as emerging talents from Asia, like Korea.

web >> www.sportsulster.com/boccia2011.php

October 2011

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European Para-Table Tennis Championships

October 19-30, 2011
The 12,000 capacity Spaladium Arena in Split, Croatia will host the event which will see a number of medal winners from the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in action. All will be keen to put in good performances ahead of London 2012.

November 2011

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The Para Pan logo is based on agave fruit, which is used to make tequila, the drink of the Guadalajara region.

Parapan American Games Approaching

November 12-20, 2011
The 2011 Parapan American Games are heading to the home of tequila, in Guadalajara, Mexico in November.

Around 1,500 athletes from 26 countries are set to compete in 13 sports in the Games and for many this could be the last or only chance to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



It is the second time that the event, which takes place from 10 to 20 November, will be held in the same city as the Pan American Games, which take place the month before.

In preparation for the Games Brazil's Paralympic swimming champion Daniel Dias has been training in San Luis Potosi, Mexico to acclimatize for Guadalajara's high altitudes. He's hoping to defend the eight gold medals he won in classes S5, SM5 and SB4 at the last Parapan American Games in Brazil in 2007.

A June Project Review saw the IPC updated on the 13 strong Sports Programme for Guadalajara, broadcasting, technology, protocol, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, classification and anti-doping and medical services amongst other subjects.

Following the Project Review, a two day Chef de Mission Seminar also took place which informed the Chef de Missions about the arrival process for teams, transportation, and what they can expect in the athletes' village.

The competition draws for Wheelchair Basketball, Goalball and Sitting Volleyball also took place.

web >> www.parapan.guadalajara2011.org.mx

September 2011

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2011 All Africa Games

September 3-18, 2011
The 10th All-Africa Games will take place on September 3-18, 2011 in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Maputo's hosting will mark only the third time the Games will be held in the southern part of the continent. The last one was held in Algiers in 2007.

The 2011 All Africa Games promise to be the best integrated games yet and will serve to showcase and promote Para-Sport in Africa. Sports ministers will be present from countries across Africa to witness the potential of Para-Sport. The International Paralympic Committee is supporting NPC Mozambique with development so that they can use the momentum of the games to promote Para-Sport in their country.

web >> www.maputo2011.com

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships

September 8-11, 2011
September's Para-Cycling World Championships in Roskilde, Denmark hopes to be the country's biggest Para-event ever. It will be the highlight of the town's "Year of Cycling", aimed at encouraging people to ride bikes. The exciting 15 km route, follows the same route as the 5th stage in the 2009 Tour of Denmark, and will act as a qualification event for London 2012.

web >> www.uci.ch



Global Games

September 24-5 October, 2011
The third INAS Global Games will take place in Liguria, Italy. Around 865 athletes with an intellectual impairment from 39 countries are expected to take part in eight sports including Athletics, Futsal, Wheelchair Basketball, Swimming, Wheelchair Tennis, Table Tennis, Rowing and Cycling. Judo will be a demonstrative discipline. The event is the highlight of INAS calendar and takes place every four years.



Dario Della Gatta, President of Global Games 2011 LOC is excited about hosting the event

web >> www.globalgames2011.it

Australia (Wheelchair Basketball)

Australia are the favourites to win Wheelchair Basketball gold and retain their title in arguably the most spectacular and exciting Paralympic Sport there is. In Justin Eveson and Shaun Norris, they have two superstars of the world game. But also look out Patrick Anderson (CAN) the undisputed "king" of the game who returns after a two year break.

A Captain's Dinner

[THE NETHERLANDS] The Royal Dutch Navy has for the first time offered one of its ships to host a spectacular IPC Fundraising Dinner for youth projects in Africa and Latin America which empower youngsters to participate in Paralympic Sport. HR MS Rotterdam - usually the home to 120 naval personnel - will host 300 special guests on Friday 2 September. For further information on the event, which is organized by Charity & Sport, please visit

web >> www.charityensport.nl

Dutch Youngsters Become Billboard Stars



[THE NETHERLANDS] The Johan Cruyff Foundation in Holland has launched a major advertising campaign to celebrate its 14th year of helping young people with and without a disability to get into sports. The billboard campaign used 14 youngsters - four of which were inspired when NPC the Netherlands sent them on a youth camp in Korea - to encourage others to into sports.

web >> www.npcofthenetherlands.nl

A Closer Partnership

[MONACO] The IPC and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which they agree to work together more closely on sports rules, mutual promotion, training of technical officials and sharing and exchanging knowledge and resources. The agreement could lead to IAAF and IPC Athletics World Championships being hosted jointly in the future.



Growing Youth Movement

[KOREA] The 5th Korean Youth Para Games held in Jinju from 24-27 May finished with great success. Over 1,700 athletes - 14 percent more than last year - with an impairment competed in 13 sports divided into three age groups: primary, middle and high school.

A Meeting of Minds

[SWITZERLAND] IPC President Sir Philip Craven met United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in May to discuss the latest progress within the Paralympic Movement. Their conversation touched on projects in developing countries which aim to encourage people with an impairment to play sport.



"Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement are doing an excellent job supporting persons with a disability to play a full and active role in society," said Ban Ki-moon.

FIS and IPC Sign Co-operation Agreement

[SWITZERLAND] The International Ski Federation (FIS) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) have signed a co-operation agreement that will see the two collaborating closer on the development and technical aspects of a number of FIS disciplines.



Queen Honours Paralympians

[NEW ZEALAND] Two New Zealand Paralympians, Adam Hall and Michael Johnson, have had their achievements and services recognized in Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Honours. The two have been made Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit for their services to sport.



Paralympians, having represented Australia in Wheelchair Basketball, Swimming, Athletics and Wheelchair Fencing, and had dedicated his life to developing disability sport in Australia.

Sharing Information

[KENYA] Kenyatta University hosted the IPC Sports Science Committee in May. The three day workshop themed "Enhancing Paralympic Sport through Science and Technology" discussed IPC research strategies and knowledge dissemination and potential research projects at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Paralympics on the Radio

[ANGOLA] Paralympic Sport in Angola has received a major boost after a popular national radio station started broadcasting a weekly show dedicated to the subject. Since mid-April Radio 5 has been broadcasting an hour long show each Friday called "The Rise of the Paralympics" to all 18 provinces in Angola.

The Passing of a Paralympic Legend

[AUSTRALIA] Paralympic pioneer Frank Ponta, a member of Australia's first Paralympic team at the 1960 Rome Paralympic Games passed away on 1 June in Perth aged 75. Ponta is widely regarded as one of Australia's greatest



AUSTRALIA

Iran Men's (Sitting Volleyball)

Iran is certainly the world super power when it comes to Men's Sitting Volleyball. They won gold in Beijing and at last year's World Championships beating rivals Bosnia Herzegovina, the Paralympic gold medalists from 2004, both times in the final.



Third Time Lucky – 2018 Winter Paralympics go to PyeongChang

After narrowly missing out on the last two occasions, PyeongChang has finally won the right to stage the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games, the first time the Winter Games will be held in Korea.

Following a secret vote by International Olympic Committee (IOC) members to decide between three candidate cities – Annecy (France), Munich (Germany) and PyeongChang (Korea) – the latter was chosen as the host city after a landslide vote in their favour.

According to their bid document, nine out of 10 Koreans supported PyeongChang’s attempts to stage the Games and, following the announcement of the results, Koreans took to the streets to celebrate.

“Today is a wonderful moment for the Korean people, for Asia and we hope for the (Paralympic) Movement,” said Myung-Bak Lee, President of Korea.

The IPC President, Sir Philip Craven, who as an IOC member voted in the ballot, paid tribute to the city: “I would like to congratulate PyeongChang on their thoroughly deserved success in winning the right to host the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

“The PyeongChang region and Korea as a whole, has a long history of staging sport events for athletes with a disability.”

The PyeongChang bid featured a solid concept to boost the development of Paralympic Winter Sport in the region, throughout Asia and internationally, and had considerable funds to support projects. They have also committed to staging two sanctioned Paralympic sport



Koreans took to the streets to celebrate PyeongChang 2018’s success

events per year in each of the years leading up to 2018 which will help promote Paralympic Sport in this area, train staff and test venues.

Making reference to 10 years of bidding for the Winter Games, Yang Ho Cho, PyeongChang 2018’s Chairperson and CEO, said: “Today, our effort and commitment to hosting the Winter Games has been rewarded. We will now ensure that this hard work continues all the way through to 2018 to create an amazing Winter Games experience.”

For more information visit

web >> www.pyeongchang2018.org



Brazil (Football 5-a-side)

Expect the Brazilian side to play to the samba beat in this visually impaired sport. All players are blindfolded except the goalkeeper, but the skills levels are exceptional and the 50 minute long games are a joy to watch.



THE PARALYMPIAN



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Sporting Excellence and Inspire and Excite the World.”