1 year to go
A total of 59 European records were broken in Berlin, 31 of which were world records.

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.

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

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 in place. That’s the cauldron in Stratford, London.

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 people’s price range – £20 and under. That’s a great deal.

“In Beijing, what a lot of people talked about was atmosphere away from the most popular sports. In London, we want to give 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.

“If they do that, with Holmes at the helm, London 2012 will have sent a message to 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 human- ity and humility.”

This Interview is also available on: >> www.youtube.com/Paralympicsport.TV
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.

**Paralympic Sites**

**Olympic Park Locations**

- **Athletes’ Village**
  - Capacity: 17,500
  - Cost: £269 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

- **Velodrome**
  - Capacity: 6,000
  - Cost: £33 million
  - Hosting: Cycling – Track

- **Hockey Centre**
  - Capacity: 16,000
  - Cost: £93 million
  - Hosting: Football 5-a-side and 7-a-side

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

- **Eton Manor**
  - Capacity: 10,500
  - Cost: £43 million
  - Hosting: Wheelchair Tennis, Aquatics training

- **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

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

- **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

- **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

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

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

- **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

**Paralympic Venues Outside of London**

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

**London Locations Outside the Olympic Park**

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For more information, visit [www.london2012.com](http://www.london2012.com)
Making the Most of the Opportunity

By Tim Reddish, Chairperson of Paralympics GB

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 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.

There is no doubt that 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.

s a nation, Great Britain has demon-strated 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.

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 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.

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 preparation, Hannah should be unstoppable in 2012.

Rick’s Pick

Stephen Miller (Athletics)

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

Matt Skelton (Shooting)

Matt will be looking to defend the SH1 10m 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 recognisable faces in British sport.

Deanna Coates (Archery)

A winner of team gold on the podium. Not only does she win medals, she’s also a force on the archery line. I expect her to be on target for gold in London.

Nigel Murray (Boccia)

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.

Danielle Brown (Basketball)

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.

Tom Aggar (Rowing)

The former Paralympian gave the Paralympian her pick of world athletes to look out for in 2012 on the following pages…
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.

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

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

With one year to go until London 2012, Paralympic preparations are heating up. 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.

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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 ball 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 sport. 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 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 1986 as a friendly competition between some nations before the US Open but now has become 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 at the Grand Slams because the crews are already there, and year-on-year, slam-by-slam, silence, 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.

Wheelchair Tennis
1976 Brad Parks hits his first tennis ball from a wheelchair and sees the potential of the sport
1981 The first “Grand Prix Circuit” was established consisting of four major tournaments in different cities across the USA
1985 An international team competition, the World Team Cup, was established with teams from different countries 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
1992 The IWTF became part of the International Tennis Federation
1996 Wheelchair Tennis was introduced as a full medal event at the Barcelona Paralympic Games, and has featured at every Games since then
2000 The first year that Wheelchair Tennis was a fully sanctioned event at all four Grand Slams: the Australian Open, the French Open, the 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

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

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

“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.

“I wasn’t prepared enough,” Vergeer admitted. “Daniela was just better than me that day. She was my role model and became my idol. She inspired me to play Tennis, but I’m not going to lose on purpose. The other girls will have to work harder and find a way to beat me.”

Vergeer’s experience with Kalkman in the Paralympics, 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 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.

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“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 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.”

“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.

“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.

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.

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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.”

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Mind over Matter — World Dominance

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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.

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**United Arab Emirates Paralympic Committee**

**Aspiring to Host an International Paralympic Event**

**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 focusing on making sports facilities available for Paralympians, which can be more difficult in rural areas of the Emirates.


**FOOTBALL FEVER**

Although the UAE NPC has been gaining momentum in the past few years, it remains to be seen whether football will ever make the country a major force in the Paralympic movement.

**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.

“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.

The country is focusing its efforts on Shot put, Powerlifting and Wheelchair Racing and hopes to repeat or better Mohamed Khamis Khalid’s silver in Powerlifting at the Beijing Paralympics.

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

**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.

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

“USA is a power in the world of wheelchair rugby,” said AlHameli. “We would love to have a major event hosted in the UAE.”

The United Arab Emirates Paralympic Committee is keen to stage a major Paralympic event such as a World Championships.

“We would love to have some major events hosted by the UAE,” said Al Hameli.

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

**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 Paralympics 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.

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

“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 Mary’s international forum received unprecedented press coverage and was broadcast live on the Abu Dhabi Sport Channel.

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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.

DB SCHENKERSportsevents
Gears Up for London 2012

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 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.”

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:

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 society. 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.

For many years now, NPC Rwanda has become the lighthouse for sport development in East Africa and uses its technical knowledge (particularly in sitting volleyball) to train others and thus to increase activities and regional competition possibilities.

“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

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.

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.

Supported by

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.

World Athlete Look Out For in 2012

Marcel Hug (SUI)

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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 athlete’s vision from this perspective.

Until now, VI classification was based on visual acuity (clarity of vision) and visual field assessment of the area of 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 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 process to ensure that what you measure, you measure right,” he added.

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

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

Contrast Sensitivity – some people can’t distinguish between light and dark shades

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

Video glasses may be the next step in testing visual impairment

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

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 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. The system for classification is still based on visual acuity and visual field. The current protocols which are not being aware of objects in the periphery of their vision. The next step to making testing more accurate and less easy to cheat may be computerized testing.

Sports Specific Classification

As sight affects 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.”

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 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.

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“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 and tools, as well as in investing in classifier training and education of the athletes and their support staff,” said Dr. Van de Vliet.

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.

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 Paralympic swimmer.

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.

“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 to 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 in investing in classifier training and education of the athletes and their support staff,” said O’Donovan.

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“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,” said Van de Vliet, 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.

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.

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Classification 2524 Medical & Scientific
Paralympic 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 at the beginning of April in Khanty Mansyisk, Russia.

With 36 percent of the vote, Russia's World Champion Mikhailna 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.

In May, Australia's Kristy Pond become 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.

In June, the 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.

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 100m Freestyle S7.

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.

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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 Aquatic Centre will be one of the must have tickets for London 2012.
Great Britain Takes BT Paralympic World Cup Title

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 Daniel 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 Teresinha 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.

May
More than 1,000 athletes took part in the 2011 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, which featured four para-sports – Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting and Table Tennis.

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.

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 Maike Schefers 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.

For all the latest sport news, please visit www.paralympic.org

 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 in the IPC Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing World Championships in Khanty Mansysk, Russia.

The visually impaired 19-year-old Paralympic Champion won four gold and three silver medals at the Championships adding 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’s success was instrumental in securing Canada’s third place finish on the medals 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.

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

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.

Gail Johnson (GB)
Liz Johnson
Daniel Greaves
@discusdan
@oscarPistorius
@Paralympic
>> 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.

<< The Championships add -and three silver medals at Champion won four gold -ing 20 golds, the Russian -sic and the 1km Sprint CC -20km Cross-Country Clas -

World All Star Meet Out For 2012

>> Ran the fastest 100m para time in the past 4yrs and clocked a paralympic WR in the 400m - 47.26sec. Really happy with the 2gold/stl! >>
<< More than 245 athletes from 34 countries repre- sent four different teams – Americas, Europe, Great Britain and Rest of the World – in Ath- letics, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.

>> 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.

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The 2011 All Africa Games promise to be the best 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, and will work closely with the government to develop African Para-Sport.

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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.

CPSISRA Boccia World Cup
August 18-27, 2011
The CPSISRA (Central 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.

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.

Global Games
September 24-5 October, 2011
The third INAS Global Games will take place in Lugvia, 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.

The competition draws for Wheelchair Basketball, Goalball and Sitting Volleyball were 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 SS5, S5 and SB4 at the last Pan 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.

World Athletes to Look out For in 2012
But also look out Patrick Anderson (CAN) the undisputed “king” and exciting Para-Sport there is. In Justin Eveson and Shaun Norris, they have two superstars of the world game.

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

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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.

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.

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.

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.

Ireland

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