

THE PARALYMPIAN

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INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC DAY HITS TOWN

The central market place in Bonn, Germany, came alive on 27 August, as a crowd of over 30,000 people gathered to experience the 2005 International Paralympic Day (IPD). The IPC hosted the event, offering visitors a chance to experience live Paralympic sport, to meet Paralympic athletes and to see how sport unites people.

The highlight of the day was the Long Jump competition. Five world class athletes demonstrated their amazing speed and power to a packed crowd, as they attempted to break the current world records on a long jump pit purpose-built for the IPD. The longest jump of the day went to upper limb amputee Anton Skachkov (UKR) with a distance of 6.80m.

In the F44 class, Marlon Shirley (USA), world record holder and gold medallist at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, jumped a distance of 6.61m, followed by Xavier Le Draoullec (FRA) with 5.36m. In the F42 class, world record holder Wojtek Czyz (GER) jumped 6.12m, followed by Heinrich Popow (GER) with 5.21m.

Said Popow: "In 1992, the day before my leg was amputated I walked on the Marktplatz. Today, back on the Marktplatz, I was given an opportunity to show the people of Bonn that life continues. It was really emotional and gave me goosebumps!"

the public throughout the day. Local stars, including the RSV Lahn-Dill and ASV Bonn Wheelchair Basketball teams, Holgar Nikelis and Selcuk Cetin (Table Tennis), Axel Hecker (Biathlon), Ester Weber-Kranz (Wheelchair Fencing), Sitting Volleyball teams Bayer 04 Leverkusen and Spid Sarajevo, wowed the crowd in demonstrations and matches. Afterwards, players offered coaching to IPD visitors who could then participate in fun matches.

In his closing speech, President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Sir Philip Craven said: "I'd like to thank the people of Bonn for turning out in such great numbers to support Paralympic sport. We've seen some great athletes today. Come back in 2007 and we will be here again."

The IPC hosts an IPD every two years, to augment awareness and visibility of Paralympic sport and to bring sports for persons with a disability closer to the public. The event was covered by around 50 journalists, photographers and broadcasters.

In the context of the United Nation's initiative "International Year of Sport and Physical Education", the German Ministry of Interior is one of the main sponsors of the IPD 2005. The day would not have been possible without the support of all the sponsors, who enabled the IPC to make Paralympic sport "World-class in Bonn".

A variety of Paralympic sports were showcased to

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Paralympic Sport Inspires



The election of the host of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was certainly a highlight and a thrilling experience. Five strong candidates battling to become the one and only; it was a close race that remained exciting up until the very end. I am certain that with London, we have found a new dedicated partner in the Organizing Committee and a city and country that will be proud to host Paralympic athletes and sport.

We can now begin to ponder which of the seven 2014 bid cities will become candidates and ultimately the host of the Paralympic Winter Games. But before we turn our full attention to 2014, we have Torino 2006 and Vancouver 2010 to look forward to on the calendar of Winter Paralympics. The restructuring of the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee and the creation of the Torino Paralympic Committee, COMPARTO, will hopefully secure for the Games the attention and resources that they deserve.

In September, the first Paralympic Workshop takes place between the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee and the IPC. This is an excellent opportunity for transfer of knowledge and was already successfully carried out with the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee in June. You will find more details about the Beijing Workshop in this issue.

These past months have seen a large number of regional championships in many sports. I continue to believe that the best ambassadors for our Movement are the athletes. I am therefore pleased to see that there has been a lot of activity and opportunities for athletes to showcase themselves and Paralympic sport around the world.

With this in mind, and to raise awareness in the city where the IPC Headquarters are based, the IPC organized the second International Paralympic Day at the end of August in Bonn, Germany. Over 100 national and international athletes and media joined us in this endeavour and brought six sports closer to more than 30,000 spectators, proving what 'Spirit in Motion' is all about.

Last but certainly not least, we have elections to the IPC Governing Board coming up. A total of 32 nominations were put forward by the membership. You will find an overview of all the candidates on page 7. I am confident that the large number of nominations will allow for stimulating elections in November in Beijing.

As this will be my last editorial in The Paralympian during my first term of office, I would like to thank all of you for making the Paralympic Movement what it is today, and for inspiring and exciting me. I hope that I have been able to give some of that inspiration and excitement back!

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President

PARALYMPIC GAMES: TORINO 2006

Torino Tickets Now on Sale

On 30 May, the ticket sales campaign for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games was launched. About 200,000 tickets will be available to the general public.

Within Italy and the European Economic Area (EEA), tickets can be purchased online (www.torino2006.org/tickets) or through the Ticketing Call Centre (in Italy, 848-88-2006, outside Italy, +39-3983-8250) with operators prepared to handle any needs of persons with a disability. Throughout Italy, tickets can be purchased at bank branches of the Sanpaolo Group. Elsewhere, tickets can be purchased through National Paralympic Committees in some countries.

For most Paralympic events, tickets will be priced at EURO 12. Concession or discounted ticket prices are available for children aged two to 14, the elderly (aged over 60), persons with a disability and groups of more than 20 people. Schools will benefit from specific programmes run by the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee

(TOROC) to involve students in the events and to allow them to view the competitions.

Ticket prices for the Opening Ceremony range between EURO 30 to 80 (EURO 20 to 50 for concessions). For the Closing Ceremony two ticket categories are available at EURO 50 and EURO 30 (EURO 30 and EURO 20 for concessions). Tickets for the Ice Sledge Hockey Final will cost between EURO 14 and EURO 30.

© Photo: TOROC



Toi 2006 Registers 40,000 Volunteers

The Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC) announced that around 40,000 applications have been submitted for the Noi2006 Volunteer Recruiting Programme for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games next year.

Of the 40,000, around 14,000 applicants applied to help during the Paralympics. Around 7,000 volunteers will be trained to assist with the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games in everything from sport, transport, medical services to medals.

The application process closed on 31 July 2005, however, some volunteers (with special language skills, etc.) will have the possibility to register (www.noit2006.org) until the end of 2005.

TOROC Volunteers Director Antonio

Romani stated: "Men and women of all ages have responded to our appeal with enthusiasm and the strong desire to be part of this unique and unrepeatable event. They want to contribute to the success of Torino 2006 and of their country, and they look forward to helping the athletes, the spectators, the tourists and all the visitors who will be coming here for the Olympic and Paralympic Games."

Of the applicants, 56% are men and 44% are women, mostly between the ages of 18 and 34 and with a higher school diploma. Forty-one per cent of the volunteers are students, 37% are employees, and 16% are pensioners. Around 22,000 of the applicants are permanent residents of Torino or the Piemonte region. From the remaining 18,000 applicants, 60% are Italian and 40% come from foreign countries.

Paralympic Games to Open in Style



Opening Ceremony of the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games.

From 30 June to 1 July, the IPC Paralympic Games Liaison Committee (PGLC) met with the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee (TOROC) to receive an update on the status of the organization of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games. At this meeting the location of the Opening Ceremony was confirmed for the former Stadio Comunale (location of the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony).

The TOROC Board of Directors approved

the creation of COMPARTO (Comitato Paralimpico Torino), a new legal entity that will provide increased financial resources and govern the organization of the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics. COMPARTO is comprised of stakeholders from the City of Torino, the Region of Piemonte and the Province of Torino and is chaired by Tiziana Nasi, President Paralympics of the Torino 2006 Organizing Committee. TOROC will continue to be responsible for the operational management of the Paralympic Games.

Said François Terranova, PGLC Chairperson: "With the inclusion of representatives from each of the local authorities, COMPARTO will ensure that the Paralympic Games receive increased commitment at all levels and will provide an important means to further promote the Games. We look forward to finalizing the details, to then give our authorization."

Good progress was seen in all areas presented by TOROC, eg, sport, venue management, image, transport, technology, press operations, medical services and NPC relations. The PGLC also approved the look of the competition medals, which will be unveiled in the next months.

PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

Commission Measures Progress Towards 2008



Members, including IPC President Philip Craven, participate in a venue tour in Beijing, China.

From 31 May to 2 June 2005, the fourth meeting of the IOC Co-ordination Commission for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games took place in Beijing, China.

The Co-ordination Commission toured the Olympic and Paralympic venues and met members of the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) to assist BOCOG and observe the progression of work in the lead-up to the Games in 2008.

As a member of this Commission, IPC President Philip Craven participated in the meeting and presentations. "Teamwork has been the essence of the fourth IOC Co-ordination Commission Meeting. Synergies between IOC, BOCOG and IPC were very evident - this bodes well for incredible Paralympic Games in 2008," said Mr. Craven.

Since the election of Beijing as host city in

2001, the IOC Co-ordination Commission has visited annually. From 2005 until the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games, visits will take place twice each year, with the next meeting planned for November 2005, during which the Commission plans to visit the Sailing venue in Qingdao.

From 6 to 7 June, following the Co-ordination Commission visit, the IPC held a series of workshops with BOCOG as part of the Olympic Games Knowledge Services (OGKS) Workshop Programme. These workshops allowed the IPC to transfer knowledge on the organization of the Paralympic Games.

The IPC gave presentations on several areas, including Paralympic Games Management and Planning, sports, accessibility, venue operations, Games Services, media, image and branding, and communications, to more than 250 BOCOG staff. Several smaller side meetings also took place between IPC and BOCOG staff, giving an opportunity for a more detailed transfer of knowledge on specific subjects such as sport competition venues, Paralympic village, media operations and technology.

Said Tang Xiaoquan, BOCOG Executive Vice-President: "This is a really valuable opportunity for transfer of knowledge. All participants, I believe, have truly enriched their minds. Through the Paralympic Games we will leave a successful legacy for China and the whole world. Our aim is to leave an important civil legacy to Beijing and all of China; to change people's attitude towards persons with a disability."

Horses to Hong Kong



During the 117th IOC Session in Singapore, held from 6 to 9 July, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) and the Beijing 2008 Organizing Committee (BOCOG) agreed on the relocation of the Equestrian venue from Beijing to Hong Kong for the Olympic Games in 2008. The IPC consequently agreed to move the Paralympic Equestrian competition to Hong Kong. The move is based on the best interests of the competition and the well-being of the horses.

Jonquil Solt, International Paralympic Equestrian Committee (IPEC) Chairperson emphasized: "As a satellite venue on this

Breaking Ground

BOCOG has begun construction on its major building projects. On June 26, the foundation stone was laid for the Olympic and Paralympic Village. The Village is expected to house 7,000 people during the Paralympic Games. The Village covers a total area of 66 hectares. The residential area will include 22 six-floor buildings and 20 nine-floor buildings. It will also be equipped with a general clinic, restaurants, a library, a recreation center and other leisure areas. The Village lies at the north end of Beijing, nearby many landmarks including the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Olympic Green. The construction is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2007.

On 28 May, BOCOG held a ground-breaking ceremony for the National Indoor Stadium, attended by Liu Qi, BOCOG President and Wang Qishan, Beijing Mayor and BOCOG Executive President. The Stadium is the proposed competition venue for Wheelchair Basketball during the Paralympic Games and has a seating capacity of 18,000. After the Games, the Stadium will become a first-class facility for the local people, with both sports competition and entertainment functions.



An artists impression of the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Village.

occasion, it will be paramount for the IPC to ensure that the Beijing 2008 Equestrian competitions keep strong connection to the overall atmosphere of the broader Games, in particular for the athletes. However, having seen the facilities that will be developed for the event in Hong Kong, I am confident that it will be an excellent competition" She continued:.

"The IPEC will work very hard together with BOCOG to make the Equestrian events of the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games the best ever."

PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

Excellence in Safety

With major venue construction now well underway, the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) has announced a goal of making Games venue construction sites a model for safety and health through creating a formal partnership with WorkSafeBC, the Workers' Compensation Board.

"As athletes strive for higher levels of excellence on the field of play at the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will strive to achieve the highest standards of health and safety for workers at all 2010 Games construction sites and all venues during the Games," said John Furlong, VANOC CEO.

The Vancouver 2010 vision is that the focus on safety for the Games will act as a catalyst for continual improvement in health and safety performance across British Columbia. "The attention on the building of venues and hosting the Winter Games gives us an opportunity to create awareness and showcase a new model of workplace safety," added Mr. Furlong. "This safety focus can be a legacy of preparing for and staging the Games."

The concept will also be implemented for all Games employees and volunteers. At Games time, VANOC expects to employ an estimated 1,200 full-time employees and up to 35,000 volunteers at 15 competition and training venues and dozens of non-competition sites.



(From left to right) Canadian skeleton athlete Duff Gibson, Paralympian Brian McKeever and biathlete Robin Clegg with VANOC CEO John Furlong.

2014 on The Horizon



© Photo:Lieven Coudenys

PyeongChang (Republic of Korea), Salzburg (Austria), Sochi (Russia) and Sofia (Bulgaria).

These cities will now take part in an extensive selection process. The IPC and IOC will participate in a Briefing Seminar with all seven cities from 27 to 30 September, in Lausanne, Switzerland, during which the IPC will make a presentation to the cities and participate in a question and answer session.

In June 2006, following a thorough review of each city's potential to organize the 2014 Games, the IOC Executive Board will select which cities

will become Candidate Cities. In early 2007, all Candidate Cities will be required to submit their Candidature files to the IOC and will be assessed by the IOC Evaluation Commission, who will publish their report in June 2007. The IPC will also review the files and make their recommendations to be considered by the Commission. The final decision will be made in July 2007 at the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

In early June, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) launched the Candidature Acceptance Procedure for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2014. Seven cities have been appointed by their respective National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to apply to host the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. The cities, in alphabetical order, are: Almaty (Kazakhstan), Borjomi (Georgia), Jaca (Spain),

IPC NEWS

Paralympic School Day Launched in Greece

From 18 to 22 May 2005, the second conference within the framework of the Paralympic School Day Project (PSD) took place in Thessaloniki and Serres, Greece. The project is co-ordinated by the European Paralympic Committee (EPC).

The PSD, which was made possible by a grant from the European Commission, aims to raise awareness and understanding towards persons with a disability, from a young age, through the framework of elementary education. A focal point of this multicultural project is to change the attitudes of youth towards persons with a disability and provide a tool for elementary school teachers.

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, one of the partner organizations, hosted the conference, which included the first 'Paralympic School Day' in the 5th and 13th Elementary School of Serres.

During the half-day 'Paralympic School Day' about 220 school children, aged six to twelve

years, were able to practice a wide variety of Paralympic sports and adapted physical activities, such as Athletics, Boccia, Goalball, Sitting Volleyball and Wheelchair Basketball. Almost all of the sport sessions were lead by former or active Paralympic athletes, providing excellent knowledge on the respective sport and serving as role models for the pupils. In addition, sessions were conducted to allow the students to experience different areas related to Paralympic sport or disability, such as the Paralympic Games, classification, accessibility and human rights.

Currently, the PSD partners, coming from Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Latvia and Sweden, are implementing five 'Paralympic School Days' in elementary schools in each of their respective countries. At the third and final conference in March 2006, the collected data, materials and experience will be presented, analysed and evaluated. This evaluation will provide the core information and content for the final PSD manual.



© Photo IPC

Students of Serres Elementary School participate in the first Paralympic School Day.

IPC CEO on London 2012



© Photo: IPC

Caroline Wincza (Deutsche Welle) spoke to IPC Chief Executive Officer, Xavier Gonzalez, to get his reaction from the news that London will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012.

How does the IPC feel about London winning the bid to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games?

Xavier Gonzalez: We are very satisfied. Fortunately we had very good bids for the Paralympic Games and for the first time we could say that the IPC was very pleased with all bids. This was seen not only in the level of detail in the operational planning but also in the commitment of all the bid committees to the Paralympic Games. In some way we would have been happy for any of the bids to win, however London and Great Britain have a long history within the Paralympic Movement and will provide a great opportunity for the further promotion and growth of the Movement.

Do you think London can promote and maintain public interest with the Paralympic Games?

XG: I think that London has already shown that the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Movement and sport for athletes with a disability were a very important element of their bid. We believe that working with them over the next seven years will ensure that the Games in 2012 are a milestone in the increasing awareness of the Paralympic Movement, not only in Great Britain but across the world.

The Paralympic Games and the Paralympic Movement have a long history in Britain, is this reassuring for the IPC?

XG: It's a very important history for us and it is very reassuring to know that in the UK, there is a lot of interest in sport for persons with a disability. There is also a lot of expertise in Paralympic sport and this makes it a very good place to have the Paralympic Games.

In what way will the city of London be able to create a unique and exciting Paralympic Games event?

XG: Clearly the London bid understood the long term goals of the IPC, especially in terms of increasing awareness and positioning the Paralympic Games as a value added to the overall experience of the Olympic Games. We believe that London 2012 will become the final model of what the organization of the Olympic and Paralympic Games should be both on paper and in practice. I think that this will be the great legacy of the London 2012 Games.



The Paralympic School Day mascot.

European Matters



© Photo: Croatian Sports Federation for the Disabled.
Attendees of the 2005 EPC General Assembly on the streets of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

From 24 to 25 June, the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) held its General Assembly and Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The meeting was attended by 35 members, more than 2/3 of the EPC membership.

Elections for the new EPC Executive Committee (EC) were held, selecting Enrique Sánchez-Guijo Acevedo (ESP) as the President, Luca Pancalli (ITA) as Secretary General, Gerard Masson (FRA) as Treasurer, Oksana Matiyash (HUN) as the Technical Officer and Ioanna Karyofylli (GRE), Ratko Kovacic (CRO), Tanni Grey-Thompson (GBR) and Maria Odete Fiuza (POR) as Members at Large. A new Athletes' Representative will be appointed in the near future. For the first time,

the Committee has secured gender balance and a majority of the EC (six of nine) are Paralympians.

Among other matters, the EPC finalized its motions to the IPC General Assembly (GA) to be held in November this year and selected candidates for the IPC Governing Board and recommendations for the IPC Standing Committees.

An EPC Conference was also held in conjunction with the GA and focused on three key issues: athletes with a severe disability, women in sport and EPC Membership Services, which will form the basis of the work of the new EC over the next four years.

IPC NEWS

President Köhler Meets President Craven



© Photo: Bundesregierung/Grabovsky
IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez, Mrs. Köhler, President Köhler and IPC President Philip Craven.

On 16 August, IPC President Philip Craven met with the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr. Horst Köhler at the Villa Hammerschmidt in Bonn, Germany.

During the meeting, Mr. Köhler offered his personal support for the work of the Paralympic Movement and expressed his ongoing commitment to do all he could to further Paralympic sport, both in Germany and on the world stage.

At the meeting, Mr. Craven presented Mr. Köhler with the Paralympic Honour, a medal given to those outside of the Paralympic Movement, in recognition of the outstanding commitment, given by both the people of Germany and Mr. Köhler personally, to furthering the Paralympic values.

New Governing Board to be Elected

A total of 32 nominations have been put forward for the IPC Governing Board (GB). Out of the 32 nominations, one is for President, five for Vice President and 26 for the Member at Large positions. The elections will take place on 19 November in Beijing, China, at the 2005 IPC General Assembly.

These will be the first elections to the GB, which replaced the IPC Executive Committee last year in November, following recommendations of a strategic review and acceptance thereof by the IPC membership at the Extraordinary General Assembly.

The GB will consist of one President, one Vice President and ten Members at Large, all of whom will be elected in Beijing. Furthermore, an Athletes' Representative and the IPC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be ex-officio members of the GB.

- The nominees, listed in alphabetical order, are as follows:
- For President:** Sir Philip Craven (GBR)
- For Vice President:** Dr. York Chow (HKG), Ms. Ann Cody (USA), Mr. Vital Severino Neto, (BRA), Mr. Miguel Sagarra (ESP), Dr. Nabil Salem (EGY).
- For Member at Large:** Mr. Zainal Abu Zarin (MAL), Mr. Masoud Ashrafi (IRA), Mr. Michael Barredo (PHI), Mr. Jose Louis Campo (ARG, Dr. York Chow (HKG), Ms. Ann Cody (USA), Mr. Bernard Courbariaux (FRA), Mr. Paul dePace (USA), Mr. Alan Dickson (GBR), Mr. Greg Hartung (AUS), Mr. Patrick Jarvis (CAN), Mr. Johnson Jasson (TAN), Mr. Chrispen Manyuke (ZIM), Mr. Rachid Meskouri (ALG), Mr. Karl Vilhelm Nielsen (DEN), Mr. Robert Price (GBR), Dr. Karl Quade (GER), Mr. Radu Rosenthal (ISR), Mr. Ilgar Rahimov (AZB), Mr. Miguel Sagarra (ESP), Dr. Nabil Salem (EGY), Ms. Robyn Smith (AUS), Mr. Valeriy Sushkevych (UKR), Mr. Pal Szekeres (HUN), Mr. John Teunissen (NED) and Mr. Shen Zhifei (CHN).

"We are pleased with the number of nominations that the membership has put forward to the Governing Board; and it is encouraging to see the interest from a wide representation of IPC members," said IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez. "This shows the vitality of the Paralympic Movement, moving into this new era and it demonstrates again one of the biggest assets of the organization - the commitment of its volunteers."



IPC/IAKS Honour Accessibility

A jury composed of international experts from the IPC, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS) has selected the winners of the 2005 IOC/IAKS AWARDS for exemplary sports and leisure facilities.

For the first time, 54 of the submitted entries also applied for the 'IPC/IAKS Distinction for Accessibility' jointly sponsored by IAKS and the IPC. This distinction pays tribute to accessible facilities that allow persons with a disability to freely view and practice sport.

IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez said: "The IPC/IAKS Distinction provides us with an opportunity to honour the great work being done worldwide to ensure sports and leisure facilities are accessible for persons with a disability. We hope that, through our ongoing co-operation with IAKS and increasing awareness of accessibility issues, the field of nominees will continue to grow."

The IOC/IAKS AWARD is the only architecture award of international importance for existing sports and leisure facilities. This year, 93 teams of operators and designers from 25 countries took part in the competition, which was a new participation record. The IPC was represented on the jury by Mark Todd of Great Britain.

The jury awarded eight gold, seven silver and seven bronze medals, seven IPC Distinctions for Accessibility and five Special Distinctions.

The awards will be presented during the 19th International IAKS Congress on 26 October in Cologne, Germany.

The IPC/IAKS Distinction was awarded to the following seven facilities (shown to the right):

- City of Manchester Stadium in Manchester, Great Britain (Architect: Arup Associates, London)
- Sport and leisure facility in Stattegg, Austria (Architect: Hohensinn Architektur ZT GmbH, Graz)
- Cottonera Sports Complex in Cospicua, Malta (Architect: Emanuel Buttigieg Project House, Works Division, Malta)
- Aquatic Centre in Ozarów, Poland (Architect: ATJ Architekci Sp. Z.o.o., Warsaw)
- Scottish National Swimming Academy in Stirling, Great Britain (Architect: FaulknerBrowns Architects & Urban Designers, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne)
- Hintertux Glacier Ski Lift in Hintertux, Austria (Architect: Seilbahnbüro Gröbner, Kitzbühel)
- Curling Arena in Prag, Czech Republic (Architect: Glenn architekti, Ivana Kubeskova, Jiri Trojan, Prague 10, Vrsovice).

Your Chance to Play a Part

DONATE

FOR
YOUR
CHANCE
TO PLAY
A PART

The IPC recently launched a new feature on the IPC website: the Online Donation Section.

With this section, the IPC offers supporters the opportunity to contribute to the Paralympic Movement. With the money raised,

IPC aims to fulfil its vision "to enable Paralympic athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world." The IPC's goal is to promote the talents and achievements of Paralympic athletes as a showcase for the potential of persons with a disability to be full and active members of society. Funds will be used for a variety of

programmes, including sports development, education and communication campaigns.

IPC President Philip Craven stated: "In order to be able to fulfil its mission and mandate, the IPC is counting on the financial support of the general public and in particular of the friends of the Paralympic Movement. I believe that the people who know us best, and who believe in the goals of the Paralympic Movement, are the ones best placed to contribute. Every little bit helps, so a donation of any size will be appreciated. I am delighted that, with the launch of our Online Donation Section, the IPC is now able to receive these contributions from supporters around the world in an easy, user-friendly manner. The IPC looks forward to receiving your contribution, and we thank you for helping us spread the word."

If you would like to donate to the Paralympic Movement, please visit the IPC homepage (www.paralympic.org) and click 'Donate'.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

IPC Athletics Showcased in Finland

The 2005 IPC Athletics Open European Championships came to an end on Sunday, following eight days of exciting competition, which saw a total of 20 European and 12 World records fall.

From 17 to 28 August, in Espoo, Finland, 715 athletes from 35 European countries and 13 countries outside Europe came together at Espoo's refurbished Leppävaara Stadium.

From an organizational perspective, Espoo 2005 was a pioneering event as Finnish Athletics, the Finnish Paralympic Committee, the IAAF World Championships 2005 Organizing Committee, the City of Espoo and the Athletics Clubs of Espoo, all collaborated

to ensure the event was a success. For more information and a full list of results, please visit www.espoo2005.fi.

The competition came only a week after the 10th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships in Athletics, in Helsinki, from 6 to 14 August. Four exhibition events for athletes with a disability were held as part of the Championships.

The men's 100m and 200m (T54) wheelchair exhibition events were won by David Weir (GBR), the men's Javelin (F54) by Jacques Martin (CAN) and the women's 200m (T11) by Adria Santos (BRA).



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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS CONT.



© Photo: Miguel Ferreira

Boccia

Host country Portugal emerged victorious at the 2005 Cerebral Palsy International Recreation and Sports Association (CP-ISRA) Boccia European Championships held in Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal, from 12 to 19 June. This event included a record 121 athletes from 18 countries.

In the individual competition finals, class BC1 was won by José Vaquerizo (Spain), BC2 by Fernando Ferreira (Portugal, the featured

athlete in this issue of The Paralympian), BC3 by Santiago Pesquera (Spain) and BC4 by Bruno Valentim (Portugal). The Pairs BC3 competition was won by Portugal and the Pairs BC4 by Hungary. Portugal also won the team competition (BC1/BC2).

An International Boccia Committee (IBC) International Referee's Accreditation Course was also held in conjunction with the event.

Cycling

The 2005 IPC Cycling Open European Championships were held from 11 to 21 August, in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. Great Britain emerged as the leading country with ten gold medals. Australia, Germany and Spain followed with good results and confirmed their status as the top Cycling countries in the world. Spain won the most medals overall with a total haul of 25.

Over the eight days of competition, more

than 320 athletes from 33 countries participated in road and track events. Athletes and officials were particularly pleased with the organization which was made possible by around 100 volunteers.

Track ompetitions were held in the Alkmaar Velodrome, while road races took place in Schermer. For a complete list of results please visit www.j-r-c.com/cycling/index.htm.



© Photo: Prezioso



© Photo: Angelika Trabert

Equestrian

One of the premier events on the IPC Equestrian calendar, the 2005 IPC Dressage European Championships was held from 26 to 31 July, in Sósút, Hungary.

Based on their combined scores, the British team (of Sophie Christiansen, Nicola Tustain, Lee Pearson and Debbie Criddle) took the European team title by bringing home a total of four gold, two silver and three bronze

medals. The German team took silver, closely followed by Norway. Croatia and Slovakia also won equestrian medals for the first time.

Among the exceptional performers were 17 year-old, Christiansen (GBR) Bettina Eistel (GER) and Ann-Cathrin Lübke (NOR) who each took two gold medals. Lee Pearson (GBR), who is classified in Grade One (b), also won two silver medals in Grade Three.

Shooting

The Polish city of Wroclaw recently hosted a record number of athletes, competing in the 2005 IPC Shooting Open European Championships. From 3 to 10 July, a total of 181 athletes from 33 countries made this tournament the best attended in the history of IPC Shooting. The competition welcomed for the first time the NPCs of Cyprus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine.

The falling targets event was debuted and won by Blaz Beljan (CRO, Pistol) and Franci Pinter (SLO, Rifle), who also won the 3x40 Free Rifle. Other standout performers included Isabel Newstead (GBR) who claimed two gold medals and a new world record. In his first competition, Serge Malishev (RUS) was named Best Rookie after he won silver in the 50m Free Pistol and made the final in the Sport Pistol.



© Photo: IPC Shooting



© Photo: Pöpping

Sitting Volleyball

The town of Leverkusen, in Germany, recently hosted the European Sitting Volleyball Championships from 20 to 26 June. Twelve men's and five women's teams from 14 countries participated in the competition.

In the women's final, the Netherlands beat Lithuania (3:1) to become the European Champions and Slovenia beat the Ukraine for the bronze medal.

Meanwhile, in the men's competition, there was a repeat of the final of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games as once again Bosnia-Herzegovina beat the hosts Germany (3:0) to take the men's title. Russia also ousted Croatia for the third place honours.

All teams are now focussing on the upcoming World Championships to be held in July 2006 in the Netherlands.

Wheelchair Basketball

From 22 June to 1 July, the Men's European Wheelchair Basketball Championships took place in Paris, France. The Italian team defeated Great Britain in a close game (56:54) to win the gold medal and Sweden won the bronze over Israel (54:52).

The top five teams (France, Great Britain, Israel, Italy and Sweden) have now qualified for the World Championships to be held from 3 to 16 July 2006 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

More recently in the 2005 World Junior Championships, the USA dominated in the final against Japan (73:34) to take the Gold and Australia beat the British home team (61:38) to win Bronze. The championships, held in Birmingham, Great Britain, from 6 to 14 August involved teams from 12 countries.

The IWBF has a very full calendar of upcoming events. For more information, please visit www.iwbf.org.



© Photo: IWBF

Teams Vie For Cup

This year, the Netherlands hosted its second Invacare World Team Cup in the city of Groningen, from 19 to 26 June.

2005 was the second year in which the men's competition was staged in a two-division format. Following a series of single and doubles matches, Japan and the Netherlands met in the final. Shingo Kunieda (JPN) and Robin Ammerlaan (NED) both won their singles matches, but Ammerlaan and Ronald Vink (NED), supported by an army of fans in orange, overcame the Japanese in the doubles competition. In World Group 2, both Hungary and Italy will be promoted to World Group 1 for the 2006 Invacare World Team Cup in Brazil.

In the women's competition, the Netherlands, met Korea in the final. World champion Esther Vergeer (NED) beat FESPIC Games gold medallist Hong Young Suk (KOR), while Jiske Griffioen (NED) outclassed Park Ju Yeon (KOR). The Dutch women have now claimed the Invacare World Team Cup trophy 18 times in the history of the competition.



© Photo: Rien Hokken
Mike Denayer (BEL) in action at the 2005 Invacare World Teams Cup.

Pool A of the quad competition was dominated by the USA duo of David Wagner and Nick Taylor. In the final, the USA met undefeated Pool B winners Israel. Taylor (USA) triumphed over Ido Fridman (ISR) and world number one Wagner (USA) defeated Shraga Weinberg (ISR), to become the second country (along with Israel) to win the Quad trophy three times in its eight year history.

Belgium and Australia emerged top of the junior pools, but Mike Denayer and Joachim Gerard (BEL) outclassed the Australians, Richard Engles and Michael Esler, in straight sets.

The Chilean men's team received the Team of the Year Award from ITF President Francesco Ricci Bitti and the title sponsor Invacare, was presented with an award of recognition to mark the tenth anniversary of their sponsorship of the event. Mr. Ricci Bitti also presented Sue Wolstenholme from the British Tennis Foundation with the prestigious Brad Parks award, the highest international recognition in Wheelchair Tennis.

IPC SPORTS CALENDAR

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

25 September - 3 October 2005
10 - 19 March 2006
12 - 22 July 2006
2 - 10 September 2006
22 September - 2 October 2006
13 - 14 October 2006
27 November - 9 December 2006

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

ATHLETE PROFILE

A True Athlete

One of the star athletes at the recent European Championships was Portuguese team captain, Fernando Ferreira, who took gold in both the individual (BC2) class and the team event.

Ferreira is one of Portugal's most successful Paralympic athletes. At the international level (including five Paralympic Games, four Boccia World Championships and numerous World Cup and European Championships), he has collected three gold, five silver and four bronze individual (BC2) medals and six gold, two silver and four bronze team medals. 'The Paralympian' spoke to Ferreira about his recent success and the upcoming challenges that await him.

The Paralympian: Can you tell us how you got started in Boccia?

Fernando Ferreira: I grew up in Ferreira de Aves, Sátão, a mountain area at 45km from the city of Viseu, in Portugal. In 1985, when I was undergoing physiotherapy treatments, I was introduced to Boccia and since then I haven't stopped.

TP: What is your competition schedule like at the moment?

FF: So far this year, I have competed in four national competitions and the 2005 Boccia European Championships. At the moment, everything is focussed on the 2006 Boccia World Championships.

TP: Are there any competitions that really stand out for you?

FF: The Paralympic Games are always the greatest challenge. You are competing against the most elite athletes in the Boccia world and I find it is much more difficult to stay on the top than to reach it.

TP: What kind of training is involved?

FF: I do daily physical, technical and mental training and weekly psychology training to prepare for my competitions.

TP: When was your first Paralympic competition?

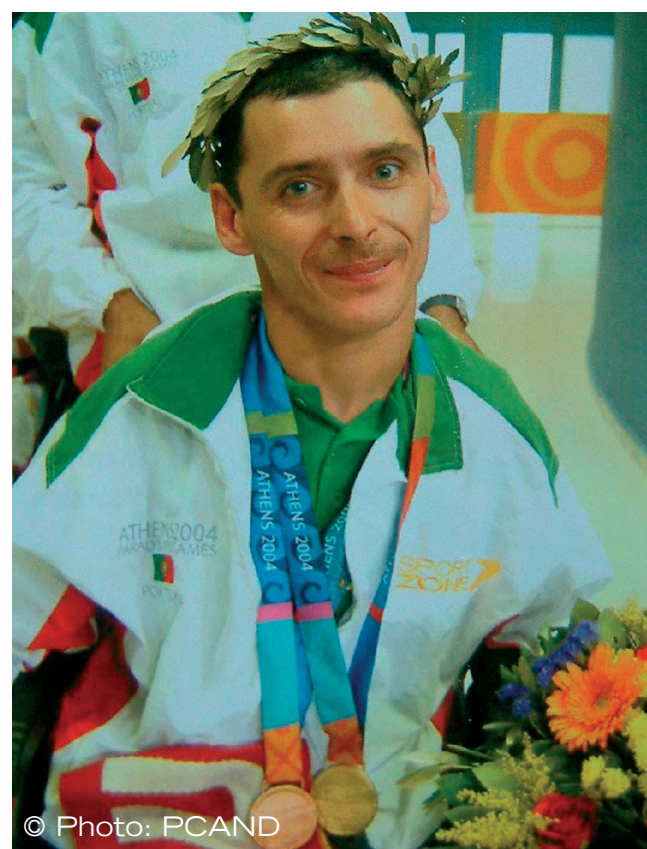
FF: My first Paralympic Games were in Seoul in 1988. At that time I was 17 years old and I won an individual bronze medal and the gold medal in the teams event. That determined my career and my life.

TP: What are your expectations/goals for 2005?

FF: Well, so far I have already won the main National Championships and both the European Championships Individual BC2 and Teams. I could not expect better. So, for 2006 I have to expect a similar performance as I work towards the World Championships.

TP: What makes Boccia such a unique sport?

FF: Boccia allows accuracy, intelligence and self-control. Playing this sport also encourages me to be the best I can be and makes me feel stronger and more confident.



© Photo: PCAND

TP: What advice would you give to other people with a disability considering taking up Boccia?

FF: The sensation of being recognized as a true athlete, the respect and sometimes the admiration we get from others, the pleasure of playing, the self control and self esteem we can obtain are more than enough to be passionate about the sport. I love the challenge of the game itself, there are thousands of possible plays and the feeling of achievement that you get that lets you know all the dedication, self control and training have paid off.

All on the Table

A total of 126 athletes from ten NPCs recently participated in the 2005 IPC Asia Oceania Table Tennis Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The event, held from 16 to 23 June, brought together athletes from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, China, India, Japan, Korea, Thailand and Malaysia.

The event also hosted the first International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee (IPTTC) Technical Delegates Seminar, which allowed five participants to become trained as Level A Technical Delegates.

As is tradition at IPC Table Tennis competitions, all players, officials and staff vote for the players of the year. The players of the year for the region were Lina Lei (CHN) in the

women's standing, Yang Ge (CHN) in the men's standing, Ai Gug (CHN) in the women's wheelchair and Young-Gun Kim (KOR) in the men's wheelchair.

A month later, athletes from nine countries travelled to Mar del Plata, Argentina, not for the sun and the beach but for the 2005 IPC Parapanamerican Table Tennis Champs, held from 16 to 22 July. A total of 115 athletes competed in individual and team events in a variety of classes.

This year's players of the year for the region were Giselle Muñoz (ARG) in the standing women's, Tahl Leibovitz (USA) in the standing men's, Marta Makishi (ARG) in the wheelchair women's and Giovanni Rodriguez (CRC) in the wheelchair men's.



© Photo: Nico Verspeelt

New Initiative in Athletics



The IPC Athletics World Indoor Games is the first global indoor IPC Athletics competition. The World Indoor Games will be held from 22 to 27 March 2006 in Bollnäs, Sweden, and will complement the existing outdoor Championships by offering a world-class competition during the winter season.

Said IPC Athletics Chairperson, Chris Cohen

"Like the IAAF, IPC Athletics is staging this event as a prelude to holding a full-scale World Indoor Championships in future years. Staging it in Sweden, with the support of the Swedish NPC (SHIF), and the Swedish Development Centre for Disability Sport (SUH), we are confident that this will form the foundations of a successful Championship series in the future."

The World Indoor Games is an IPC competition, which offers events for all classes. Limitations on the number of events per class are based on the number of entries in the last outdoor championship competition.

During the competition, an international

research group will set up different biomechanical analysis units for the throwing, jumping and running events. IPC Sport Science Committee Chairperson, Professor Yves Vanlandewijck commented: "This approach will serve the athletes in providing feedback about their current performance and guidelines on how to adjust their training to optimize performance. Second, the interrelationship between performance, functional potential and technique will be studied and will contribute to the understanding of track and field events and the consequent development of an appropriate classification system."

For more information please visit www.suh.se.

SPORTS PROFILE: WHEELCHAIR FENCING



© Photo: Lieven Coudenys

Wheelchair Fencing was one of the earliest sports practiced by persons with a disability. It has a long history and a growing appeal. 'The Paralympian' spoke to Chairperson of the International Wheelchair Fencing Committee (IWFC), Mr. Alberto Martinez Vassallo, to find out more.

TP: What is the history behind the sport?

Alberto Martinez Vassallo: The first display of Wheelchair Fencing took place at the Stoke Mandeville Games in 1954. Sir Ludwig Guttmann (the founder of the Paralympic Games) was an enthusiastic fencer and introduced it into the sports programme at the Stoke Mandeville Centre.

The sport was later developed in France and Italy and the first international competition was organized in 1955 in Stoke Mandeville under the rules and regulations of sports reserved for athletes in wheelchairs. After the first Paralympic Games in Rome, 1960, the Regulations of the International Fencing Federation were adopted.

TP: How is the sport governed?

AMV: Wheelchair Fencing is governed by the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS). The IWFC is made up of representatives from the countries widely practicing Wheelchair Fencing.

TP: How does Wheelchair Fencing differ from other Fencing competitions?

AMV: Athletes in Wheelchair Fencing have a physical disability, such as a leg amputation or a spinal injury, which means they compete while sitting in a wheelchair. The chairs are attached to a special frame that prevents them from rolling.

Apart from that, the rules, the sports equipment and the competition systems are the same as for Olympic Fencing, just the piste is a different size and the sanctions or penalties due to irregular movements are not possible in Wheelchair Fencing.

TP: What is the appeal of Fencing?

AMV: It is an individual sport where both opponents can be evenly matched in speed and technical skill, but there is a certain amount of intelligence needed to win. It is just like having the physical preparation of an athlete and the intelligence of a chess player. It requires good concentration, quick reflexes and co-ordination.

TP: Which are the leading countries?

AMV: For the last few years, the countries that have had the most success are Hong Kong, Poland, France and recently China.

TP: What developments have been made in Wheelchair Fencing recently?

AMV: Apart from the continuous improvement of the Frame apparatus, the most important development is the

World Cup series that allows athletes to compete in the two years prior to the World Championships or Paralympic Games. When an athlete reaches the Games, they have been classified based on their participation at a minimum of eight international competitions.

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

AMV: Although it is a sport that is not easy to comprehend for beginners, at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games the atmosphere and rivalry between the athletes and their followers made the venue very exciting. This was helped by the performance of the referees, which helped to make the competition understandable to the public.

TP: In which areas do you see a need for further development?

AMV: It is necessary to develop Wheelchair Fencing in regions such as South America, Africa and the Middle East. To do so, we hope to hold international courses for Fencing masters, referees and classifiers and work to promote the sport in these target regions.



© Photo: Lieven Coudenys

New Team Takes the Helm

At the 7th International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) General Assembly held in Beijing, China, from 8 to 12 June, a new Executive Committee for 2005-2009 was elected. The new team is:

President: Michael Barredo (PHI)
 Vice President: Serafín Lizoáin (ESP)
 Secretary General: Michel Bertezene (FRA)
 Treasurer: Silvia Aldini (ITA)
 Technical Director: Antonio Menescal (BRA)
 Medical Director: Georges Challe (FRA)
 Africa Delegate: Reynolds Pernal (MUS)
 America Delegate: David Farias (BRA)
 Asia Delegate: Radha Krishnan (MAL)
 Europe Delegate: Antonio Neves (POR)
 Oceania Delegate: Ray McLeod (NZL)
 Member at large: Weimin Teng (CHN)
 Member at large: Oral Miller (USA)
 Member at large: Frances Candiru (UGA)
 Member at large: Neil O'Donovan (IRE)

Almost fifty member countries, representing all five continents, attended the assembly,

making it one of the largest in the history of IBSA. The assembly also approved the inclusion of Archery as an official IBSA sport, bringing the total number of sports IBSA offers visually impaired athletes worldwide to 15.

The 1st World Blind Sports Conference was organized to take advantage of the gathering of the IBSA family. At the conference, over 100 participants took part in plenary sessions and workgroups to discuss issues such as IBSA's role in the new IPC structure, building and developing IBSA as an international federation, classification, anti-doping and IBSA's World Championships and Games. Plans are already afoot to repeat the Conference at future assemblies.

Outgoing IBSA President Mr. Enrique Pérez was granted the Victor Ludorum award, IBSA's highest award given to people who have made a significant contribution to the cause of blind sports worldwide.



© Photo: IBSA

Outgoing President Enrique Pérez pictured here with the new IBSA President Michel Barredo and Vice President Serafín Lizoáin.

NPC PROFILE: SPAIN

€7.3 Million for Spanish Paralympians

It was recently announced that the Spanish National Paralympic Committee (NPC) will receive EURO 7.3 million in funding to run a new initiative entitled the Spanish 'Paralympic Sport Support Programme'. The Paralympian spoke to Secretary General of the Spanish NPC, Miguel Sagarra, to find out more about the Programme and the growing support for Paralympic sport in Spain.

The Paralympian: What is the background of the Spanish NPC?

MS: Miguel Sagarra: The Spanish NPC is a young organization; founded in 1995. Later, in 1998, the Law on Sports recognized the NPC in the same way as the Spanish Olympic Committee, making us the co-ordinating body for sports for athletes with a disability in Spain.

With the creation of the NPC, sports for persons with a disability in Spain developed a more stable structure which includes the five federations of sport for athletes with a disability, representatives of the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Sports Council, the Spanish Olympic Committee, and the ONCE Foundation. Our Honorary President is Her Royal Highness Princess Elena.

TP: What are your main roles as a Committee?

MS: The essential goals of the Committee are the development and improvement of the Paralympic Movement and sports, the encouragement and direction of sport practice, the strengthening of the Paralympic ideals, the spreading of the main principles of sport as an instrument for peace and solidarity. We also ensure the protection of sport ethics according to the Anti-Doping Code, and promote of the values of co-operation and justice, against discrimination in sport.

TP: How has the Committee enabled athletes with a disability in Spain to achieve on the worldwide sports stage?

MS: Since the creation of the Spanish NPC, three Paralympic Summer Games have taken place: at Atlanta in 1996, Spain was fifth in the medal tally, with 106 medals, including 39 gold; in Sydney 2000, Spain came in fourth

place with 38 gold medals; and ATHENS 2004, Spain took seventh place, with 71 medals. Two Paralympic Winter Games have also taken place: in Nagano 1998, Spain came in the seventh place with eight gold medals, and Salt Lake City 2002, Spain was 12th with seven medals. In its short history, the Spanish NPC has devoted all its efforts to increase the prestige achieved by Spanish athletes.

TP: Please tell us about the new initiative the Spanish Paralympic Committee is launching this year.

MS: On 27 June 2005, we launched the 'Paralympic Sport Support Programme' (ADOP) at the residence of the President of the Spanish Government. The Programme will be initially provided with EURO 7.285 million for the preparation of elite Spanish athletes for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. The President of the Spanish Government, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, praised the Spanish Paralympic athletes for their success in Athens and pledged his support for the programme.

The President of the Spanish NPC, Jose Maria Arroyo, commented that this Programme means "a new responsibility, the responsibility of meeting our commitments, achieving good sport results and of returning to our society, and especially to our ADOP sponsors, the maximum benefits and satisfactions". The event was also attended by representatives of the sponsoring companies and a group of about 70 Spanish athletes who participated in the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

TP: What are the expected outcomes of this programme?

MS: The main goal of the Programme is to provide the economic, human and material resources (grants, sport equipment, international competitions, etc) for the athletes to compete in the best conditions possible. It will come into effect in September 2005, concluding in September 2008, after the Paralympic Games in Beijing.

The ADOP Programme is currently supported by Fundación Telefónica (EURO 1,805,000 over four years), the ONCE Foundation (EURO 800,000), El Corte Inglés, Grupo Leche Pascual and ACS (EURO 600,000 each) and Caja Madrid and Iberdrola (EURO 500,000 each).

The Programme is also supported by a number of grants from the Spanish Sports Council and the Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, providing EURO 940,000 each. In addition, the ONCE Foundation also provides the five Spanish federations with EURO 1.2 million per year.

The ADOP Programme will benefit all Spanish athletes, not only those who are already achieving high-class results but also a handful of young athletes who are expected to succeed at the next Paralympic Games. It will also benefit coaches, doctors, physiotherapists, psychologists and technical staff, whose contribution is essential. Overall, around 400 people will directly profit from this Programme, but indirectly it will help to increase the prestige and worldwide recognition of the athletes and Spanish Paralympic sport.



© Photo: Spanish Paralympic Committee

ATHENS Research - Part I



© Photo: Mathilde Dusol

Prior to the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, four research studies were approved by the IPC Sport Science Committee. With the assistance of the ATHENS 2004 Organizing Committee (ATHOC), these stud-

ies were completed during the Games. Over the next four issues of the Paralympian we will provide a summary of each of the studies. In this issue of the Paralympian, we will look at the research conducted by Lee Nolan, Benjamin Patriitti and Kathy Simpson, which made a biomechanical analysis of the take off phase in athletes with a below-the-knee amputation in the High Jump.

In this study, an analysis of the take-off technique of athletes with a below-the-knee amputation was carried out on two athletes competing in the men's High Jump finals at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games. Two digital video cameras were used to film the event with the data later digitized and reconstructed. Some similarities with non-amputee High Jump technique were noted in that the centre of mass height was low at touch-down (TD), there was a similar reported magnitude

of negative vertical velocity at TD, and most of the vertical velocity generated occurred in the first half of the take-off phase. However, both athletes exhibited a slower horizontal approach velocity, a more upright leg position at touch-down followed by a greater range of hip motion throughout the take-off phase, and a lower positive vertical take-off velocity compared to what is known about non-amputee high jump technique. These differences may be associated with taking off from the prosthetic limb on the last stride and understanding why these differences occur has implications for coaching and improving technique.

While it is not possible to generalize these findings to all jumpers with a below-the-knee amputation, this study has provided some insight to the techniques displayed by a group of elite athletes not previously studied. Although the technique of any jumper with a below-the-knee amputation demonstrates some unique characteristics due to differing levels of amputation, strength, ability and prosthesis used, these two athletes exhibited some shared kinematics that also differed from what is known about non-amputee high jump technique. These observations provide a first insight to understanding the mechanisms underlying below-the-knee amputee High Jump technique.

APPOINTMENTS



François Terranova, member of the IPC Governing Board, was elevated in July, to 'Officier de la Légion D'honneur', by the President of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac. The honour is one of the most prestigious French awards to recognize significant contributions to the nation. Mr. Terranova was Honorary General Inspector of the French Ministry of Youth and Sports and an Advisor to the French Minister of Sport. He was a Technical Officer of the French NPC, for the International Sports Organization for the Disabled (ISOD) and for the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games, as well as the General Secretary of the Organizing Committee for the 1992 Paralympic Winter Games.



Greg Hartung, President of the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and member of the IPC Governing Board, was appointed to the Board of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC). The ASC is the Australian Government sports agency, providing nationwide programmes and funding. Mr. Hartung was the first General Manager of the ASC, from 1984 to 1988, and returned to the Commission as a Board member from 1991 to 1995. He has been the President of the APC since 1997 and is currently also a member of the IPC Governing Board and President of the IPC Regional Organization for Oceania.



Luca Pancalli, President of the Italian NPC, was recently elected Vice President of the Italian Olympic Committee. Mr. Pancalli, a lawyer by profession, competed in Swimming at the Paralympic Games, from 1984 to 1996. From 1988 to 1992 he was a parliamentary collaborator, working on various bills on disability issues. He was elected President of the Italian Sports Federation for the Disabled (FISD) in 2000 and became the first President of the newly formed Italian Paralympic Committee in early 2005.



Pierre Claver Rwaka, Vice President of Marketing and Communication for the Rwandan NPC was recently elected as second Vice President of the Rwandan Olympic Committee. Mr. Rwaka has been involved with the NPC since its formation in 2000, on the Committee and as a Chef de Mission for the Rwandan delegation to Sydney and Athens. He is also an Executive Committee member of the IPC Regional Organization for Africa, the African Sports Confederation of Disabled (ASCOD).

Sir Philip Craven



On 11 June, Her Majesty (HM) Queen Elizabeth II announced that IPC President Philip Craven, has been appointed a Knight Bachelor. Sir Philip was made a Knight Bachelor on the Queen's Birthday Honours List, adding to the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) he received in 1991.

The Knight Bachelor is granted by HM The Queen and entitles the person bestowed with the Knighthood the use of 'Sir'. It is one of the oldest forms of chivalry in the British system.

Sir Philip stated: "This honour from HM the Queen recognizes the groundbreaking work undertaken by the Paralympic Movement, its sports, nations, regions, founding federations and staff."

Sir Philip was awarded the Knighthood "for services to Paralympic Sport". The official ceremony will take place at Buckingham Palace in early October.

DEVELOPMENT

Women In Sport Update

To address the low participation rates of girls and women in Paralympic sport, the IPC has heightened its commitment to achieving gender equity. From 17 to 19 August 2005, the first of two IPC Women in Sport Leadership Summits took place in Niamey, Niger. This summit was held in French for French speaking African countries. Representatives of seven French speaking African countries participated in the Summit.

Through the summit, participants received information about political leadership, policy development, education, sport development and disability service delivery. The major outcome is an action plan for the region to effectively incorporate women into Paralympic sport. All participants were provided with a 'Women in Sport Toolkit', produced by the IPC, to provide background information and actionable steps to implement in each country.

A second Summit will be held in English, for English speaking African countries, from 2 to 4 November 2005 in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. A total of 15 African NPCs will send representatives to one of the summits.

The WIPS Summits are designed to bridge the existing gaps in opportunities for girls and women with a disability in Paralympic sport. Ultimately, it is hoped that this initiative will build individual and organizational capacity at both the national and regional level, and develop a network of 'Women in Paralympic Sport' (WIPS) leaders who will enable countries and sports to provide sport and recreation programmes that foster participation of girls and women in Paralympic sport worldwide.

UK Sport has provided funding for one representative from each African NPC to attend the summits.



Members of the IPC Women in Sport Committee at their meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 27-29 July.

And the Winner is...London!



London 2012 Promotional campaign featuring British Paralympian Ade Adepitan.

On 6 July, at the 117th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session in Singapore, London (Great Britain) was elected to be the host city of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Attending the Session in Singapore, IPC President and IOC member, Philip Craven said: "The quality of all the bids was very high just like the content in each presentation about the Paralympics and this is particularly satisfying for the Paralympic Movement. Of course, I am pleased that my home country,

Great Britain, carried off the big prize, but I am confident that any of the five cities would have put on great Paralympic Games."

Following four rounds of voting by IOC members, London eventually triumphed by taking 54 votes from a possible 104. Candidate cities competing for the right to host the 2012 Games were (in order of drawing of lots): Paris (France), New York (USA), Moscow (Russia), London (Great Britain) and Madrid (Spain).

London 2012 Chairperson Lord Sebastian Coe confirmed later that he will take up the role of Chairperson of the London 2012 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games and London 2012 Chief Executive Officer Keith Mills will become Deputy Chairperson. Work on the London 2012 Games will begin immediately and a transition team of around 50 people has already been put in place to ensure key priorities are addressed while the Organizing Committee is established.

London 2012 aims to deliver accessible and inclusive designs for all facilities, maximize media coverage and strengthen the Paralympic Movement. It will strive to provide conditions that enable all athletes to compete in an environment of excellence, friendship and enjoyment. As Mr. Coe stated: "We set out a vision in Singapore and we are now calling on all relevant agencies in the UK to work with us to deliver it. This is about inspiring more young people to become involved in sport and giving the young athletes the help they need to become champions of the future."

ESPY Winners 2005



© Photos: Getty Images

On 13 July, the 13th ESPY Awards were held in Los Angeles, USA. Erin Popovich (Swimming) took the title of 'Best Female Athlete with a Disability' and Marlon Shirley (Athletics) was awarded 'Best Male Athlete with a Disability'.

The other nominees for the awards were Cheri Blauwet (Athletics), Karissa Whitsell and Katie Compton (Cycling), Paul Martin (Cycling) and Rudy Garcia-Tolson (Swimming).

The ESPY Award was created by ESPN in 1993 and is given to athletes for excellence in sports performance each year in 34 categories. The winners were chosen through an online vote on the ESPN website.

Women Reach New Heights

Climbing some of the world's highest mountains is something most people can only imagine. Yet from 27 May to 25 June a group of Slovak women braved the peaks of Siguniang Shan (6,250m) during the 'China - Tibet 2005 Women's Expedition', supported by the Slovak Paralympic Committee.

The expedition included ten women, six able-bodied and four with a physical disability, bringing together experience from some of the world's most daunting mountains.

Despite bad weather conditions, nine members of the expedition succeeded in climbing to the peak of Siguniang II (5,454m) on 7 June. This marked the climax of an ambitious expedition that also included climbing Siguniang I, traversing the valley under Siguniang III

and returning through the valley from Champing to Rilong, where they distributed humanitarian aid. While weather stopped them from reaching the main peak, the team achieved the first expedition of the year and the first women's expedition in history of Siguniang Shan Mountain.



© Photo: Slovak Paralympic Committee

Paralympic Fair Play Honoured

The International Committee for Fair Play (CIFP) has honoured a number of members of the Paralympic Family in the 2004 Fair Play Awards.

Betsy Alison (Sailing, USA) and the German NPC received a Fair Play Diploma in the category 'Promotion of Fair Play', the Brazilian Paralympic Equestrian Team of 2004 received a diploma in the category 'Act of Fair Play' and Table Tennis athlete Cristina Hoffmann Torres (MEX) received a 'Sport Career' diploma.

Letters of Congratulations in the category 'Act of Fair Play' were given to Equestrian rider Lee Pearson (GBR), sailor Keith Burhans (USA) and sailor Paul McCarth (IRE). Radu Rosenthal (ISR) also received a letter in the category 'Sport Career'.

CIFP is a prestigious organization co-founded by International Committee for Sports Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE) and the International Sports Press Association over 40 years ago.



Sailors at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games clearly demonstrated their Fair Play.

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