

THE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT

ISSUE NO. 3 | 2015

PARALYMPIAN

www.paralympic.org



Catch him if you can

Richard Browne among the record breakers at Doha 2015

› BIG DEALS:

Toyota, IPC make history

› FUTURE GAMES:

Rio 2016 tickets go global



The difference between
silver and gold.
The energy within

Marlou van Rhijn
Sprinter



At BP, we believe human spirit is the most powerful energy of all. It's the desire to overcome all challenges in your path and become the very best you can be. It's the fire that burns inside world class athletes like Marlou van Rhijn. It's also what drives BP to keep searching for newer, better and safer ways to produce the energy the world needs.



“... I am extremely confident that Latin America's first Paralympics will be a huge success.”

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the final edition of The Paralympian in 2015, a year that has been packed to the brim with sport!

Many outside of the Paralympic Movement wrongly assume that the years in between the Paralympic Games are quiet but as this edition shows, the years ending in an odd number are often the busiest!

One of the biggest stories since our last edition is that of Toyota joining the IPC as a Worldwide Paralympic Partner. The agreement with them is monumental for the whole Paralympic Movement as it is the first of its kind to cover the IPC, all National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) and future editions of the Paralympic Games. They are also the first, and I hope not the last, International Olympic Committee (IOC) Top Partner to build a holistic partnership with the Paralympic Movement.

I think the agreement also underlines the tremendous progress we are making in Japan ahead of Tokyo 2020. In the last 14 months alone, Panasonic and Toyota have joined as long-term partners, whilst we have also secured major broadcast agreements with NHK and Wowow.

Looking ahead to next year, the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games are hugely important for the continued growth of the Paralympic Movement.

I was in Rio in September to help launch ticket sales on the one-year-to-go mark and was hugely

impressed at what I saw. Media interest was like nothing I have ever experienced at previous Games and I am extremely confident that Latin America's first Paralympics will be a huge success.

On the subject of ticket sales, this edition includes further details on how the IPC's Authorised Ticket Reseller Jet Set Sports and CoSport can benefit IPC members ahead of next year's Games.

This edition also includes an update on the work of the Agitos Foundation, the IPC's development arm, which has made significant progress since it was launched in August 2012.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who attended November's IPC General Assembly in Mexico City and pay testament to every single IPC member for contributing to another hugely successful year for the Paralympic Movement.

As we prepare to head into another Paralympic year, we find ourselves in our strongest position to date and it is vital that we fully capitalise on the opportunities that Rio 2016 will present.

Philip Craven

Sir Philip Craven, MBE
IPC President





Mexico's Jesus Yerman Angeles Fernandez performs during the 2015 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships held 8-9 November in Rome, Italy. He won gold in the men's single freestyle class 2.

PRINT



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THE PARALYMPIAN

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++ NEWS IN-BRIEF ++

IPC: The IPC Strategic Plan 2015-2018 has been translated into French, German and Spanish. The translations are available online at paralympic.org/the-ipc/publications

MOVEMENT: Tim Nugent, known as the US “father of accessibility” passed away on 11 November. Nugent, 92, was credited with kick starting education and sporting opportunities for people with impairments as well as leading the early fight for improved accessibility in the USA.

IPC: Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg hosted the IPC biennial Honorary Board meeting on 15 October. At the meeting, the Board was updated on the growth of the Paralympic Movement since 2013, the IPC Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and the progress of the IPC’s development arm, the Agitos Foundation, among others.

VISTA: The eighth VISTA conference for scientists and experts in para-sport will be held in Toronto, Canada, between 19-22 September 2017. The theme will be “Opportunities and challenges in Paralympic sport science and medicine support.”

2024 GAMES: Budapest, Hungary; Los Angeles, USA; Paris, France; and Rome, Italy, will compete to host the Games in 2024 after submitting their applications to the IOC. Hamburg, Germany, withdrew their bid to host the 2024 Games.

NPC: The Brazilian and Swedish NPCs signed a co-operation agreement for the development of para-sport in both countries. The partnership has an initial duration of five years (2015-2020).

CYCLING: A punctured tyre cost Colin Lynch the unofficial para-cycling hour record at the Manchester Velodrome in Great Britain. The record for the men’s C2 class still stands at 41.31km, set by France’s Laurent Thirionet in 1999. Lynch completed about 29km in 42:05.301 and was on course to break the record.

BIG DEALS

Toyota, IPC join forces for historic partnership



A ground-breaking partnership between the IPC and the Toyota Motor Corporation (Toyota) was signed on 26 November in Tokyo, Japan, with Toyota becoming a Worldwide Paralympic Partner in the mobility category through to 2024.

Under the terms of the category agreement, which covers vehicles, mobility services and mobility solutions, Toyota’s rights will include the IPC, all NPCs from 2017 and future Games Organising Committees from Tokyo 2020.

It is the first partnership in the Paralympic Movement’s history to encapsulate the IPC, all NPCs and future Paralympic Games under one agreement, and the first time an IOC TOP Partner has shown widespread support of the Paralympic Movement through funding and global promotional reach.

“This is a monumental day for the entire Paralympic Movement,” said IPC President Sir Philip Craven.

“The IPC aspires to make for a more inclusive

society for people with an impairment through para-sport, however this can only be achieved through mobility for all. The Paralympic Games are the world’s number one sporting event for driving societal transformation. And in partnership with Toyota, we believe we can energise and activate the whole Paralympic Movement to further our impact on society, enriching millions of more lives.

“We want Toyota to join the IPC in our efforts to transform societies through sport.”

Toyota President Akio Toyoda said: “We don’t want mobility to be an obstacle, but rather an opportunity for people to achieve their dreams. At the most difficult times, sports can offer hope and purpose and inspire us all to never give up. And sport has the power to unify us all. Through the Paralympic Games, we want to make the power of mobility and the power of sport available to all.”

Toyota will be the IPC’s sixth Worldwide Paralympic Partner joining the likes of Atos, Ottobock, Panasonic, Samsung and Visa.

BP America sign more Paralympians than Olympians

Energy company BP became the first-ever corporate partner of the United States Olympic Committee to sponsor an athlete roster featuring more Paralympians than Olympians.

They will sponsor seven Team USA athletes competing for a spot at the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Five of the Paralympic hopefuls are wheelchair racer Tatyana McFadden, archer Matt Stutzman, swimmer Brad Snyder, triathlete Melissa Stockwell and long jumper Lex Gillette. McFadden

and Stutzman return as BP Team USA athlete ambassadors. Snyder and Stockwell are US military veterans who were wounded in combat.

BP – an international partner of the IPC and sponsor of several NPCs in several countries around the world – will help provide the athletes with coaching, equipment and travel needs during training and competition. In addition, BP will donate to organisations and charities of each athletes’ choosing.



Who else are teaming up?

Other partnerships formed with International Federations and NPCs ahead of the Rio 2016 Paralympics:

<p>Swiss Paralympic and Wams AG, Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS)</p>	<p>International Wheelchair Rugby Federation and Hogan Lovells</p>
<p>National Wheelchair Basketball Association (USA) and Jr. NBA Community Partner, T-Mobile</p>	<p>The Libyan Paralympic Committee and German city of Cottbus</p>
<p>Cadbury and Australian Paralympic Committee, Paralympics New Zealand</p>	

++ NEWS IN-BRIEF ++

SWIMMING: IPC Swimming is seeking a host for the 2019 World Championships, which will be one of the final qualification opportunities for Tokyo 2020. The bid process will close on 1 February 2016.

WHEELCHAIR DANCE: During Pope Francis’ first visit to the USA, the American DanceWheels Foundation got a special opportunity to perform for him on 26 September in Philadelphia.

ARCHERY: Iran’s Zahra Nemat collected a quota place for her country for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games after winning the recurve women’s open competition at the Bangkok 2015 Asian Para Championships in Thailand. Additionally, she qualified an Olympic spot for Iran at the able-bodied Asian Championships preceding the para-event.

SNOWBOARD: IPC Snowboard launched a website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. The site at www.ipc-snowboard.org is packed with news and information for fans, race organisers and coaches alike. The Facebook profile is available at [Facebook.com/IPCsnowboard](https://www.facebook.com/IPCsnowboard) and Twitter account at @IPCSnowboard.

TAEKWONDO: The Pan American Taekwondo Union (PATU) and the Americas Paralympic Committee signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding. The two organisations committed to work toward development of para-taekwondo across the Pan American region and inclusion in the Parapan American Games.

ARGENTINA: A crowded Luna Park in Buenos Aires was filled with people cheering for the para-athletes competing during Argentina’s Paralympic Day on 27 September. The day ended with a live band playing and people dancing along to the music. It was the Argentine Paralympic Committee’s second Paralympic Day.

++ NEWS IN-BRIEF ++

SINGAPORE: In a bid to encourage more corporations to support Singapore's Paralympic athletes, Paralympic swimmers Theresa Goh and Yip Pin Xiu joined 11 BP staff members in a swim-a-thon at the Singapore Swimming Club.

MALAWI: The first National Junior Para-Athletics Championships in Malawi were held in Blantyre on 27 September.

TEAM VISA SUMMIT: Five Paralympic athletes - Brazilians Daniel Dias and Terezinha Guilhermina, Canada's Benoit Huot, Russia's Olesya Vladykina and the USA's Alana Nichols – were in San Francisco, USA, in September for the Team Visa Summit. The year-long programme will see Visa support the athletes as they train for Rio 2016.

WADA: The World Anti-Doping Agency's Executive Committee approved the 2016 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods, which is now available on wada-ama.org. The List will come into force on 1 January 2016.

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand multi-media company Attitude Group – which focuses its content on covering the lives and achievements of people with impairments and is the IPC's rights holder in the country – won the "inclusion and empowerment" category at the United Nations-based World Summit Awards (WSA) for its website AttitudeLive.com.

SPAIN: Six-time Spanish Paralympic swimming champion Teresa Perales became the first athlete with an impairment to obtain the Premio Leyenda (Legend Award), joining sport greats such as Michael Jordan, Usain Bolt and Rafael Nadal.

IRAN: NPC Iran celebrated their National Paralympic Day on 12 October. The event was attended by high-ranked officials, including Wilfried Lemke, United Nations Secretary General Special Adviser on Sport for Development and Peace. Approximately 8,000 people participated in Tehran as well as schools around Iran.

Tennis legend supports Movement in Brazil

Three-time Roland Garros champion and former world No. 1 Gustavo Kuerten was named one of the Brazilian Paralympic Committee's (CPB) ambassadors of the Brazilian Paralympic Movement.

The official recognition happened during the prize ceremony of the Professional Wheelchair Tennis Championship, which is part of the Guga Kuerten Week and the biggest wheelchair tennis tournament in Latin America.

"As patron of the most important wheelchair tennis Championship in Latin America, Gustavo Kuerten shows the support he gives to the Movement," Andrew Parsons, CPB President, said. "He also has a family history of supporting disability awareness. When we planned our ambassadors programme,

Gustavo's name was one of the first to come to our mind as he represents a Brazil that wins, just like our Paralympic athletes."

Guga, as Kuerten is called in Brazil, added: "The wheelchair tennis players are the precious examples of courage, discipline and joy that we want to see here. Guga Kuerten Week does not exist without the wheelchair tournament and now, as an ambassador, I want it to grow even more."

Guga is the ninth personality to join the CPB programme. Other ambassadors include football stars Romario and Ronaldinho, model and TV hosts Fernanda Lima and Rodrigo Hilbert, judo Olympic medallist Flavio Canto, businessman Luiz Severiano Ribeiro, and former Formula One drivers Emerson Fittipaldi and Ayrton Senna (in memoriam).



Women in the Movement

Two-time Paralympian Carla Qualtrough was appointed Canada's Minister for Sport and Persons with Disabilities. A lawyer and human rights activist, Qualtrough represented Canada at the Seoul 1988 and Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games, winning three bronze medals in swimming. She was appointed on 5 November.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "On behalf of the whole Paralympic Movement I would like to pass on all of our congratulations and wish her well in her new role.

"Due to her time as an athlete and leading sports administrator, Carla has an extensive knowledge of the Paralympic Movement

and how para-sport can contribute towards a more inclusive and equitable society for all. I think she is the ideal candidate for this role.

"Over the years she has been named one of Canada's Most Influential Women in Sport on six occasions; arguably she is the now most influential person in Canadian sport."

The Australian Paralympic Committee also appointed Lynne Anderson as their new Chief Executive Officer. Anderson previously served as Managing Director of Repucom International, Australia and New Zealand for eight years. She began her new role on 24 August.

European Paralympic Committee holds General Assembly

Members of the European Paralympic Committee (EPC) gathered for the 11th General Assembly & Conference from 2-3 October, hosted by the Portugal Paralympic Committee in Lisbon.

The event saw representatives from 29 National Paralympic Committees, four European branches of international para-sport federations, and a variety of national and international guest organisations.

Entitled "The European Paralympic Committee on the Move: Shaping the Future Together," the biennial gathering was divided into two parts: Conference day, and the General Assembly, the supreme governing body of EPC that is held every two years.

Conference day

EPC President John Petersson highlighted that 2008 to 2011 marked a period of consolidation for the EPC in all areas, where "the health of the EPC was extremely weak." The years 2011 to 2013, however, were creating a new energy for the EPC.

"Due to the activity of the EPC and its members (from 2011-2013), we are now in a healthy position and the European Paralympic pulse is as strong as it has ever been: But work is needed to maintain this health," Petersson said.

During the Conference Day, members were informed by the Executive Board about: the EPC's 2015 European Para Youth Games; collaboration established by the EPC to allow European para-athletes to participate at the 2016 European University Games and the introduction of a specific MBA Scholarship Programme for young European para-athletes, among others.

"One of our current priorities is the development of pathways for young athletes, both inside and outside sports," Petersson said.



General Assembly

With ParaVolley Europe, a new EPC member was adopted. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the European Women and Sport (EWS) network. As an outcome of the development of closer relations with the European Olympic Committee (EOC), a relationship between the EPC athletes' representative and the EOC Athletes Committee was announced.

Outcomes of discussions included that EPC will deliver a working group regarding the development of the European Para Youth Games 2017, with a clear bid process to be established. Furthermore, an increase of the EPC membership fee with effect from 2016 was adopted, a working group on EPC collaboration structures under the leadership of NPC Ireland will be established, and a letter to the IPC from the EPC General Assembly relating to the use of the 23rd sport for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was agreed.

Takeaways

The EPC Executive Board will develop a strategic Position Paper that will be shared and discussed with the full EPC membership.

With it, the EPC aims to "listen to its members" and to steadily improve its management and governance processes, in order "to maximise EPC's pulse, with a more engaged and proactive membership."



Vladyslava Kravchenko (Malta / EPC Youth Ambassador) and Daniel Caverzaschi (Spain / EPC Youth Ambassador) at the EPC General Assembly

In a lively and interactive workshop, the EPC members were encouraged to position themselves and discuss the further strategic positioning of the EPC between acting as a sport political representative and Paralympic advocate on the one hand, and a driver for the development of sports on the other.

The workshop was aimed at setting priorities and giving indications on the use of the EPC's resources.

IPC General Assembly

NEW NPCs



Aruba



Yemen

St. Vincent
and the
Grenadines

Guinea Bissau



Somalia

The IPC held its 17th General Assembly in Mexico City on 15 November with nearly 300 people in attendance.

During the morning session, IPC President Sir Philip Craven presented the IPC's Biennial Report which highlighted the growth and breadth of the Paralympic Movement's work in the last two years.

"The priority now is to use the new IPC Strategic Plan to build on these foundations," Sir Philip said.

"Together, we must deliver a hugely successful Paralympic Games in Rio next year and show to the world that Beijing 2008 and London 2012 were not exceptions, but the norm.

During the full-day event, a number of motions were approved by the IPC membership, including the 2015 IPC Athlete Classification Code.



Effective from 1 January 2017, the new Code is more athlete focussed and accessible.

A motion put forward by CPISRA for the IPC Governing Board to consider a 23rd sport for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games was defeated.

The IPC General Assembly also approved the membership of nine new organisations, five of which were NPCs. They are the NPCs of Aruba, Yemen, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guinea Bissau and new Somalia.

Four International Federations – World Taekwondo Federation, International Sailing Federation, International Federation of CP Football and Badminton World Federation – were approved as IPC members.

NEW IFs

World
Taekwondo
FederationInternational
Sailing
FederationInternational
Federation of
CP FootballBadminton
World
Federation

PARALYMPIC ORDER



Sylvana Mestre
Former
Chairperson of
the IPC Alpine
Skiing Sport
Technical
Committee



Georgios Fountoulakis
President of the
Hellenic
Paralympic
Committee



Dr. Axel Bolsinger
Ophthalmologist
Adviser and
Classifier for the
German National
Paralympic
Committee



**Naoki Maeda of
Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan**
Effectively captured Japanese Nordic
skier Yurika Abe trudging up a slope while
using the pole only in her right hand.

2015 Paralympic Award Winners

During the General Assembly, 10 winners of the 2015 Paralympic Awards presented by Allianz were revealed, recognising their achievements from the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games.

The sport awards were presented in five categories, whilst four organisations received Paralympic Media Awards. One athlete also received the BP Courage Award.

"After the last Games in Vancouver 2010, when Verena Bentele won this award, I thought, 'One time, it would be great to win the award by myself.' And this time, it's really me. Amazing."

Anna Schaffelhuber



Roman Petushkov, Russia
Nordic skiing

Became the first athlete in history to win six gold medals (four biathlon races and two mixed relay cross-country events) at a single Paralympic Winter Games.



Alexey Bugaev, Russia
Alpine skiing

At the age of 16, won a medal in all five alpine skiing standing events.



Anna Schaffelhuber, Germany
Alpine skiing

Won all five alpine skiing events at Sochi 2014, the second woman to sweep all the titles in Paralympic Winter Games history.



USA Ice Sledge Hockey

The first ice sledge hockey team to win back-to-back Paralympic titles in Sochi. Their gold-medal win against hosts Russia reached a historic audience for the Paralympic Movement with live coverage on NBC, as well as the PBS documentary Ice Warriors.



Hans Peter Neeser, Switzerland
Nordic skiing

Served as the IPC Race Director for cross-country skiing and biathlon. Was instrumental in pioneering and developing a close working relationship with broadcast that led to unprecedented close co-operation and co-ordination of schedule and venue planning.



Bibian Mentel-Spee, the Netherlands
Snowboarding

Successfully campaigned to get the sport into Sochi 2014. Won Paralympic gold to cap a memorable season that also saw her win seven World Cup events.

Ben Shpigel of the New York Times

Wrote a piece that focused on visually impaired skiing, showing how athletes team up with their guides while racing down a steep mountain together. Another article featured real-life accounts of US military service members and veterans who competed for Team USA, showing how they got into sport and the impact it had on their lives.

The New York Times

BEST
WRITTEN

Channel 4, Great Britain

Produced regular features on winter athletes in the build-up to Sochi 2014. Games-time coverage included over 150 hours on TV and on-line, of which over 70 hours were live on Channel 4 and More 4.



BEST
BROAD-
CAST

Ronny Blaschke of Deutsche Welle, Deutschlandradio, Germany

Compiled and researched information on the Paralympic Movement since 2010, utilising that to produce in-depth and enterprising reports. This included the impact Sochi 2014 had on Russian people with an impairment.



BEST
RADIO

#AskAnAthlete

These two have been trading podium spots in women's sit-ski competitions since 2010. As the 2015-16 alpine skiing season gets underway, see what two of the best skiers on the circuit have to say.

spots in women's sit-ski competitions since 2010. As the 2015-16 alpine skiing season gets underway, see what two of the best skiers on the circuit have to say.

Anna Schaffelhuber

www.annaschaffelhuber.de



VS.



Claudia Loesch

www.claudia-loesch.at

... Happy about the medals but a little bit angry about myself because I could have performed better and faster in certain races. All in all, I was happy to finish the season after a long and busy season and to have new goals to work for.

1. You left the 2015 World Championships feeling...

... Totally happy because I finally achieved my downhill performance. I messed up the downhill events in prior big events, for example in Vancouver 2010, La Molina for the World Champs, and in Sochi 2014. It was the first time I skied downhill the way I wanted to ski.

Actually, I have two. Slalom is my best discipline and can just be fun with hitting the gates etc. But I also love giant slalom because it's the perfect mix of speed and a big part of ski technique.

2. Which is your favourite alpine skiing event and why?

Super-G. For me, it is the biggest challenge because you have to have an excellent technique and be courageous. It's the perfect mixture of speed and technique.

Athletically – to win the first and the fifth gold (a dream come true); just the moment when I realised that I take home every single gold medal.

3. What is your most favourite Paralympic Winter Games memory – both athletically and personally?

Slalom and super-G of the 2010 Paralympic Games in Vancouver. The slalom because it was my first Paralympic gold and I was a second behind in the first run and smashed it in the second.

Personally – to see my proud family in the spectators area after the races.

... I started to cry on the podium.

I think she is a very, very ambitious person and knows how to find a fast line, especially in speed races.

4. What do you make of your rival?

She is consistent in her performances. She never crashes, she is an amazing slalom skier.

I look forward to race maybe in Aspen, USA. I've never been there before.

5. Which race are you looking forward to this season and why?

The World Cup races in Aspen because I know the slopes there and I won my first World Cups there. And I think it is going to be a lot of fun because I like the North American snow.

2016 IPC Alpine Skiing World Cups

15-17 Jan. / Abtenau, Austria (giant slalom, super-G, super combined)

18-19 Jan. / Tarvisio, Italy (slalom, giant slalom)

21-23 Jan. / St. Moritz, Switzerland (slalom)

25-29 Jan. / Tignes, France (downhill, super-G)

24-26 Feb. / Aspen, Colorado, USA (slalom, giant slalom)

28 Feb. – 4 March / Aspen/Buttermilk, Colorado, USA (downhill, super-G)

Top viral videos from 2015

Check out some of the most shared videos relating to the Paralympic Movement this year.



Views: 3,919,017

Hidden camera inside a gym catches the surprised, priceless reactions of people when three Brazilian para-athletes work out alongside them.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b4PvmMCy2Y



Views: 2,237,581

BP's #EnergyWithin ad effectively utilises a mix of electronic music and narrative to show their support for Paralympians, such as Dutch athletics star Marlou van Rhijn.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtzHwFy3pj8



Views: 1,499,739

The world's No. 1 men's singles tennis player Novak Djokovic gives wheelchair tennis a try at the US Open.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b4PvmMCy2Y



Views: 334,180

In the Wimbledon doubles semi-finals, Argentina's Gustavo Fernandez dives to return a shot, falling from his chair in the process. While still on his hands, he plays a quick shot, recovers, and rushes to return another shot for the eventual point.

www.facebook.com/Paradeportes/videos/1637699756472820



Views: 288,062

Iran's Siamand Rahman lifted a world-record 295 kg at the 2015 IPC Powerlifting Asian Open Championships. The moment, along with the energy inside the arena, were caught on camera.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtZWisoE4-Q

FIND OUT MORE

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ParalympicSport.TV

@Paralympics

Developing para-sport — worldwide

Three years ago, the IPC launched the Agitos Foundation to develop para-sport. What was accomplished over that time, and what is next?



Awareness and support for para-sport development varies dramatically around the world.

That is where the Agitos Foundations steps in. Launched during London 2012, the IPC's 'development arm' came in to support high performance and grassroots programmes,

raise awareness and help the IPC membership grow.

The Agitos Foundation In Review 2012-15, which was released in November 2015, looks at what the Agitos Foundation has accomplished. Complementing the Review is the Strategic Outlook, explaining plans to build

off the work from the last three years.

In early 2016, the Agitos Foundation will release its new strategic direction focused on upscaling the capacities of IPC member organisations as delivery partners, increasing global para-sport participation and narrowing gaps in classes, sports and gender.



Visit www.paralympic.org/agitos-foundation for a pdf of The Agitos Foundation In review 2012-2015.

AGITOS
Foundation

Developing Sport,
Changing Lives

A look at what was accomplished from 2012-15

Grant Support Programme (GSP)

Each year, from 2013, EUR 650,000 was set aside and distributed to IPC members, who had to first apply and explain how they would use the funds.

The grants went toward areas of athlete development and education, sport technical education for coaches, classifiers and technical officials, capacity building and leadership.

Organisational Capacity Programme (OCP)

Knowledge and education are essential building blocks for para-sport development. Through the OCP, a two-year training programme, the Agitos Foundation equips NPC staff and volunteers with necessary skills and knowledge about operations, administration, fundraising, stakeholder relationships with the aim of spreading the Movement and developing new athletes.

Other ways the Agitos Foundation developed para-sport:

- Partnerships with Games Organising
- Committees (e.g. Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games, Rio 2016 Paralympic Games)
- Partnerships with sport and development organisations (e.g. China Council of Lions Clubs)
- WoMentoring, designed to help get more women into leadership positions in the Paralympic Movement



2013

Rwanda GSP 2013

- 31 coaches** trained in para-athletics
- 128 participants** in a national para-athletics competition
- 20 talented** individuals identified for further training at international competitions

“Before I was feeling isolated and not participating in any community event. Now, since I joined this programme I have dreams.”

Josephine Ngabire, Rio 2016 hopeful

2014

International Tennis Federation GSP 2014

- 200 participants**
- 1 competition** in Haiti
- 2 competitions** in Cuba

“Wheelchair accessibility laws are not on the forefront for most Haitians. I informed them of the different opportunities for integration ... I worked with two men who improved so much in three short days, and it is amazing to see their progress with just some basic education and training.”

Lynn Bender, Wheelchair Tennis sub-committee Vice-chairperson

2015

Puerto Rico OCP 2015

- 3 training workshops** held that brought the Puerto Rico Paralympic Committee and national government together.
- 29 athletes** sent to the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games as a result; it was the biggest delegation since the first edition of the Parapans in 1999.

“We have achieved a good and strong strategic alliance with government agencies, including Department of Recreation and Sports ...”

Dr. German Perez Rodriguez, Vice President of Puerto Rico NPC

GSP reached more than
93,000
people

(e.g. athletes, members of the public, government and sport organisations)



... a 75 per cent increase from 2013

A total of
156
workshops

will have been delivered by participants in the OCP in

39
countries



by the end of 2016.



Brazilian Paralympic and world champion Yohansson Nascimento speaks at an Agitos Foundation event



WHAT IS NEXT?

In 2016, the Agitos Foundation will move toward implementing a new strategic direction, including:

- Expanded governance and management structure (e.g. creation of Board of Trustees).
- Refreshed brand.
- Broader scope of activities to accurately reflect the needs of para-sport globally.
- Robust fundraising campaign and a collaborative-partnership-driven approach to all activities.

The scope of the work will include:

- **Grants** – grant funding for partner-led projects aimed at strengthening para-sport from grassroots to Paralympic success.
- **Capacity building** – training and support to IPC members, enabling them to effectively deliver their operational and sporting objectives.
- **Awareness** – raise the profile of para-sport through education programmes and by advocating for increased resources and recognition worldwide.
- **Partnerships** – seek partnerships with organisations committed to advancing the future of para-sport.
- **Research** – support research on para-sport, its development, importance and impact.
- **Networking** – strengthen para-sport networks and promote information sharing through the Agitos Foundation network, an online knowledge bank and discussion platform.

Find more at paralympic.org/agitos-foundation

Grab your tickets now for Rio 2016



Tickets for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games are now on sale, with the Organising Committee aiming to sell 3.3 million, half a million more than London 2012.

In an effort to make it easier for fans around the world to purchase Paralympic tickets, the IPC recently appointed Jet Set Sports and CoSport as its Global Authorised Ticket Reseller (ATR) in an agreement that is set to return direct financial benefits to the Paralympic Movement starting with the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Over the last 35 years, Jet Set Sports and CoSport have welcomed more than 1 million guests to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. For the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, a variety of ticket and package offerings are available, covering everything from individual tickets to short breaks in three or four star hotels combined with highly sought after event tickets, including the Opening Ceremony.

Robert F. Long, President of CoSport, said each and every fan and supporter of para-sport stands to benefit from this new partnership.

“Historically there has been a limited choice of tickets and practically no reasonable package options for fans to choose from for previous editions of the Paralympic Games,” Long said.

“Through this new partnership we are offering a range of options covering everything from a single ticket to packages that

conveniently include hotel accommodations, tickets, ground transport, and access to experienced CoSport staff while in Rio. Packages are flexible enough to suit almost every individual need and interest so we together can fill the venues in Rio with the most enthusiastic fans and supporters.

“Our aim is to work closely with the IPC and its members to try and ensure that the high bar set with London 2012 is surpassed with even more international fans and supporters in Rio. To help encourage sales, we are offering NPCs a range of commissions varying from 5 to 8 per cent on each ticket and package sold in their respective territory.”

Australia is amongst one of the first NPCs to benefit from the partnership, and so far Rio 2016 Chef de Mission Kate McLoughlin is impressed by the working relationship.

“We are thrilled to have CoSport on board as the IPC’s exclusive provider of tickets and packages to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games and beyond to Tokyo 2020. CoSport have an excellent reputation among fans attending international sporting events, and we’re confident in their ability to do an incredible job in servicing Australia’s growing Paralympic sport fanbase,” she said.

Outside of the host country Brazil, individual tickets and hotel and ticket packages are available on a first come, first served basis at www.cosport.com. A three-night stay in spectacular Ipanema with event tickets, daily breakfast, access to CoSport staff, and more included starts at USD 1,315 per person.

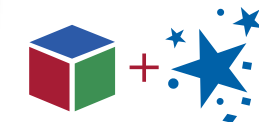
The IPC’s agreement with Jet Set Sports and CoSport extends through to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

NPC FINANCIAL BENEFITS



Games tickets
on a
stand-alone basis

5%
of the face value



Games package
with
ceremonies ticket

6%
of the Games
package sale price



Games package
without
ceremonies ticket

8%
of the Games
package sale price



Games package
through an approved
subagent or travel agent
in your territory

5%
of the Games
package sale price

Visit www.cosport.com or contact the CoSport team directly (cosport@cosport.com, +1 908 326 2660) to learn more about how you can support and benefit from this new partnership with the IPC.



Global Authorised Ticket Reseller



International
Paralympic
Committee



Global Authorised Ticket Reseller



International
Paralympic
Committee



Thailand's Rawat Tana on his way to victory in the men's 5,000m T54 final at the 2015 IPC Athletics World Championships

IPC Athletics World Championships

21-31 October

An impressive 54 world records were set in Doha, Qatar, as athletes raced to World Championship glory with less than a year until Rio 2016.

One of the Championships' highlights came from the USA's Richard Browne, who owned two of those world records. The US runner finally achieved the gold medal he had been waiting for in the men's 100m T44 (10.61 seconds), adding to the 200m title he won earlier in the competition.

Germany's Markus Rehm won the men's long jump T44 with a world-record leap of 8.40m.

His mark would have won him London 2012 Olympic gold and silver at the 2015 IAAF World Championships in Beijing, China.

Following a successful 2015 Grand Prix season, Omara Durand reinforced why she is the world's fastest female para-athlete. The Cuban pulled a hat-trick in Doha, smashing world records in the 100m, 200m and 400m T12.

Russia's Margarita Goncharova left Doha with the most medals at five, including three golds in the women's 200m, 400m and long jump T38. But her toughest competitor in 18-year-old Sophie Hahn was not too far behind.

The British sprinter took gold in the 100m.

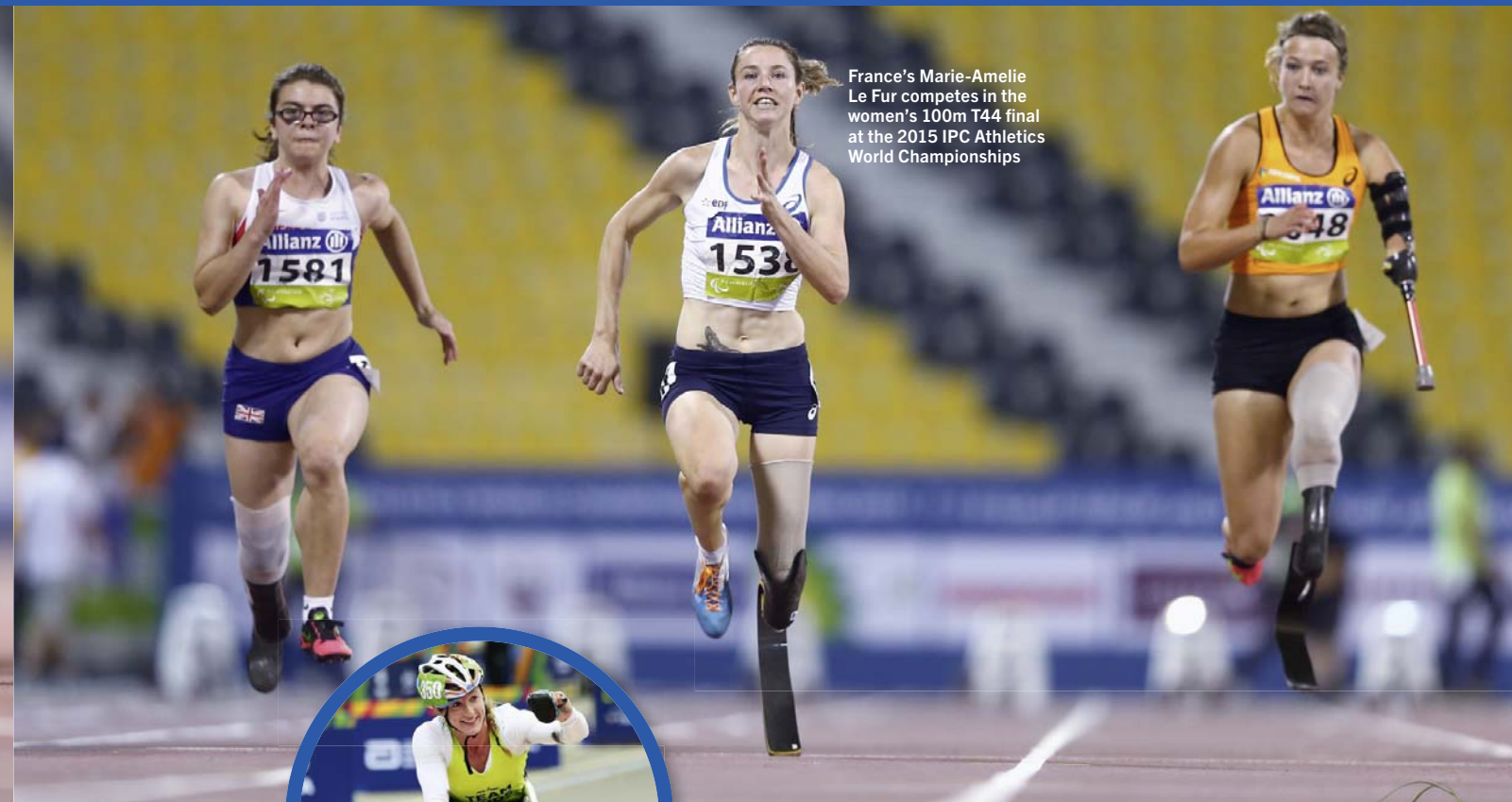
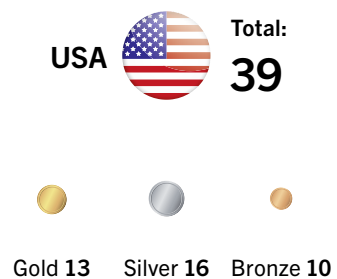
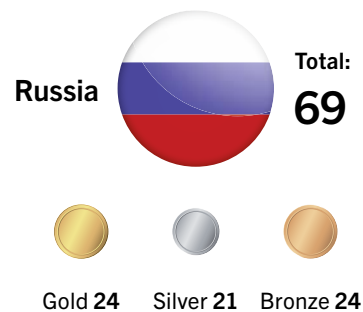
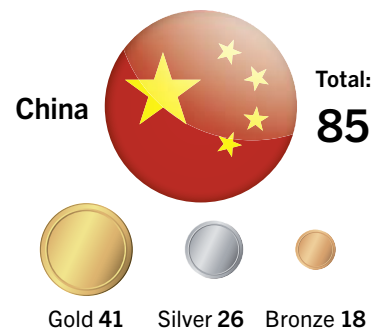
She also ran the anchor leg in the 4x100m T35-T38 relay to give her country the title and hand Russia the silver.

Perhaps the biggest surprise came in the women's T11 competitions. China's Cuiqing Liu won all three of Brazilian Terezinha Guilhermina's world titles (100m, 200m and 400m) in their class.

Doha 2015 was the biggest-ever para-sporting event held in Middle East, with more than 1,300 athletes from around 90 countries.

www.doha2015.org

TOP MEDAL WINNERS



France's Marie-Amelie Le Fur competes in the women's 100m T44 final at the 2015 IPC Athletics World Championships



QUICK HIT

The USA's Tatyana McFadden won the New York City Marathon on 1 November. With that, she swept all major marathons (Boston, London, Chicago and New York) of the year in the women's wheelchair division – for the third consecutive year. Her time in New York (1:43:04) crushed the previous standard for women wheelchair racers by more than seven minutes.



"I don't care how many legs you have – one, two, four, six – I'll still beat you."

Richard Browne

Markus Rehm

Omara Durand

"I hope to see Terezinha (Guilhermina) on the track again in Rio. She's my role model and someone I have looked up to for years."

Cuiqing Liu



Denmark’s Julie Thrane celebrates after winning gold in the women’s singles SU 5

BWF Para-Badminton World Championships

8-13 September

With badminton being included in the Tokyo 2020 programme, much attention was placed on this edition of the Championships.

More than 220 players from 37 countries took to the courts in Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Great Britain – the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement. Fittingly, the home nation grabbed four titles from the 21-medal events that took place.

Rachel Choong was the highlight for the British, winning three titles, including back-to-back gold medals in the women’s singles SS 6 category. South Korea’s defending men’s singles WH 1 champion Lee Sam Seop also secured three gold medals.

Meanwhile, new champions emerged, such as Denmark’s Julie Thrane dethroning then-world No. 1 Mamiko Toyoda of Japan in the women’s singles SU 5.

www.bwfbadminton.org

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
				
South Korea	2	3	3	8
India	2	0	2	4
Malaysia	2	0	2	4
Great Britain	1	2	3	6

Medals table only for singles winners

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Rachel Choong (GBR): Became the first British para-badminton player to win three titles at a World Championships, and she did so on home soil.



Great Britain’s Rachel Choong competes in front of her home crowd at the BWF Para-Badminton World Championships held in Stoke Mandeville Stadium, London



Italy’s Beatrice Vio wins her first world title in the women’s foil category B

IWAS Wheelchair Fencing World Championships


17-24 September

Just as she was throughout the 2015 season, Italy’s Beatrice Vio looked unstoppable at the World Championships in Eger, Hungary, establishing herself as a favourite for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. At 18 years old, she captured her first world title in the women’s foil category B, a jump from her 10th-place finish at the 2013 edition.

One of the big surprises came from China’s Xu Feng Zou, who left with two world titles. Zou overcame Russia’s world No.1 Yuliya Efimova, en-route to upsetting compatriot and defending champion Jing Rong in the women’s epee category A. Russia’s Alexander Lugotenko retained his world champion status in the men’s foil category C. The title was the second gold at the Championships for Lugotenko, who also won in the epee.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Beatrice Vio (ITA): Won the world title in the women’s foil category B. The victory placed her at 6-0 in major competitions in 2015.

www.iwasf.com

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
				
China	7	5	1	13
Russia	4	3	9	16
Ukraine	3	0	3	6



After his third straight world title in September, Australia's Erik Horrie is the man to beat in the AS men's single sculls at Rio 2016

FISA Rowing World Championships

30 August – 6 September

Erik Horrie won his third straight world title in the AS men's single sculls in Aiguebelette, France. The Australian won by more than five seconds, and his gold medal was just the second for his country at the World Championships. The other came from Australia's mixed double sculls tandem of Gavin Bellis and Kathryn Ross, who also defended their crown.

For the women, Israel's Moran Samuel captured her first world title to cap off a strong season.

In the mixed coxed four, Great Britain defended their title. They finished just a split second ahead of the USA, making for an interesting showdown at the upcoming Paralympic Games.

www.worldrowing.com/events/2015-world-rowing-championships

Israel's Moran Samuel has emerged as the favourite in the AS women's single sculls after winning her first world title



Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Australia	2	0	0	2
Great Britain	1	3	0	4
Israel	1	0	0	1

SPOTLIGHT ON: Moran Samuel (ISR): Showed her World Cup victory in July was no fluke. After not making the podium in London 2012, she is now the favourite at Rio 2016.



WTF World Para-Taekwondo Championships

17 September

The World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) held their first World Championships since the sport was included on the Tokyo 2020 programme.

The competition brought together a record 118 athletes from 34 countries who were competing for the 12 titles available in Samsun, Turkey. And it was the Russians who came away successful.

In the men's division, Russia took six medals, including two golds. Vladislav Krichfalushiy topped the K41 under 61kg division, while fellow Russian Spartak Gazzaev was victorious in the K41 over 75kg.

Russia stayed atop in the women's category, with two of their four medals being gold. Sakinat Magomedova won the K42 under 49kg category title. Zaira Irazieva stood atop the K42 over 58kg category podium.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Team Russia: The men tallied 60 points and the women 30, both well ahead of their second-place competitors. They are expected to field a strong team ahead of Tokyo 2020.

www.worldtaekwondofederation.net/para-taekwondo

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	4	2	4	10
Azerbaijan	3	1	4	8
Turkey	1	3	3	7

Turkey's Hasim Celik competes against Niger's Ismael Oumarou Gouzae in the K44 male under 75kg division



Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	4	2	5	11
Belarius	2	2	2	6
Ukraine	2	2	1	5

The 2015 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships featured 150 dancers from 25 countries

IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport World Championships

7-8 November

The additions of singles and freestyle onto the programme brought a new flavour to the World Championships, which welcomed nearly 150 athletes from around 25 countries to Rome, Italy.

The additions bumped the medal events to 14, with plenty of surprise performances.

The Philippines' Rhea Marquez and Jun Julius Obero were among the biggest after taking gold in the combi freestyle class 2. Their victory came down to slim scoring that pushed the Russian power-couple of Galina Ryzhkova and Viacheslav Osipov into silver. Ryzhkova and Osipov were the favourites and were looking to add onto the gold they won in the combi Latin class 2.

But the silver did not take away from the accomplishment of Ryzhkova, who left the competition with three titles from the four events she performed in.

Mexico, the lone team from the Americas, left with two medals, including a gold from Jesus Yermain Angeles Fernandez in the men's single freestyle class 2.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Galina Ryzhkova (RUS): Won three of the four events she competed in, including the first women's singles freestyle title.

www.paralympic.org/wheelchair-dance-sport



David Drahoninsky of the Czech Republic won his first individual World Championship title in the W1 men's category at the 2015 World Archery Para Championships in Donaueschingen, Germany

World Archery Para Championship

23-30 August

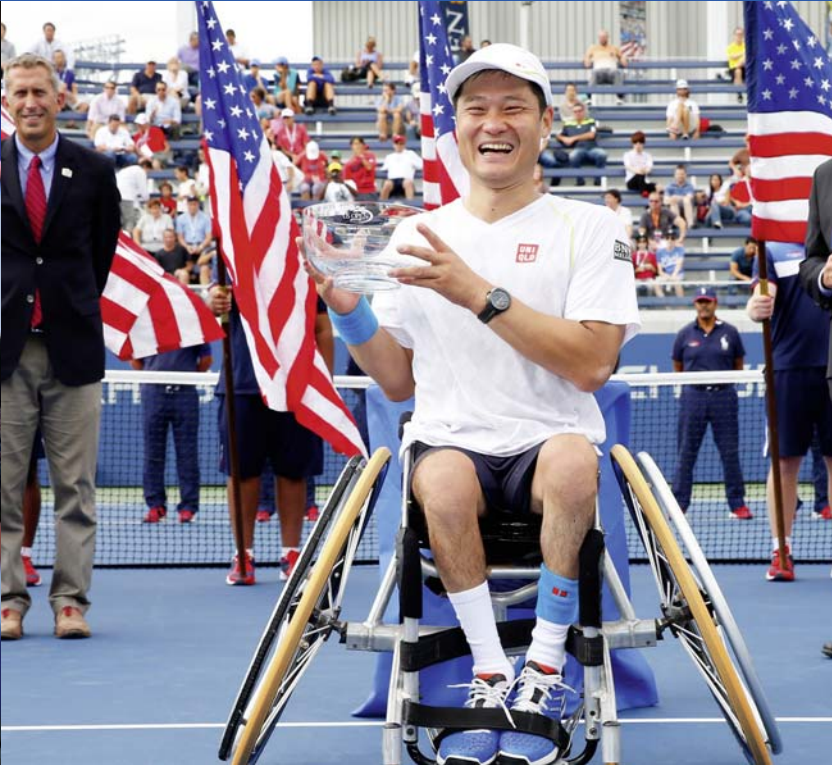
Held in Donaueschingen, Germany, the World Championships featured the return of visually impaired archery to go along with the three other competition divisions (recurve open, compound open and W1). With those divisions, Donaueschingen 2015 acted as the primary qualifying tournament for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, with places available in both the mixed team competition and individual events. Nearly 25 countries earned slots for Rio. China and Russia were among the top performers, with China pulling a tight victory over Russia in the mixed team to secure two compound open spots and the world title.

Among the top individual highlights was David Drahoninsky of the Czech Republic, who won the W1 men's category in Donaueschingen. Italy's Eleonora Sarti entered as the second seed but went on to win gold in the women's compound open. The USA's eighth-seeded Eric Bennet found his way to a gold medal in the men's recurve open.

SPOTLIGHT ON: David Drahoninsky (CZE): The world individual title had eluded Drahoninsky, until August. The Beijing 2008 Paralympic champion added to his world silver and bronze medals.

www.donau2015.com

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
China	5	2	2	9
USA	4	0	0	4
Great Britain	2	5	3	10



Japan's Shingo Kunieda came close to an undefeated season after losing in the men's singles finals of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters held in December

US Open and NEC Masters

10-13 September; 2-6 December

Belgium's Joachim Gerard shocked the wheelchair tennis scene on the last day of the 2015 NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters, as he beat world No. 1 and defending champion Shingo Kunieda of Japan 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 for his first Masters men's singles title.

Gerard ended Kunieda's 77 match winning streak in an earlier match during the competition, which was held in London, Great Britain. The world No. 4 became the first player to earn back-to-back wins against the Japanese top seed since the summer of 2012.

After moving into No. 1 earlier this year for the first time in her career, the Netherlands' Jiske Griffioen concluded a strong season by winning her second Masters women's singles title. The USA's David Wagner won his eighth Masters quad title.

In September at the US Open, Kunieda notched his 20th Grand Slam victory after defeating France's Stephane Houdet 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 in the finals. Kunieda was close to wrapping up an undefeated season but fell short after his loss in December's NEC Masters. Jordanne Wiley became the first British woman to win a wheelchair tennis Grand Slam singles title. In the quads finals, Australia's No. 1 ranked Dylan Alcott made his first appearance at Flushing Meadows and defeated Wagner 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 for the title.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Joachim Gerard (BEL): Upset world No. 1 Shingo Kunieda for his first NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters men's singles title.

www.itftennis.com/wheelchair



(Top) Australia's SKUD18 crew of Dan Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch, and the Great British sonar crew (bottom) celebrate after winning the world titles in their respective events

Para World Sailing Championships

24 November — 3 December

The sonar competition at the Rio 2016 Games will be one to watch following the tight results from the Para World Sailing Championships in Melbourne, Australia.

The British sonar crew of John Robertson, Steve Thomas and Hannah Stodel won the title by a point. Despite holding the lead after the early races, Australia's Colin Harrison, Jonathan Harris and Russell Boaden struggled in race nine, and they settled for the silver.

Australia did come away with gold from Dan Fitzgibbon and Liesl Tesch, who breezed to their second straight SKUD18 world title and looked in strong form to also retain their Paralympic title at Rio 2016.

After missing the London 2012 podium, France's Damien Seguin emerged as the clear favourite for Rio 2016 following his gold medal in the 2.4mR. Seguin won seven of the 11 races during the competition, showing the most consistency over Germany's silver medallist Heiko Kroeger and Australia's bronze medallist Matt Bugg.

Overall, 13 nations qualified for places at Rio 2016.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Great British sonar team: The crew overcame rough sailing conditions in the early races to narrowly win gold by one point.

www.sailing.org

Regional rundown

Spain's Alvaro Valera retained his table tennis European title



EUROPE

FEI Para-Equestrian European Dressage Championships
18-20 September
Deauville, France

For the first time at a major para-equestrian Championship level, the Netherlands topped the medals table after dethroning powerhouse Great Britain. The Dutch collected nine medals, four which were gold. Dutch world champion Rixt Van Der Horst won both the individual and freestyle titles in the grade II. Teammate Frank Hosmar did the same in the grade IV competitions.

IWBF European Wheelchair Basketball Championships
28 August – 6 September
Worcester, Great Britain

Germany's women's wheelchair basketball team reclaimed the gold from the Netherlands for a historic 10th title. Hosts Great Britain were triumphant in the men's to become European champions for the third consecutive time, defeating Turkey.

ITTF Para-Table Tennis European Championships
12-17 October
Vejle, Denmark

Spain's world No. 1 Alvaro Valera beat Denmark's No. 2 Peter Rosenmeier in five sets for the men's class 6 crown. Poland's three-time Paralympic champion Natalia Partyka finished at the top of class 10. Croatia's No. 1 Sandra Paovic also defended her title in the women's class 6.

Sitting Volleyball European Championships – Men
30 October – 8 November
Warendorf, Germany

Defending Paralympic champions Bosnia & Herzegovina swept Germany for the men's European crown.

Sitting Volleyball European Championships – Women
7-15 November
Podcetrtek, Slovenia

Ukraine triumphed over Russia in five sets for the gold medal.

IWRF Wheelchair Rugby European Championships
13-20 September
Pajulahti, Finland

Great Britain dethroned defending champions Sweden in a thrilling 49-48 final.

World Wheelchair-B Curling Championships
7-12 November
Lohja, Finland

Norway defeated South Korea 7-5 for gold in the World Wheelchair-B Curling Championships. Both teams qualified for February 2016's World Wheelchair Curling Championships. Sweden took the bronze. A record 15 teams participated in November's competition.

IPC Powerlifting European Open Championships
24-28 November
Eger, Hungary

Four world and four European records were broken in Eger, which was the final Regional Championships of the year. It was the sport's biggest powerlifting event in history with 230 lifters from 40 countries. Ukraine's 19-year-old Mariana Shevchuk left with a junior world record and four medals – junior and European gold, senior European silver and Open bronze – in the women's up to 55kg.

IBSA Judo European Championships
25-30 November
Odivelas, Portugal

Ukraine's Inna Cherniak was among the big standouts, winning gold in the women's under 57kg, stamping her status as the No. 1 in her class. The Championships featured 110 athletes from 20 countries.

AFRICA

IBSA Blind Football African Championships
16-25 October
Douala, Cameroon

Morocco retained their African Championship crown with a 2-0 victory over Cameroon. The win secured them a qualification spot for Rio 2016. Mali beat Senegal 1-0 for the bronze medal.



ASIA-OCEANIA

IWRF Wheelchair Rugby Asia-Oceania Championships
29 October – 1 November
Chiba, Japan

Japan captured the regional title and a spot in Rio 2016 with a 56-51 victory over defending world champions Australia. The win bumped Japan to No. 3 in the world ranking and pushed Australia down to No. 4. New Zealand defeated South Korea 52-36 for the bronze in the four-team tournament.

IWBF Wheelchair Basketball Asia-Oceania Championships
10-18 October
Chiba, Japan

Australia's women will not get to improve on their London 2012 silver medal after a heartbreaking 59-43 loss to China. But the Australian men booked their place at Rio 2016 after winning their semi-finals and then beating Iran 78-60 in the gold medal game.



The Japanese wheelchair rugby team earned a quantification slot for Rio 2016 after winning their regional championship

IBSA Goalball Asia/Pacific Championships
5-13 November
Hangzhou, China

Defending Paralympic champions Japan defeated China 1-0 in the women's gold medal match. The Chinese men took gold after beating Iran 8-4. China's Cai Changgui led all men scorers with 19 goals. Australia's Meica Horsburgh topped the women's with 17.

IPC ALPINE SKIING WORLD CUPS

15-17 January Abtenau, Austria
18-19 January Tarvisio, Italy
21-23 January St. Moritz, Switzerland
25-29 January Tignes, France
24-26 February Aspen, USA
28 February - 4 March Aspen-Buttermilk, USA

IPC SNOWBOARD WORLD CUPS

5-6 February Aspen, USA
10-13 February Big White, Canada
5-6 March La Molina, Spain
9-12 March Les Angles, France
15-18 March Trentino, Italy

IPC NORDIC SKIING WORLD CUPS

21-28 February Finsterau, Germany
15-20 March Voukatti, Finland

IPC POWERLIFTING
WORLD CUPS

21-23 January Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
15-19 February Dubai, United Arab Emirates
24-28 February Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IPC SHOOTING
WORLD CUPS

23-27 January Al Ain,
United Arab Emirates
14-19 March
Bangkok, Thailand

IPC ATHLETICS
GRAND PRIX

3-5 February Canberra, Australia
15-16 March Dubai, United Arab Emirates
21-23 March Tunis, Tunisia

WORLD
PARAVOLLEY
INTERCONTINENTAL

17-23 March
Hangzhou, China

27-30 January

Australian Open



Japan's Shingo Kunieda and France's Stephane Houdet team up in the 2015 Australian Open for the men's doubles

After both winning their first Grand Slam singles titles in 2015, Australia's Dylan Alcott and the Netherlands' Jiske Griffioen return to Melbourne looking for further success and to retain their spots at the top of the world rankings.

Last year's victory gave Alcott momentum for the rest of 2015. He went on to win the US Open and overtake US rival David Wagner at the top of the quad singles world rankings.

Griffioen faces possibly the most difficult challenge to retain her title and will come up against Japan's former world No.1 Yui Kamiji, Great Britain's US Open winner Jordanne Whiley and fellow Dutchwoman Aniek Van Koot.

In the men's singles side, Japan's Shingo Kunieda will look to rebound after his loss to Belgium's Joachim Gerard in the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters. Despite the loss, Kunieda will still open 2016 at No. 1.

www.itftennis.com/wheelchair

ONES TO WATCH



DYLAN ALCOTT
AUSTRALIA

SHINGO KUNIEDA
JAPAN

JISKE GRIFFIOEN
NETHERLANDS

21-28 February

World Wheelchair Curling
Championships



Team Russia will play for their third World Championship title

Last year's World Championships was a shake-up from the norm, as the Russian team went on to win just their second world title in history.

This time round in Lucerne, Switzerland, skip Andrey Smirnov will look to build off that success and show to the world that last year's win was no fluke. But they will be challenged by Canada, who sit at No. 1 in the world rankings and have won all three gold medals since the sport made its Paralympic debut in 2006.

China, who settled for the silver medal in 2015 are currently ranked third in the world, are the competition's dark horses.

The competition will feature 10 mixed gender teams: one from the host country, seven who qualified directly from the previous World Championships and two from the B-pool. Teams will gain qualification points toward the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

www.worldcurling.org/wwhcc2016

ONE TO WATCH



TEAM CHINA

17-20 March

Para-Cycling Track
World Championships



Great Britain's Sarah Storey (front) competes in the 2015 Para-Cycling Track World Championships. She will look to defend her gold medals in 2016

After drawing the home crowd to their feet at the 2015 World Championships, winning three gold medals, the Netherlands' Alyda Norbruis will look to do similar in Montichiari, Italy.

Despite claiming the rainbow jersey in the time trial, pursuit and scratch race for the Dutch, it was Great Britain who topped the medals table in 2015. The British team claimed nine medals, including seven golds, and will look to build on that success. Sarah Storey is expected to highlight the British team in the women's C5, and will seek to defend her individual pursuit and time trial titles.

On the men's side, the USA's Joseph Berenyi is one to watch in the men's C3 after taking gold in both the pursuit and time trial and silver in the scratch race in 2015.

<http://paraciclismo.feder ciclismo.it/it/>

ONES TO WATCH



ALYDA NORBRUIS
NETHERLANDS

SARAH STOREY
GREAT BRITAIN

JOSEPH BERENYI
USA

19-26 March

BISFed Boccia World
Individual Championships



The top individual boccia players will go head-to-head in Beijing, China, where the last Rio 2016 qualification event will be held

The BC4 class is arguably the most competitive and one to watch when the Championships take place in Beijing, China. Hong Kong's defending champion Yuk Wing Leung, Brazil's Eliseu Santos and Canada's Marco Dispaltrio are expected to battle for the gold. Although Dispaltrio is the world No.2, Eliseu was victorious at August's Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games.

The BC1 class is also expected to deliver a tight race. Great Britain's David Smith is looking to defend his crown however the Netherlands' world No.1 Daniel Perez, is expected to challenge.

This will be the last qualification event for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

www.bisfed.com

ONES TO WATCH



YUK WING LEUNG
HONG KONG

DAVID SMITH
GREAT BRITAIN

ELISEU SANTOS
BRAZIL

Rio 2016

Celebrating #1YearToGo

Para-athletes, musicians, dancers and plenty of well-wishers joined IPC President Sir Philip Craven in celebrating one year to go until the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

A two-day sports and culture Paralympic Festival was held 6-7 September in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where various para-sports were displayed to give a sample of the excitement to come.

Exhibition games included Brazil women's sitting volleyball team taking a rematch against USA, who beat them 3-0 in the Parapan American Games in Toronto, Canada.

This time, Brazil won 3-2. Festival goers also watched a wheelchair basketball match, as well as two of the best 5-a-side football teams: Brazil and Argentina. It was also a Parapan Games gold medal rematch, with the match coming to a 0-0 draw.

Crowning the world's fastest para-athletes

The celebration also pitted the best sprinters from different impairment classifications against each other. It was Ireland's Jason Smyth and Cuba's Omara Duran who confirmed their status as the fastest men and women para-athletes, respectively.



A football 5-a-side exhibition match between rivals Brazil and Argentina was held as part of one-year-to-go festivities for Rio 2016

Smyth – whose T13 world record of 10.46 seconds is the quickest mark across all categories – triumphed in 10.73 in the 100m. Durand – who became the world's fastest female para-athlete by clocking a world-record 100m T12 time of 11.65 during August's Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games – won in 11.74.

Tickets go on sale

Along with the festivities came the official launch of ticket sales to Brazilian residents.

A total of 3.3 million tickets are available – 500,000 more than the London 2012 Games – covering the 22 Paralympic sports and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The cheapest ticket is BRL 10 (EUR 2.30) and the most expensive is BRL 1,200 (EUR 281) for the Opening Ceremony. Two million tickets are priced at BRL 30 (EUR 7) or less.

More information on ticket sales can be found on pages 18-19. Overseas fans must contact the authorised ticket resellers (ATRs) in their territories.

www.rio2016.com



PyeongChang 2018

The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee appointed the IPC to act as the exclusive sales agent for international broadcast rights for the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games.

Under the terms of the IPC-IOC agreement, a Games Organising Committee is responsible for selling the international broadcast rights to the Paralympic Games. However, after an agreement was signed on 24 September, PyeongChang 2018 gave the responsibility for marketing and negotiating international broadcast agreements to the IPC.

By taking over the marketing of international rights, the IPC aims to maximise coverage of the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games and create long lasting relationships with broadcasters that will ensure viewers have a greater knowledge and engagement of Paralympic sport in years to come.

The IPC struck similar agreements with both the Sochi 2014 and Rio 2016 Organising Committees leading to record breaking results. The Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games were watched by a cumulative TV audience of 2.1 billion in 55 countries, a significant increase on the 1.6 billion who watched the Games in Vancouver in 2010.

And, with just under one year to go until Latin America's first Paralympic Games, Rio 2016 is on course to break the four billion cumulative audience barrier for the first time with TV pictures set to be beamed to more than 120 countries and territories.

www.pyeongchang2018.com

Tokyo 2020

IPC approves venues

The IPC Governing Board approved the venues for 19 of the 22 Paralympic sports that will take place at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games during the General Assembly in Mexico City.

Approved venues:

1. **Archery:** Dream Island Archery Field
2. **Athletics:** Olympic Stadium
3. **Badminton:** Yoyogi National Stadium
4. **Boccia:** Olympic Gymnastic Centre
5. **Canoe:** Sea Forest Waterway
6. **Equestrian:** Baji Koen
7. **Goalball:** Makuhari Messe
8. **Judo:** Nippon Budokan
9. **Rowing:** Sea Forest Waterway
10. **Shooting:** Asaka Shooting Range
11. **Swimming:** Olympic Aquatics Centre
12. **Table Tennis:** Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium
13. **Taekwondo:** Makuhari Messe
14. **Triathlon:** Odaiba Marine Park
15. **Sitting volleyball:** Makuhari Messe
16. **Wheelchair basketball:** Ariake Arena and Musashino Forest Sport Centre



17. **Wheelchair fencing:** Makuhari Messe
18. **Wheelchair rugby:** Yoyogi National Stadium
19. **Wheelchair tennis:** Ariake Tennis Park

The venues for track cycling, road cycling, football 5-a-side and powerlifting are still under review from their relevant International Federation. As a result these venues are expected to be approved by the IPC Governing Board at its next meeting in April 2016.

www.tokyo2020.com



Beijing 2022

The IPC launched the application process for sports to be included in the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games, where a maximum of seven sports can be included, on 1 October.

Currently there are six sports on the programme for the PyeongChang 2018 Paralympic Winter Games: alpine skiing, biathlon, cross-country skiing, ice sledge hockey, snowboard and wheelchair curling.

As part of the application process, IPC recognised International Federations, together

with those International Federations with sports on the PyeongChang 2018 programme, have until 1 March 2016 to complete the Beijing 2022 Paralympic Winter Games Sport Programme Application.

The application outlines a number of eligibility conditions, in accordance with the IPC Handbook, for which applicants must provide supporting written documentation in order to be considered for inclusion in the 2022 Games. A final decision on the programme will be taken by the IPC Governing Board on 5 September 2016.

ISSUE OF THE SEASON

What challenges do National Paralympic Committees in developing nations face and how do they overcome them?

Dominique Bizimana

Rwandan athlete who was on the national sitting volleyball team that participated in London 2012. Dominique is also member of the IPC Development Committee.

The first challenge was the attitude toward people with impairments in Rwanda, and simultaneously the lack of self confidence among people with impairments.

That in turn affected how the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Rwanda could obtain funding. As long as the Ministry of Sports and the public were not interested in para-sports, funding was not given a second look. (Fortunately, that has changed recently.)

Additionally, the Paralympics are generally compared to Olympics in this country. The two are totally different in terms of sponsors and funding. So if there was money set aside for sports in Rwanda, para-sports was not considered.

To overcome those challenges, the NPC focused on developing para-sports where Rwanda had the potential to be competitive, such as goalball and sitting volleyball.

The Rwanda Ministry of Sports had set up criteria of competitive performances, where each National Federation had to make sure it is ranked at least among the top three teams in Africa. NPC Rwanda was ranked second in sitting volleyball and fourth in goalball.

We wanted to take advantage of our standings in those sports. So we worked in partnership with the media to promote the Paralympic Movement in the country by using those facts. We used funds effectively and efficiently with our partners. It was important for us to show accountability and credibility toward members and partners to give them confidence in our commitment.

We approached some important international organisations working in the country to improve the life of persons with impairments. Through this approach, we got funding and delivered in partnership with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Laureus, projects such as sport for development in primary schools and special centres (2010), and development of sports and rights for people with impairments in Rwanda (2013). These partnerships raised the capacity of the NPC in managing grants and developing sports.

It also allowed us to succeed in applying to the Agitos Foundation Grant Support Programme (GSP) in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

One of the biggest results was hosting the first ParaVolley Africa Sitting Volleyball Championships in July. Rwanda's women's sitting volleyball team won and will become the first women's team to represent Africa in the sport at the Paralympic Games.

This accomplishment ties back to what I mentioned earlier: the lack of self confidence among females and society in general with people with impairments. There was also lack of equipment and funding.

But thanks to long-term planning, commitment and good leadership, we have made strides. In due time, we will continue to learn and progress.



Juan Pablo Salazar

Former president of the National Paralympic Committee of Colombia; current advisor to President of Colombia Juan Manuel Santos and member of the IPC Development Committee.

To develop para-sport in Colombia, we could not focus on just one region. We had to think broadly around the country. But the NPC of Colombia lacked the capacity in operational and administrative hands to do that.

In 2013, we applied and were accepted to participate in the Agitos Foundation Grant Support Programme. We wanted to take that knowledge and apply it to areas that are geographically more difficult to access or that have been historically segregated by poverty and war in Colombia.

We used part of the grant to build capacity in those areas. Coaches, classifiers, technical officials and more were trained; and they used that training to identify and develop talents. That led us to discover new athletes like, Luis Herazo, a 19-year-old from Monteria, Colombia.

Through Jesus Kerguelen, his coach, who attended an Agitos Foundation workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Luis has progressed in the javelin F35 obtaining medals in the International Open of Medellin (2013), International Caixa Open in Sao Paulo (2014) and breaking the national record in his category.

The Paralympic Movement empowered persons with impairments in these isolated regions and helped to shift the paradigm of the entire community on how these people were seen. Sports rehabilitated them, but also rehabilitated the society that perceived them as objects of pity and charity as opposed to subjects with rights.

Luis is a motivation to continue seeking to bring para-sport in isolated areas, not just one area.

So far, the NPC is mostly funded by the Ministry of Sports (Coldeportes). Most of that budget goes on national and international participation of Colombian athletes and everything regarding their training and preparation. Some goes toward the administration and technical staff needed to run the NPC.

The NPC is working now to diversify its revenue. Private sponsors are becoming more relevant for the budget. It has successfully engaged them through a communication strategy to look appealing for private corporate investment, showing them the values of partnering with the NPC.



perception

development

Paralympic Movement

communication

Colombia

Rwanda

Africa

private sponsors

overcome

funding

national record

isolated

challenges

promote

goalball

sitting volleyball

operational

administrative

partnership

grant

accountability

commitment

competitive

empowered

capacity

women

impairments

society

para-sport

motivation

represent

training

participate

money

leadership

strategy

VISTA is a time for sports scientists and researchers with interest in para-sport from around the world to gather.

It is a time for them to share their brains, experiences and ideas.

It is also a time to listen and learn from the world leaders in para-sport, to take that information and decide what to do next.

I can attest that the seventh edition of the VISTA conference (8-11 October) was a huge success. First off, being held in Girona, Spain, a different environment than Bonn, Germany, which hosted the conference three times, was huge in bringing new faces – a record 265 people representing 35 countries. This opened the door for more people outside of Bonn – where the IPC is headquartered – to get involved in the Paralympic Movement.

We used our connections in Girona to bring in different universities, schools and stakeholders – so not just sports-science groups – who maybe did not have experience in the Movement but had some interest in research or a study about it.

Then, the theme “securing the future for young para-athletes” was evident throughout. From the opening roundtable discussion to the closing ceremony, VISTA 2015 focused on the young para-athlete and how to improve their evolution in the future.



Mariona Masdemont's view

VISTA 2015

Takeaways from the sports science conference

That is a particularly important topic now, based on where the Paralympic Movement is and where it wants to go in developing para-sport. The important note is educating the people of today to improve the para-athletes of tomorrow.

At the conference, we heard from 23 invited speakers covering topics in classification in new sports (e.g. triathlon and badminton entering the Paralympic programme) to sports

Mariona Masdemont

Internal project manager at “Play and Train,” organiser of VISTA 2015 and whose mission is to offer people with an impairment and their families high quality programmes of sports, training, culture and leisure time.

medicine in young para-athletes. While it is important to look at the future for young para-athletes in training and equipment, it is also crucial to look at the topic from another angle: politics and policy makers. How do the bigger federations and governments build their organisations and organise para-sport in each country?

Next, while we all came in with some knowledge or awareness of para-sport, we also have to educate people in academia without impairments. With VISTA, we learned how to link academics to the field of play. But currently the feedback that way is not working. We need to get information from the bottom to the top. At VISTA, we involved 645 kids aged 11-16 from around the area for two days, similar to a Paralympic Day celebration, and this allowed the participants to see how they can draw a link from their academic studies to the field of play.

This interaction was important and a friendly reminder to quickly apply what we learned from VISTA to the young para-athletes who are the future of the Movement.



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IPC Vision: “To enable para-athletes to achieve sporting excellence and inspire and excite the world.”

