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Action from the 2006 Visa Paralympic World Cup. Photo ©: Sportsbeat

## RECORDS FALL AT PARALYMPIC WORLD CUP

There were 15 world records broken during seven days of competition at the 2006 Visa Paralympic World Cup (PWC) in Manchester, Great Britain. The event brought together 352 athletes from 40 countries from 1 to 7 May for a celebration of Paralympic sport. The home team came out on top of the medal tally, winning 22 gold medals.

In Swimming, Natalie du Toit (RSA) smashed two S9 world records as she took gold in both the women's 50m Freestyle and multi-disability 100m Freestyle. Three other world records fell as Clodoaldo Silva (BRA) broke the S4 world record in the men's 100m Freestyle and Anders Olsson (SWE) lowered the S6 world record time in the same event. Kirsten Bruhn (GER) broke the women's S7 world record in the 50m Freestyle.

Cycling also saw seven world records broken. Darren Kenny (GBR) was the star in the Manchester Velodrome as he took three gold medals and set two world records in the men's 1,000m Time Trial (B/VI) and Team Sprint (mixed) with teammates Mark Bristow and Jody Cundy. Anthony Kappes (GBR) took home two gold medals and a world record in the men's 1,000m Time Trial (B/VI). Other world record-breaking performances included Tang Qi (CHN) in the women's 500m Time Trial (LC3), Angela Flemming (AUS) in the women's 500m Time Trial (LC2), Jirong Wang (CHN) in the women's 3,000m Pursuit (LC2) and Aileen McGlynn (GBR) in the women's 1,000m

Tandem Time Trial (B/VI).

British athletes had great success as London Marathon winner David Weir took three gold medals in the T54 100m, 200m and 1500m. Kenny Churchill (GBR) broke the world record in the men's Javelin throw (F37) and Laila El Garra (MAR) achieved a world-record throw of 7.21m in the women's Shot (F40). Oscar Pistorius of South Africa also took home two gold medals in the men's 100m and 200m (T44).

Wheelchair Basketball saw some tough challenges in both the men's and women's competitions. Canada eventually won the gold in the men's competition beating Australia 65:49 in the final. 2005 PWC champions Great Britain took the men's bronze. In the women's competition, the gold medal went to Mexico after beating Great Britain 37:22. Spain finished with bronze after they beat newcomers China 38:36.

The Visa PWC is a showpiece for Paralympic sport and will again be staged in Manchester from 7 to 13 May in 2007. The event is supported by the IPC, Visa, the British Paralympic Association, BBC, UK Sport, the Manchester City Council and the Northwest Regional Development Agency. For more information please visit the official website at [www.visaparalympicworldcup.com](http://www.visaparalympicworldcup.com).

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## Resolutions for the Future



For many, the summer offers a quiet time and an opportunity to sit back and relax. For the Paralympic Movement it has been packed with several and diverse events, from sport competition to organizing committee meetings to a scientific conference.

The 2006 VISTA Conference, with the theme 'Classification: Solutions for the Future', provided an important opportunity to gather many of the experts in Paralympic sport under one roof to look in detail at the subject of classification, the progress being made and challenges that still lie ahead. I believe that this conference inspired participants to focus their knowledge and resources on solutions that will take us forward.

The organizing committees for the upcoming Paralympic Games have been busy in their preparations. In Beijing, the IOC Co-ordination Commission visit, which I was a part of, media operations and marketing workshops and major advancements such as the launch of the Paralympic Marketing Programme have created a lot of excitement and I am confident that 2008 will be an outstanding Paralympic Games.

In Vancouver, the Paralympic flag is now proudly flying next to the Olympic flag - a reminder of the close co-operation between the two movements, which has also allowed us to extend the IOC-IPC Agreement to ensure that the 2014 and 2016 Paralympic Games continue to be held in the same city as the Olympics.

London 2012 is already showing enormous progress, promising inspirational Paralympic Games for athletes, the Paralympic Family and spectators. We will soon welcome a new member to our family with the candidate cities for the 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games narrowed down to three.

This edition of 'The Paralympian' highlights some of the major events on the sporting calendar. The IPC Shooting World Championships, the IPC Powerlifting World Championships, the VISA Paralympic World Cup and Otto Bock's Paralympic Challenge, were all very successful competitions. Events such as these are providing athletes with top-level opportunities to compete and the Paralympic Movement with the chance to spread the excitement of Paralympic sport throughout the world.

It is also exciting to see the great strides being taken in the area of development - through the impact of the IPC Development Grant Programme around the world, as well as the work being done to strengthen the participation of women in the Paralympic Movement. I am confident that by working together we will be able to augment the number of new athletes and female athletes participating in Paralympic sport. Let's make this a resolution for the future!

Sir Philip Craven, MBE  
IPC President

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: TORINO 2006

### 1.4 Billion Watched Torino Coverage

A recent study conducted by international sponsorship and media evaluation company IFM has released outstanding figures on the broadcast coverage of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

A total of 285:21 hours of broadcasting time, including 80:32 hours of live coverage, was broadcast to a cumulated audience of 1.421 billion in the 24 countries and Pan Europe analyzed\*. This report found a total of 3,404 broadcasts shown on 94 channels with an average market share of 11.2%.

France, Italy and Spain broadcast the most coverage of the Winter Paralympics (49:39, 49:38 and 41:59 hours of broadcast time respectively), however, Japan, Germany and France had the greatest cumulated audience (391.56 million, 286.76 million and 247.58 million respectively), followed by China (208.89 million) and Italy (193.25 million). Of the total broadcasting time, 54.4% was generated by specific sports programmes showing highlights of the Games.

Alpine Skiing proved to be the most popular sport, receiving 130.29 hours of broadcast time and a cumulated audience of 953.89

million. Biathlon was the next most popular followed by Ice Sledge Hockey.

The Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics saw tremendous growth compared to the Salt Lake 2002 Winter Paralympics. Torino also came close to the cumulated audience of 1.86 billion in a comparable study of the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games.

Outstanding results were also found for the IPC's official website [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org). Around Games time, in February and March 2006, the IPC identified more than 430,000 visits per month. The large number of visitors trying to access the site at the same time led to some technical problems during the period surrounding the Games. This means that the actual number of visitors was much higher, although not measurable due to the overload. The IPC website has been updated to better manage the traffic and to provide a stable service during peak times in the future.

\* Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Russia, San Marino, Slovak Republic, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the USA.

Photo ©: Prezioso

## PARALYMPIC GAMES: BEIJING 2008

### Busy in Beijing

The IOC Co-ordination Commission for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games met from 16 to 18 May for its sixth plenary session in Beijing, China. The Commission, including IPC representative Sir Philip Craven, participated in meetings and a tour of several Olympic and Paralympic venues.

A specific working group dedicated to the Paralympics met during the visit and a full day of Paralympic side meetings were held, in which topics such as sports, communication and technology were discussed. The priority will now be to move from strategic planning to develop the detailed plans for client services and venues.

Said IPC President Sir Philip: "During the last couple of days BOCOG has again shown great commitment to deliver excellent Paralympic Games; this is not only evident in the strong collaboration with the IPC, the National Paralympic Committee of China and the Paralympic sports but also in the accessibility review, which is being conducted for all venues to ensure Paralympic needs are taken into account. The athletes can certainly expect spectacular venues."

In June, the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Marketing Programme was unveiled to over 500 Chinese and international business leaders at a special ceremony in Beijing, by

BOCOG President Liu Qi and Deng Pufang, President of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and BOCOG Executive President. The IPC was represented by Governing Board member Zainal Abu Zarin. The launch event provided an interactive forum for BOCOG to outline the benefits of Paralympic sponsorship and to explain the opportunities that exist to support the Paralympic Games.

Additionally, from 14 to 16 June a Paralympic Media Operations Workshop was held between BOCOG and the IPC as part of the Olympic Games Knowledge Management (OGKM). During this workshop, specific functional areas and topics were covered such as media accommodation, accreditation, transportation, photo services, volunteers and Paralympic news services. The Main Press Centre will be placed within the Olympic Green, with excellent and rapid access for media to nine of the 20 Paralympic sports. All sport venues will also have a Venue Media Centre. The sessions were followed by a venue tour of a Media Village, the Main Press Centre, the International Broadcast Centre and the Olympic Green.

For more information please visit the official BOCOG website at [www.beijing2008.com](http://www.beijing2008.com).



BOCOG President Liu Qi (right) and Deng Pufang, President of the China Disabled Persons' Federation and BOCOG Executive President (left). Photo ©: Getty Images



## PARALYMPIC GAMES: VANCOUVER 2010

### Paralympic Flag Flies in Vancouver

In a special event on 7 June, the Paralympic flag was raised at the Vancouver City Hall on a purpose built 80-foot flagpole. Until the 2010 Winter Games, the Paralympic flag will proudly fly next to the Olympic flag on the City Hall grounds. Vancouver is the first Host City to fly the Paralympic flag side by side with the Olympic flag.

IPC Governing Board member and five-time Paralympian Ljiljana Ljubisic, HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, the Mayor of Vancouver Sam Sullivan, IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez and VANOC Chairman of the Board Jack Poole participated in the ceremony.

Said Mayor Sullivan: "This flag-raising event will help bring greater awareness to the Paralympic Movement and to the achievements of Paralympic athletes, something that is close to my heart."

Commented Mr. Poole: "Together with our partners, VANOC is proud to be here to celebrate this historic occasion, as we elevate the Paralympic Movement to new heights. As the first Host City to fly both flags side by side, this milestone is another incredible step towards achieving our goal to stage extraordinary Games in 2010."

From 6 to 7 June, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games met for the third time in Vancouver, Canada, to review the progress made by the Vancouver 2010 Organizing Committee (VANOC).

During two days of meetings with VANOC, the Commission members, including IPC representative Rita van Driel, participated in extensive discussions on the preparations underway. During the Paralympic session an update was given on the venue locations, including a report on the status of the construction of the Ice Sledge Hockey venue. The IPC updated VANOC and the Commission on the Paralympic programme for 2010. Said Ms. van Driel: "The IPC is pleased about the progress being made in general. We look forward to receiving final confirmation that all the Paralympic sport events will be hosted in Whistler."

Discussions were also held on accessible accommodation in Whistler and the development of the Paralympic communication strategy, themes and key messages, in preparation for the launch of the Paralympic Emblem on 16 September. The Commission also visited Whistler and received a first-hand impression of the venue situation and the progress that has already been made.

On 5 June, side meetings specific to the Paralympic Winter Games were held with IPC CEO Xavier Gonzalez mainly covering technical issues such as the location of the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) and Main Press Centre (MPC) in Whistler, general accessibility plans specifically for accommodation as well as discussions on plans for Games legacy.

The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games will take place in Vancouver and

Whistler from 12 to 21 March 2010 with approximately 650 athletes from more than 40 countries participating in Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross Country, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling.

*Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan, HRH Prince Edward and Ljiljana Ljubisic at the flag raising ceremony. Photo ©: Kim Stallknecht, VANOC*



## PARALYMPIC GAMES: LONDON 2012

### London Welcomes First IOC Co-ordination Commission

The first International Olympic Committee (IOC) Co-ordination Commission meeting for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games took place in London, Great Britain, from 19 to 21 April. The Commission includes IPC representative Patrick Jarvis, who is also an IPC Governing Board member.

The Commission met with representatives of the London 2012 Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (London 2012) and other local stakeholders, such as the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, to get an update regarding the preparation of the Games. The meeting also included venue visits of several construction sites within the city, including the Olympic Park site.

Said Mr. Jarvis: "The IPC would like to commend London 2012 for the integrated approach that they are taking to planning, while at the same time promoting the distinctiveness of the two Games. Considering the fact that the roots of the Paralympic Games are here, in Stoke Mandeville, it will be exciting for the Paralympic Family to return to England for the Games in 2012."

During the visit, the Commission was assured that London 2012 is on target to achieve important early milestones in planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, including the areas of marketing, finance, venues, sponsorship, image and transport.

The London 2012 Olympic Board has approved four strategic commitments which underline the planning and programmes for unique Olympic and Paralympic Games and

ensure a sustainable legacy for London and the UK.

The four commitments are: to stage inspirational Olympic and Paralympic Games for athletes, the Olympic and Paralympic Family and the spectators; to deliver the Olympic Park and all venues on time, within agreed budget and to specification, minimizing the call on public funds and providing for a sustainable legacy; to maximize the economic, social health and environmental benefits of the Games for the UK, particularly through regeneration and sustainable development in East London; and to achieve a sustained improvement in UK sport before, during and after the Games, in both elite performance particularly in Olympic and Paralympic sports and grassroots participation.

The Co-ordination Commission visit was followed up by a visit by IPC Chief Executive Officer Xavier Gonzalez, which included meetings with London 2012 Chief Executive Paul Deighton and Olympic Delivery Authority Chief Executive David Higgins, as well as a series of working meetings with London 2012 staff to discuss key issues including access in venues and facilities, transport, marketing, sponsorship and the development of the brand for the Paralympic Games. Mr. Gonzalez praised London's progress in planning the 2012 Paralympic Games, "London is clearly taking the issue of staging a successful Paralympic Games seriously and we are in a very good position in terms of strategic thinking and planning," he said.

To promote the Games and encourage people all over Great Britain to get involved, the London 2012 Roadshow bus visited over 50 locations between its launch in London on 7 July until its final stop in Liverpool on 27 July, exactly six years before the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 Games. On its journey, the bus paid a visit to the home of the Paralympics, Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury, for an Archery competition for athletes with a disability.



*Photo ©: John Credland  
(www.johncredland.co.uk)*



## VISTA 2006 Conference Debates Solutions for the Future

'Classification - Solutions for the Future' was the theme of the fourth VISTA Conference, held from 6 to 7 May in Bonn, Germany. The event provided a unique opportunity to bring together around 200 participants from over 40 countries. The participants included sport scientists, researchers, classifiers, coaches, sport administrators and athletes who specialize in classification in Paralympic sport and the Paralympic Movement.

The conference, hosted by the IPC, spanned over two days and included four keynote speeches and 36 presentations in parallel sessions. This allowed conference participants to receive the most up-to-date information and research and an opportunity to share their expertise in an open and practical setting.

As an outcome of the event, the IPC has made classification its number one priority

and will work to develop increased funding for research in the area of classification, a better collaboration between scientists and classifiers and a greater involvement of athletes in the classification debate.

IPC President Sir Philip Craven said: "Classification is the key to safeguarding equitable competition for all athletes...There is no doubt in my mind that the continued growth in the popularity of Paralympic sport with spectators and the media is tied to clear and transparent classification guidelines. To achieve these, we must embrace sport science and pool the expertise of both practitioners and scientists."

Supported by the City of Bonn and the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, the conference provided an ideal platform for experts in sport for athletes with a disability. It clearly showed that the level of interest in

classification is constantly growing along with the Paralympic Movement.

Classification is simply a structure for competition. Not unlike wrestling, boxing and weightlifting, where athletes are categorized by weight classes, athletes with a disability are categorized in classes defined by the degree of function. Athletes belong to six different disability groups in the Paralympic Movement: Cerebral Palsy, Spinal Injuries, Amputees, Visually Impaired, Intellectual Disability and "les Autres" (includes all athletes with a mobility disability not included in the above groups).

The systems by which athletes are classified continue to evolve. In 2003, the IPC developed a Classification Strategy with the overall objective to support and co-ordinate the ongoing development of accurate, reliable, consistent and credible classification systems. A direct result of recommendations made in this Strategy was the development of a Classification Code which establishes a framework for policies and procedures that are common to all sports and includes four International Standards which provide the technical and operational requirements for classification. A final draft of the Code will be distributed for consultation in December 2006.

The first VISTA Conference took place in Jasper, Canada, in 1993. The success of this conference led to two further conferences in Köln, Germany (1999), and Bollnäs, Sweden (2003). An identified need for greater opportunities to discuss and exchange knowledge has seen the VISTA Conference become a biennial event. Organizations interested in hosting the 2009 event should contact the IPC at [info@paralympic.org](mailto:info@paralympic.org).

For more information about the VISTA 2006 conference, please visit [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org).



Guest speakers at the Opening Ceremony of VISTA 2006.(from left to right) Sir Philip Craven, Mayor of Bonn Bärbel Dieckmann, State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of the Interior Dr. Christoph Bergner, Director of the Haus der Geschichte Dr. Dietmar Preißler, and ICSSPE President Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper. Photo ©: Cynthia Rühmekorf

## Governing Board Gathers in Olympic Heartland

The IPC Governing Board (GB) held their mid-year meeting from 23 to 24 June at the home of the IOC Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland. Top of the agenda was the approval of the Paralympic programme for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. The GB confirmed that athletes will compete in five sports, namely Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross Country, Ice Sledge Hockey and Wheelchair Curling at the next Winter Paralympics.

For Alpine Skiing, the GB accepted the possible addition of medal events in Super Combined - a two part event that includes a Super-G race and Slalom on one day, for which the times of each race are compiled to determine a final result ranking - pending a comprehensive feasibility analysis. Two more teams were added to the Wheelchair Curling competition bringing it to a ten-team tournament.

At the meeting, the GB also approved the final Paralympic Brand Report, were informed on Paralympic Games progress, received a debrief of the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics and an update on the Budget 2006-2007, as

well as updates on the work of various IPC Standing Committees and Councils. The GB also approved the IPC Membership of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), pending ratification by the IPC General Assembly.

A report was presented to the GB on the progress made with regard to the development of mutually acceptable eligibility and verification systems for athletes with an intellectual disability. The report outlined

research on the impact of intellectual disability on sport performance, initiatives to develop sport specific criteria and details on a general eligibility system and protest procedures.

The GB accepted the finding that no sport specific eligibility system has been developed for athletes with an intellectual disability to date and that the general eligibility system, developed by the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID), does not achieve the standard expected for IPC competitions and is not sufficiently robust to ensure fair competition for athletes with an intellectual disability.

Consequently, the GB decided that athletes with an intellectual disability cannot take part in IPC sanctioned events, including the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. The status of the participation of athletes with an intellectual disability at future IPC competitions will be re-evaluated after 2008. The IPC will continue to support the international research group established for this purpose, who are working in collaboration with INAS-FID and sport specialists from around the world.



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys



## Strengthening the IPC-IOC Bond

The Paralympic Games have always been held in the same year as the Olympic Games. Since the Seoul Summer Games (1988) and the Tignes-Albertville Winter Games (1992), they have also taken place at the same venues as the Olympic Games. In 2000, an agreement was signed between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the IPC aiming to secure and protect the organization of the Paralympic Games. In 2001, a second agreement reaffirmed that the Paralympic Games, from 2008 on, will always take place shortly after the Olympic Games, using the same sports venues and facilities. An amendment was signed to the 2001 Agreement in 2003, transferring broadcasting and marketing responsibilities of the 2008, 2010 and 2012 Paralympic Games to the respective Organizing Committees.

In June, the IOC and the IPC signed a further agreement, combining the previous agreements and extending and simplifying several areas. This new agreement extends to cover the Paralympic Games in 2014 and 2016.

Said IPC President Sir Philip Craven: "The extension of the IOC-

IPC Agreement secures the medium term growth of the Paralympic Games and Movement and underlines the close co-operation, which the IPC and the IOC have and continue to enjoy with each other. The IPC is pleased that, thanks to this Agreement, Paralympic athletes can, for the Paralympic Games in 2014 and 2016, now look forward to once again competing in the same city and to benefiting from the same conditions for official travel and accommodation as Olympic athletes."

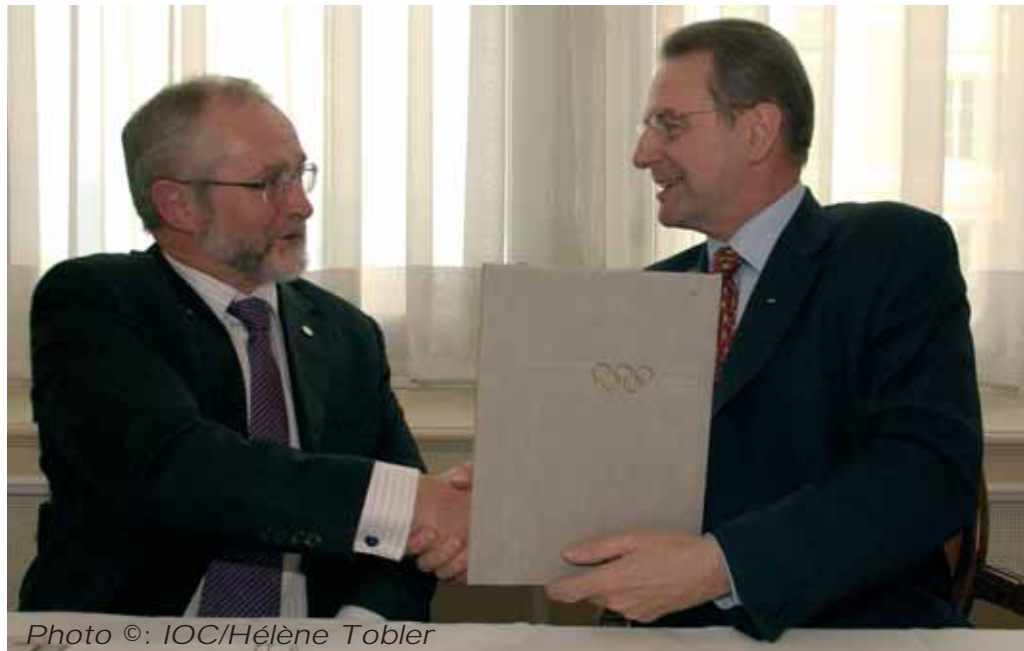


Photo ©: IOC/Hélène Tobler

The extension continues along the same lines as the original document and underlines the IOC's continued support for the IPC, to help ensure the long-term future of the Paralympic Games. The main changes see greater clarification in the roles of the IOC and IPC in respect to the planning, organization and staging of the Paralympic Games; the use of the technical manuals mentioned in the Host City Contract for the Games; and a revision of the scope parameters of the Paralympic Games sports programme and the number of accredited individuals.

IOC President Jacques Rogge commented: "The IOC and the IPC have had a long and fruitful relationship and it is with great pride that we are able to resign this agreement with the IPC and ensure that the Olympic and Paralympic Games continue to be held in the same host cities until 2016." He added, "Our continued financial support to the Paralympics shows that the Olympic Movement is universal and also indicates the importance that the Paralympic Games have in promoting sport to the youth of the world - one of the fundamental principles of Olympism".

## NPC PROFILE: TANZANIA

### Providing Opportunities in Tanzania

During a recent visit to IPC Headquarters, 'The Paralympian' had a few moments with the Secretary General of the Tanzanian Paralympic Committee, Iddi Kibwana. We spoke about the challenges that face an NPC operating in a developing country and some of the programmes in Tanzania that make the NPC so successful.

**TP: When was the NPC established?**

We started the organization in 1983 and revamped it in 2000. We became a member of the IPC in 2002, the same year we sent our first team to the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. We have since sent athletes to the All African Games in 2003, to the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games and to the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. The Paralympic Movement is growing very fast in Tanzania and all of our regions are very active. So many people want to take part in sport now, so the challenge for us is to accommodate them all.

**TP: How is the NPC run?**

We all work on a volunteer basis. For example, our President is a lawyer and other members have their own business activities. Soon we will have a new office in the national stadium in Dar Es Saalm, which will allow us to develop relationships with other national sport organizations. Currently, most athletes who take part are in the towns, but we are trying to mobilize more activities in the rural areas.

**TP: Which Paralympic sports do you have?**

Currently our main sports are Athletics, Powerlifting

and Wheelchair Basketball, although it is a very expensive game. We also have the upcoming sports of Wheelchair Tennis and Table Tennis.

**TP: What are your main objectives as an organization?**

We try to ensure that every person who comes in contact with our organization can be included in sport. Our aim is to make sure those that are neglected get access to sport and through sport they get recognized. For instance, the team we sent to Manchester [Commonwealth Games] in 2002 included many former street beggars.

**TP: What are your expectations for Beijing?**

We want to make sure that we get at least four medals. We also want to increase our team from that which we sent to the last three games, to at least ten athletes.

**TP: What are the challenges facing your organization right now?**

At the moment our main challenge is the lack of sports equipment. After creating awareness, many people are coming to us, even from remote areas, wanting to play sport. So our challenge is to provide what they need.

**TP: Is the NPC involved in any educational programmes?**

Starting in 2006 we have a new project that we are introducing in schools. In May we completed a training that included teachers from different schools for children with a disability. These schools hold a lot of potential for future athletes. Each of our ten regions is working with around three schools.

**TP: Can you describe some of the programmes that the NPC is currently implementing in Tanzania?**

We are running a number of projects to increase the awareness of disability sport in Tanzania. One initiative is supported by UK Sport and that will continue for four years. We

have the education programme that I mentioned before which is now underway. Then we have a project with the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and at the end of June they will come to Tanzania and conduct training in six cities and some regions in the southern part of the country. Finally, we will continue with the next stage of the Healthy Paralympians project that we have been working on together with IPC since 2004.



Photo ©: Mark Ziebert



## The Mental Edge

Jae-Yong Sim is steadily moving up the IPC Shooting rankings following his outstanding performance at the 2006 IPC Shooting World Championships where he won three gold (R3 individual, R3 team, R7 team) and one silver medal (R6 individual), in the process contributing to two new team world records (R3 and R7).

**TP: When and how did you come to start competing in Shooting?**

In 1986 I was in a bad car accident and injured my spinal cord. Then a few years later in 1988 I was watching television and I saw some coverage of the Seoul Paralympic Games. It gave me a lot of hope for my new life after my accident. I tried a few sports and then took up Shooting seriously in 1998.

**TP: What kind of training is involved?**

Every day, I train for four hours. I spend a lot of time doing weight training in the gym and to focus my mental concentration I also do some imagery training.

**TP: When were your first Paralympics?**

My first Paralympic Games were in Sydney in 2000. It was such an honour to compete as a member of the Korean Shooting team. I did not win any medals, but then in Athens in 2004, I won a silver medal.

**TP: What are your expectations for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games?**

I am of course aiming to win gold in Beijing. But looking to the future, I would also like to develop myself as a trainer for junior shooters with a disability. I aim aiming to become qualified as an international judge in Shooting so that I can help promote the sport of Shooting worldwide.

**TP: What advice would you give to other people considering taking up Shooting?**

Shooting as a sport helps a lot to improve your mental stability and is a sport in which one must battle against oneself. Self confidence and a desire to always do one's best will make you a good shooter.



Photo ©: Prezioso

# SPORT PROFILE: WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

## Wheelchair Basketball on Look Out for New Talent



Photos ©: Lieven Coudenys

With the largest Wheelchair Basketball competition outside the Paralympic Games held in July, 'The Paralympian' spoke to Maureen Orchard, President of the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) about the huge progress being made in the sport and why.

**TP: What is the history of the sport?**

Wheelchair Basketball began in the USA about 1946 by servicemen injured in World War Two. About that time people in Stoke Mandeville were playing a similar game called Netball. In 1955 a touring US team brought Wheelchair Basketball to England. The sport quickly spread to other parts of the world.

**TP: How is the sport governed?**

IWBF is the world governing body, recognized by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) and is a member of IPC. IWBF is divided into four zones; Americas, Asia Oceania, Africa and Europe. Each zone is responsible for development activities in their zone and organizing qualification tournaments for World Championships and Paralympic Games. IWBF currently has 82 National Organizations (NOWBs) with several more waiting for approval.

**TP: What's the appeal for athletes and spectators?**

Wheelchair Basketball is a fast moving exciting sport that very closely resembles Basketball. This makes it popular with the public and the media because they can easily understand it. The athletes like it because it is one of the few team sports for athletes with a disability that allows them to demonstrate their strength and agility.

**TP: Which disability groups can compete?**

That is perhaps one of the most unique things about Wheelchair Basketball - if you have a lower limb disability that meets the classification criteria then you can play. We have amputees, paraplegics, cerebral palsy and Spina Bifida. The point system and the functional classification system allow all players who qualify to play regardless of their disability. While we have individual classes for each level of disability within the range of 1.0 - 4.5, all play together on court. A team may not exceed 14 points on the court which makes each player valuable.

**TP: What equipment is needed?**

The only special equipment is a sport wheelchair. Unfortunately, they are not cheap. A top level Basketball chair can cost upwards of €3,000. Still you can get started in a much less expensive chair. Other than that, we use the same basic rules and equipment as running Basketball.

**TP: Who are the leading countries?**

The top country in the world right now is Canada. Since 1994 their teams have finished in the medal round with the women going undefeated from 1992 in Barcelona up until 2004 in Athens where the men won gold. They are joined at the top by the USA, Great Britain, Australia and Germany.

**TP: What developments have been made in the sport recently?**

Lighter more manoeuvrable chairs have allowed players to expand their skills. The introduction of the three-point line some time ago brought a new respect to the outside shooter, and the 24-second clock makes the game even faster. The introduction of women's leagues in several countries has helped expand opportunities for women.

**TP: What about the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games?**

The competition in Beijing will be tough. The top teams are getting better all the time and they have to because they are being chased by the rest. It will be the first time we have ten women's teams and this will give more countries a chance to qualify. The Chinese women were at the VISA Paralympic World Cup this year and they will be looking for a medal in 2008.

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

Like many Paralympic sports, we need to develop our young players and our women's game by recruiting new players and coaches. We need to improve our ability to share resources with the developing countries and we need clinics for referees, classifiers and coaches in each of our zones. Finally we need to continue to spread the word to the players, the public and the media about Wheelchair Basketball. Come and join us to have a great time!



## Otto Bock Hosts ParalympicChallenge

The long journey for Athletics' athletes from ATHENS 2004 to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games led through Duderstadt, Germany. IPC Worldwide Partner Otto Bock HealthCare organized and hosted the first ParalympicChallenge on 20 May. The IPC sanctioned Athletics competition involved around 120 athletes from 32 countries, including a number of Paralympic stars.

Around 2,000 spectators braved the weather to cheer on the athletes and were rewarded with five new world records: Vitalis Lanshima of Nigeria (T46) ran 100m in 11.17 seconds; Ming Jie Gao (T44, China) increased his own javelin world record by 1.18m with a throw of 56.75m; Bao Zhu Zheng (T42, China) achieved a shot put distance of 9.65m and US sprint star April Holmes ran a new world record of 1:03.85 minutes in the women's 400m (T44). In the 100m female T42 event Annette Roozen from the Netherlands became the first athlete in her class to break the 17 second barrier, improving her best mark to 16.90 seconds. "I only believed it when I saw the time on the score board," she said.

The team of 18 from China proved once again, with great performances, its ambitions

to excel at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. Yue Yang (F44, Javelin) said: "The people here in Duderstadt are unbelievably nice. I was very happy that we had the opportunity to get to know the place a little during the week before the ParalympicChallenge."

"We wanted to offer a highlight between the Paralympic Games at which the world's best athletes could test their skills and inspire and excite the spectators with great performances. We wanted to give the people a feel of the fantastic atmosphere at the Paralympic Games," said Prof. Hans Georg Näder, CEO and Chairman of Otto Bock HealthCare.

"It is unbelievable what the athletes can do," said Rosi Mittermaier, former Olympic Alpine Skiing champion and patron of a charity golf tournament hosted by Otto Bock on the occasion of the ParalympicChallenge, which raised EURO 13,000 for the German Paralympic Committee.

For more information, please visit the official website of the ParalympicChallenge [www.paralympic-challenge.com](http://www.paralympic-challenge.com).



Photo ©: Otto Bock



Photo ©: Otto Bock

## Farewell IPC Equestrian, Welcome FEI



Photo ©: Lieven Coudenys

On 2 May, IPC President Sir Philip Craven and the then President of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) HRH The Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón signed an agreement for the transfer of governance of Equestrian for persons with a disability from IPC to FEI. The transfer ceremony took place at the FEI General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and came into full effect on 1 July.

Before this agreement, the IPC was the International Federation for Equestrian and 12 other sports. Over the past four years, IPC Equestrian has developed significantly with regards to the number of countries and quality of athletes competing in dressage and driving competitions worldwide. Furthermore, the evolution of the IPC Equestrian regulations and training methods has laid a strong foundation for the future.

"The FEI is the first International Federation to embrace a sport of the IPC as a full part of its organization. The IPC is committed to creating true partnerships in sport and we believe that we have found a true partner in the FEI. We are confident that they will make riders and drivers with a disability feel at home in their organization," said Sir Philip.

In 2000, FEI and IPC began discussing and identifying potential areas for collaboration. Two years later, FEI expressed its interest to

include Equestrian for athletes with a disability within the FEI family and to commence initiatives to transfer governance from IPC to FEI. An IPC/FEI Working Group was established in 2003, to discuss the future direction of the relationship and prepare the transfer of governance. As a result of the discussions and recommendations from the IPC/FEI Working Group, the IPC Governing Board and FEI approved the transfer in 2005. The transfer had the full support of the past President of FEI, HRH the Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón and has been warmly welcomed by her successor, HRH the Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein.

Said HRH The Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón: "The horse has been a long standing partner of people with a disability helping them to strengthen their condition and improve their lives. The FEI is immensely proud to integrate Para-Equestrian activities as an official discipline and welcomes riders with a disability in the FEI family."

Jonquil Solt (GBR) was appointed as the Chairperson of the newly created Para-Equestrian Committee. The committee is composed of Hanneke Gerritsen (NED) for a two-year term ending in 2008, Hope C. Hand (USA) until 2009, Mary L. Longden (AUS) and Ulf Wilken until 2010.

## UCI Welcomes Riders with a Disability

The 2006 IPC Cycling World Championships will take place at the World Cycling Centre (WCC), Headquarters of the International Cycling Union (UCI) in Aigle, Switzerland, from 9 to 18 September 2006.

Road and Track Cycling will be on the event's programme, in which some 300 athletes will be taking part from 40 countries. The Track competitions will be held at the WCC velodrome, whereas the Road events will be raced close to the Centre.

It will be the first time UCI has organized the IPC Cycling World Championships. This event is an important stage in the inclusion of riders with a disability to the disciplines governed by the UCI and will crown the excellent co-operation between the IPC and UCI.

In 2002, IPC President Sir Philip Craven and Hein Verbruggen, former UCI President, signed a co-operation agreement. Since then, UCI has adapted its rules and calendar in accordance with the specific nature of Cycling for riders with a disability, so that IPC Cycling is now fully recognized by UCI.

The IPC Cycling World Championships will become UCI Cycling World Championships for riders with a disability from next year, if the transfer of governance to UCI is approved by the IPC Cycling Sport Forum and the IPC Governing Board this year.

For more information about the event, please visit [www.2006IPC-cycling.com](http://www.2006IPC-cycling.com).



Photo ©: Getty Images



## Shooting's Best Take Aim in Sargans

A total of 242 athletes from 44 countries gathered in Sargans, Switzerland, to compete for world honours at the 2006 IPC Shooting World Championships from 13 to 22 July.

The Championships consisted of 13 Rifle and six Pistol Shooting events in both mixed individual and mixed team competitions. At the completion of the Championships, China came away as leaders on the medal tally with six gold medals, five silver and one bronze. They were closely followed by Russia with six gold, four silver and two bronze medals.

During the competition, six new individual world records were set by Viktoria Wedin (SWE, R4), Jonas Jacobsson (SWE, R7), Kurt Martinschit (AUT, R10) and Stefan Kopcik (SVK, R11). Andrey Lebedinsky (RUS) set new world records in both the P3 and P5 events.

A total of seven new team world records were also set by China (R1), Germany (R5), Korea (P1, R3 and R7) and Russia (P3 and P5). A number of other individual and team world records were also equalled.

The Championships received positive reports from athletes, staff and IPC representatives, who were particularly impressed by the use of state-of-the-art technology and equipment in the competition venues.

Also present at the Championships were two representatives of the Organizing Committee for the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games (BOCOG) who were observing the Championships to assist with preparations for the Beijing 2008 Paralympics.

On 17 July, the IPC Shooting Sport Forum, chaired by Walter Vlaminck, brought several issues to the table, including strategic

planning, the future direction of the sport and the new IPC Sport Technical Committee bylaws and structure. There were also updates given on the status of Shooting at several upcoming competitions.

For a complete list of results from the Championships, please visit the official website at [www.wch2006.ch](http://www.wch2006.ch).



Photo ©: Prezioso

## IPC SPORT CALENDAR

2006 IPC Athletics World Championships	2 - 10 September 2006	Assen, Netherlands
2006 IPC Cycling World Championships	10 - 18 September 2006	Aigle, Switzerland
2006 IPC Table Tennis World Championships	24 September - 1 October 2006	Montreux, Switzerland
2006 IPC Wheelchair Dance Sport WC	14 - 15 October 2006	Arnhem, Netherlands
2006 IPC Swimming World Championships	1 - 8 December 2006	Durban, South Africa

## IPC Powerlifting Welcomed in Korea



Photo ©: Organizing Committee

The 2006 IPC Powerlifting World Championships, held in Busan, South Korea, from 3 to 11 May, produced some outstanding results. From a total of 57 participating countries, China topped the medal tally with nine gold medals, closely followed by Iran and Egypt. The athletes included 85 women and 187 men, indicating a small increase from the 2002 IPC Powerlifting World Championships.

A total of twelve world records were broken throughout the men's and women's junior and senior divisions. In the junior female events, Cuijuan Xiao (CHN) set a world record in the 44.00kg category, as did Randa Tag Eldin Mahmoud (EGY) in the 82.50kg. In the senior female events, a new world record was set by Fatma Omar Mohmoud (EGY) in the 56.00kg category, Taoying Fu (CHN) in the 67.50kg, Liping Zhang (CHN) in the 75.00kg and Ruifang Li also of China in the +82.50kg category.

There were also a number of new records set in the men's competition. In the men's junior events, Rafal Roch (POL) set a new record in the 48.00kg, Slawomir Szymanski (POL) in the 52.00kg and Glen Puxley (GBR) in the +100.00kg. In the men's senior events, Hamzeh Mohammadi (IRN) broke the world record in the 60.00kg category, Metwaly Ibrahim Mathana (EGY) in the 67.50kg and Kazem Rajabi Golojeh (IRN) in the +100.00kg category.

Said IPC Powerlifting Chairperson Pol Wautermartens: "Our hosts in Busan could not have been better. We had an excellent competition, reflected not only in the high number of records that were broken but also in the increased number of top-level competitors. We are very happy with the results and I think everyone is looking forward to a very tough competition in Beijing in two years time."

A comprehensive anti-doping testing programme was carried out at the Championships and all participating National Paralympic Committees were asked to provide evidence of their anti-doping programmes. The in-competition testing produced no anti-doping rule violations; this is an important step forward for the sport of Powerlifting in the fight against doping.

In conjunction with the Championships, the IPC Powerlifting Sports Assembly was also held to discuss the development of the National Classification System, strategic planning and the future direction of the sport as well as discussions about the strategy for the development and training of Regional Technical Delegates.

For more information, please visit the official website at [www.ipc2006pwc.org](http://www.ipc2006pwc.org).



## Canada Takes Double Gold



Photo ©: Frans Neessen & Ad van Geffen

Canada won gold in both the men's and women's competitions at the 2006 International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Wheelchair Basketball World Championships, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 3 to 16 July.

The USA also took double silver medals in the competition after both the men's and women's teams were defeated by Canada in the finals. The men's bronze medal went to Australia, while Germany took the bronze in the women's competition.

In the men's competition, the top scorer for the Championship was Koen Jansens (NED) and top rebounder, Dotan Meishar (ISR). Danielle Peers (CAN) was both the top female scorer and rebounder.

The competition involved eight women's and 12 men's teams from around the world and over 40 international officials.

Wheelchair Basketball is one of the most popular sports on the Paralympic programme. It is designed for athletes who have a physical disability that prevents running, jumping and pivoting. It is open to any male or female athlete with a lower limb disability and is played by two teams of five players each. The sport was first introduced to the Paralympic programme in Rome in 1960 and is governed by the IWBF.

For more information, please visit the official competition website [www.goldcup2006.com](http://www.goldcup2006.com).

## Volleyball World Champions Crowned

The 2006 Triple World Championships in Sitting and Standing Volleyball took place from 17 to 25 June in Roermond, the Netherlands.

In the women's sitting competition, the Netherlands took the gold medal after narrowly beating China in the final. Slovakia claimed the bronze after defeating Lithuania. In a replay of the final at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games, Bosnia-Herzegovina took the men's sitting gold medal in a 3:1 defeat of Iran, while Egypt took the bronze medal by defeating Germany 2:3.

The championships also included a men's Standing Volleyball competition which was won by Canada, who defeated Germany 3:0

in the final. They were followed by Poland who took the bronze medal.

A total of 25 teams (five standing men, eight sitting women and 12 sitting men) participated in the championships, assisted by over 40 international referees and officials.

Volleyball is governed by the World Organisation Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD). Standing Volleyball was on the Paralympic programme from 1976 to 2000 and the sitting discipline was introduced at the Arnhem 1980 Paralympics.

For more information, please visit the WOVD website at [www.wovd.info](http://www.wovd.info).



Photo ©: Prezioso

## Lithuania and Canada 2006 Goalball World Champions



Photo ©: Lee Speer

Spartanburg in South Carolina, USA, was the proud host of the 2006 International Blind Sport Federation (IBSA) World Goalball Championships, held from 26 June until 2 July. The Championships involved 18 men's and 13 women's teams.

In the men's final, Lithuania took a first half lead of 3:2 and then exploded with seven goals in the second half to defeat Sweden. The USA took the bronze medal defeating Slovenia 7:3. Nancy Morin was the star player for Canada as she scored four goals to lead her team to a 5:2 victory in the women's final against China. USA took the bronze, defeating Denmark 4:2.

The top six men's and top four women's teams have now qualified for the Beijing

2008 Paralympic Games. The remaining teams will be decided at the Paralympic Qualifier, held in conjunction with the 3rd IBSA World Games, in Brazil, from 28 July to 8 August 2007.

Goalball is exclusively a sport for athletes with a visual impairment and was introduced for the first time at the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games. Competitors wear 'blackout' masks, allowing athletes with varying degrees of vision to participate together. Bells inside the ball help players identify the direction of the ball. Therefore, while play is in progress, the crowd must be silent to allow the players to concentrate.

A full list of results can be found at [www.worldgoalball.com](http://www.worldgoalball.com).

## World's Judokas Compete in France

The 2006 IBSA Judo World Championships were held in Brommat, France, from 29 June to 3 July. The Championships brought together over 200 athletes with a visual impairment, in all weight categories, from more than 40 countries to fight for medals and titles and for their first chance to qualify for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Winners in the men's individual categories were: -60kg Saeed Rahmati (IRI), -66kg Victor Sanchez (CUB), -73kg Shakhban Kurbanov (RUS), -81kg Cyril Jonard (FRA), -90 kg Tofiq Mammadov (AZE), -100kg Antonio Silva (BRA) and +100kg Yangaliny Gimenez (CUB). The men's overall title was won by Cuba followed by France and Azerbaijan.

Winners in the women's individual categories were: -48kg Carmen Brussig (GER), -52kg Sandrine Aurieres (FRA), -57kg Ramona Brussig (GER), -63kg Marta Arce (ESP), -70kg Sandorne Nagy (HUN), -78kg Lanmei Xue (CHN) and +78kg Yanping Yuan (CHN). With these results, Germany took the overall women's title. Russia edged out the hosts France to take second place.

An IBSA Judo Assembly was also hosted during the Championships to discuss several issues. At the meeting, Christina Skandaki (GRE) and Ian Rose (GBR) were selected as the two athletes' representatives for Judo. This was followed by a one-week training course for athletes, referees and coaches.



Photo ©: Benoit Hétet, F.F.Handisport



## Development Grants Make Impact Around the World

Each year the IPC contributes thousands of Euros in funding to development projects run by IPC members, throughout the world. In this issue of *The Paralympian*, we highlight four such projects that have been made possible thanks to the support of an IPC Development Grant.

### FISA: Coaching and Classification Workshop

With Rowing now included in the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, interest in adaptive Rowing is growing rapidly. The International Rowing Federation (FISA) Adaptive Rowing Commission, the British Paralympic Association and the London Regatta Centre held a workshop to qualify classifiers for Adaptive Rowing, to equip coaches with necessary classification and coaching knowledge in Adaptive Rowing and to provide teams with all the necessary information to develop Adaptive Rowing in their own countries/regions/clubs.

The workshop, held in May 2006, was the second in a series also held in Hong Kong and

Canada. Overall, participants included 23 trainee technical classifiers and 18 trainee medical classifiers from 21 countries. Athletes attended the workshops in order to be classified, but were also encouraged to participate in the Poplar Regatta on 14 May.

The project allowed a number of coaches to gain their FISA Level 1 - Adaptive Certification for Coaching. Topics included equipment, physiology, rowing technique, training methods and race preparation. This was also the first step towards creating a coaching education programme for Paralympic athletes and coaches as part of the overall FISA Coaching Education Programme.



Photo ©: FISA



Photo ©: NPC Turkmenistan

### NPC Turkmenistan: Education and Training

From 26 to 29 May 2006 the National Paralympic Committee of Turkmenistan held a seminar for a total of 40 participants, including Paralympic athletes, coaches and specialists working with athletes with a disability.

The main goals of the seminar were to provide education and training, to promote the ideals and knowledge of the Paralympic Movement in Turkmenistan, to provide practical assistance to sport centres (recognized by their respective International Sports Organization for the Disabled, IOSD) working with persons with a disability in the provinces of Turkmenistan and to encourage

the involvement of new young promising athletes with a disability.

The educational content of the workshop was based on a manual entitled 'Coaching Athletes with Disabilities', provided by the Australian Sports Commission, which was translated from English. The seminar included both theoretical and practical sessions such as coaching and training methods, anti-doping and demonstrations in sports such as Athletics, Goalball, Powerlifting and Table Tennis. The seminar also received coverage from the local media.

### NPC Slovenia: National Paralympic Day

For the first time, the National Paralympic Committee of Slovenia organized their own National Paralympic Day in the capital city of Ljubljana on 17 June in the carpark of the city's largest shopping centre.

A number of activities were available to let members of the public both with and without a disability have a go at several Paralympic sports and to inform the public about the work of the Slovenian Paralympic Committee and the athletes who represent Slovenia in the Paralympic Games and other competitions.

Around 100 athletes with a disability took part in the day, including Paralympic

champions Mateja Pintar (Table Tennis) and Franc Pintar (Shooting). Organizers estimate that approximately 2,500 people visited the event throughout the day.

Some of the activities available included Athletics, Boccia, Goalball, Table Tennis, Swimming, Shooting, Volleyball (Sitting), Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis. Giving able-bodied visitors a chance to try out the sport allows them to develop a respect for the athletic ability of Paralympic athletes. For persons with a disability, it may spark an interest to take up the sport either socially or competitively.

The NPC hopes to make the Day a regular event in Slovenia. For more information, please visit [www.zsis.si](http://www.zsis.si).



Photo ©: Ivo Drinovec



Photo ©: Yves Vanlandewijck

### IPC Sport Science Committee: Research

Under the auspices of the IPC Sport Science Committee, an international research group was established to conduct a biomechanical analysis study during the first World Indoor Track and Field Championships in Bollnäs, Sweden, in March 2006. The group included researchers from Australia, Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Great Britain, South Africa, Sweden and the United States.

The research focused on athlete performance, functional potential and technique. The interrelationships between these components was studied and will contribute to the understanding of track and field events and the consequent development of an appropriate classification

system. The study also investigated research questions from the Intellectual Disability Exercise and Active Lifestyle Research Group (IDEAL-RG) to examine the eligibility of athletes with an intellectual disability. The venue in Bollnäs was transformed into a biomechanical laboratory with high speed cameras, laser cameras and other research instruments.

At a practical level, the research provided athletes and coaches with immediate performance feedback using images from two (long jump and high jump) or three (shot put) cameras to provide a biomechanical analysis. It is hoped this feedback will initiate a better understanding of individual performance and a more professional attitude towards training.



### Now A Word From Our Sponsor

Visa was proud to be a global sponsor of the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games where it was the official payment service and the only card accepted. Torino was the third Paralympic Games sponsored by Visa following the 2002 and 2004 Paralympics.

Sponsorship of the Paralympic Games allows Visa to reach out to more than 500 million people with a disability worldwide and their families with a message of inclusion. By engaging in dialogue, raising awareness of Visa products and services, developing new technologies specifically for the needs of the disabled community, extending issuance, and creating an affinity with Visa's 20,000 member banks, Visa provides this global community with greater access and choice.

Today, Visa's involvement with the Paralympics is more extensive than ever. Below is a snapshot of the initiatives Visa has implemented as part of their sponsorship.

A comprehensive brand campaign was developed prior to and during the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics. As part of their message of inclusion, Visa was the only sponsor that communicated their Olympic and Paralympic sponsorship through the use of a three-way (Visa/Olympic/Paralympic) logo. The campaign was featured at the major airports, train stations, mountain venues and throughout Torino.

The Paralympic Torch Relay provided a great deal of excitement leading up to the Games and Visa was proud to be a presenting sponsor. Visa also hosted its first Winter Paralympic hospitality programme, which provided an excellent opportunity for key stakeholders to experience the excitement of the Winter Paralympics firsthand.

Visa successfully hosted two media events in Torino. Snow Day was held in Sestriere for young people with and without a disability. Guests had the opportunity to meet, talk and

watch as Paralympians from five countries spoke about their sport and demonstrated their equipment and skills (see photo). Visa also became the presenting sponsor of the first-ever Paralympic Hall of Fame (PHF). At a special ceremony in Torino, two athletes and one coach were inducted as members of the PHF. Visa's sponsorship of the PHF celebrates the values of sportsmanship, excellence and commitment embodied by these athletes and coach and recognizes the great influence they have had on the Paralympics.

When the IPC successfully launched [www.paralympicsport.tv](http://www.paralympicsport.tv), the first-ever live Paralympic Games webcast for the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics, Visa supported the initiative as a presenting sponsor. This provided an effective vehicle for Visa to communicate its support of the Paralympic Games worldwide.

But Visa's commitment stretches beyond Games-time. Over the years, Visa has partnered with National Paralympic Committees in Brazil, Britain, Canada, Mexico and the US to enrich the experience of the Games for both athletes and fans through marketing and fundraising programmes. As part of the Team Visa and Gold Medal Athlete programmes, Visa sponsored 12 athletes from eight countries to compete in the Torino 2006 Winter Paralympics and help showcase their achievements worldwide.

Visa was also a proud sponsor of the International Paralympic Days in Torino, Italy, and Bonn, Germany, in 2005. The Visa Paralympic World Cup provides Visa with an additional opportunity to extend its support

of Paralympic sport. Visa has been a presenting sponsor since 2005 and will continue to be so through 2007.

Visa continues to utilize their website [www.visaparalympics.com](http://www.visaparalympics.com) to communicate its support for the greater Paralympic Movement. The site is fully accessible to people with vision and hearing impairments.

"As the first global sponsor of the Paralympic Games and Worldwide Partner of the IPC, Visa strongly supports the Paralympic Movement and will continue to help facilitate progress toward greater worldwide acceptance of people with disabilities by providing products and services that promote equal access for the disabled community and by promoting awareness of athletes with disabilities," said Tom Shepard, Executive Vice President, Global Marketing Partnerships and Sponsorship, Visa International.



Photo ©: Visa

## MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC NEWS

### ATHENS Research - Part III

The IPC and the Organizing Committee for the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games granted SailSportMed (Joanne 'Anne' B. Allen M.D. of the IFDS Medical Committee, USDST and Betsy Alison, US Sailing Head Coach) the opportunity to study safety at the Sailing venue during the ATHENS 2004 Paralympics. This study was recognized as an opportunity to make a significant impact on the quality of future regattas worldwide. By surveying the regatta participants, officials and support staff about their procedures, training, and knowledge base about safety in Sailing, potential educational needs could be identified. In addition, through venue observations during the Paralympic Games regatta, areas of concern at a Sailing event for persons with a disability, such as accessibility and volunteer procedures, could be assessed.

The study evaluated the knowledge base of the athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteer staff through a series of surveys and assessed the venue itself and observed the management of any safety issues during the competition.

A 'Sailors Survey' addressing safety in Sailing issues was distributed to each of the

69 sailors from all of the countries in both boat classes. A separate 'Coaches/Officials Survey' in Greek was given to all of the coaches, race officials, medical and rescue staff and selected volunteers. Data was collected prior to and during the Competition. In addition, venue observations were recorded by the research team; both on-land and on-the-water, in order to further document the venue accessibility and safety.

The results of the IPC Safety in Sailing Project performed at the ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games yielded numerous suggestions and recommendations to enhance the safety and success of future Sailing regattas for persons with a disability, including those at future Paralympic Games.

From the survey results, it was found that there is a significant lack of understanding and knowledge about working with sailors with a disability. Specific and unique examples include a lack of practicing safety drills and a lack of understanding of disability types and their functional limitations. The need for more education regarding venue accessibility, medical and safety issues and psychosocial awareness is evident.

Educational seminars and training programmes are the foundation on which safety within sport can be built. Developing such educational models is the next step in improving the knowledge and understanding of those involved in sport for persons with a disability. Such seminars should be taught to regatta organizers, volunteers, officials, coaches and athletes, prior to competition.

Sailing is an empowering sport for persons with a disability. With minor adaptations, individuals with most physical disabilities can actively participate with a great degree of success and satisfaction. As more athletes with a severe disability are gradually welcomed into the Paralympic family, it will be critical that coaches, classifiers, event organizers and administrators are made aware of these specific needs. By increasing awareness regarding athletes with a disability, a better understanding of their needs and expectations can be developed in terms of training and competition prior to the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.



## 2014 Candidate Cities Down to Three

The cities of Sochi (Russia), Salzburg (Austria) and PyeongChang (Republic of Korea)\* have been approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Executive Board as Candidate Cities to host the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in 2014.

The cities were selected from a total of seven Applicant Cities, which also included Jaca (Spain), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Sofia (Bulgaria) and Borjomi (Georgia).

The selection was based on a study of the applications submitted by each Applicant City submitted earlier this year. This study was made by a working group of experts who revised each Applicant City's potential to host successful Winter Games in 2014.

Criteria for selection included factors such as government support and public opinion, general infrastructure, sports venues, Olympic Village, environmental conditions and impact, accommodation, transport, security, experience from past sports events and the

sustainability and legacy of the overall project. The IPC provided the IOC with comments on the Paralympic Games specific information submitted by the Cities.

The three Candidate Cities now have time until 10 January 2007 to submit their Candidature File. An IOC Evaluation Commission, including one representative from the IPC, will visit the cities in February

and March of 2007 to get a better impression and analyze the Candidature Files in detail. Their report will be made public in June 2007 before the final decision is made by the full IOC membership during the 119th IOC Session in Guatemala City, Guatemala, next July.

\* listed in the order of drawing of lots.



Images ©: IOC



Watch Paralympic Sport live on the Internet at: [www.paralympicsport.tv](http://www.paralympicsport.tv)

## Van Dyk Wins 2006 Laureus Award

On 22 May, the world of sport gathered for a star-studded evening to recognize the best athletes in the world at the seventh annual Laureus World Sports Awards. The glamorous event was held at the Parc del Forum in Barcelona, Spain, and hosted by actors Teri Hatcher and Cuba Gooding Jr.

The Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award was presented to Ernst van Dyk of South Africa. After winning the award, van Dyk stated: "I don't think it can get any better than this. To the kids in South Africa: you live in a beautiful country with so much potential. Don't sit around and wait for it to happen, go out and make it happen."

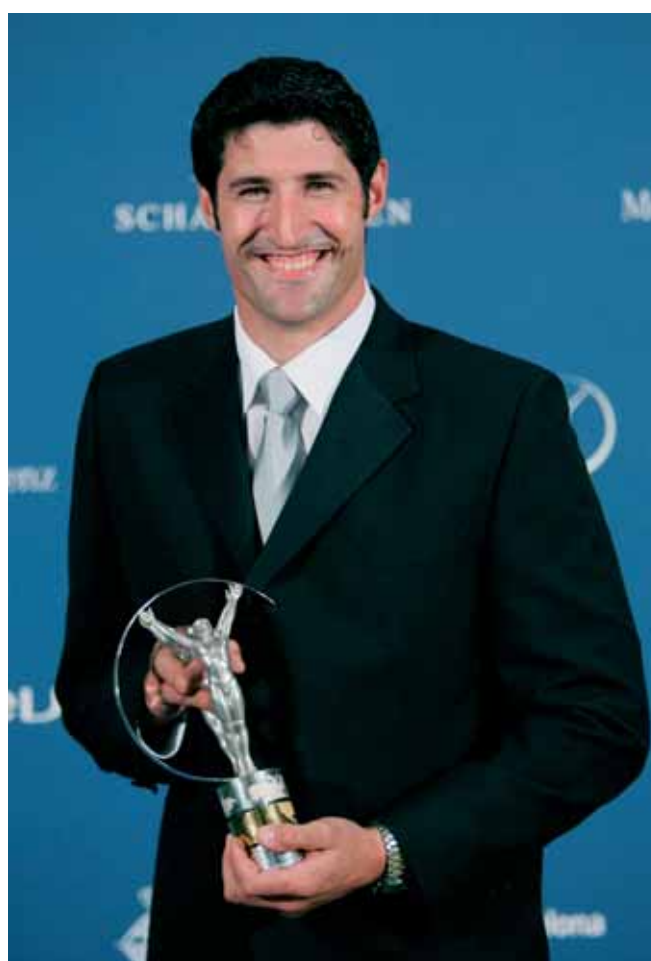
For Ernst van Dyk, 2005 represented the culmination of a brilliant 13-year sporting career. In addition to winning his fifth straight Boston Marathon in the wheelchair category, van Dyk won four other prestigious international marathons, including New York and Paris. He took home two gold medals from the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, and won numerous other events, including the North American 10k Championships in New York, USA, and the Rolling Rampage 10k event in Toronto, Canada.

The other nominees in the category for Laureus Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability were Kirsten Bruhn (Swimming, GER), Zsuzsanna Krajnyak (Wheelchair Fencing, HUN), Leo-Pekka Tahti (Athletics, FIN), Esther Vergeer (Wheelchair Tennis, NED) and Henry Wanyoike (Athletics, KEN).

The prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards honour the world's best sportsmen and women and celebrate sporting excellence across all disciplines and continents each year. The winners are selected by a jury,

including members of the Laureus World Sports Academy.

The Awards Ceremony was broadcast to around 190 countries and featured many well-known personalities including King Juan Carlos of Spain, actor Morgan Freeman, FIFA President Sepp Blatter, Formula One Chief Bernie Ecclestone, Mercedes-McLaren Driver Juan Pablo Montoya and the band Jamiroquai.



Ernst Van Dyk (RSA) Winner of the Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award. Photo ©: Getty Images

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