

## HIGHLIGHTS

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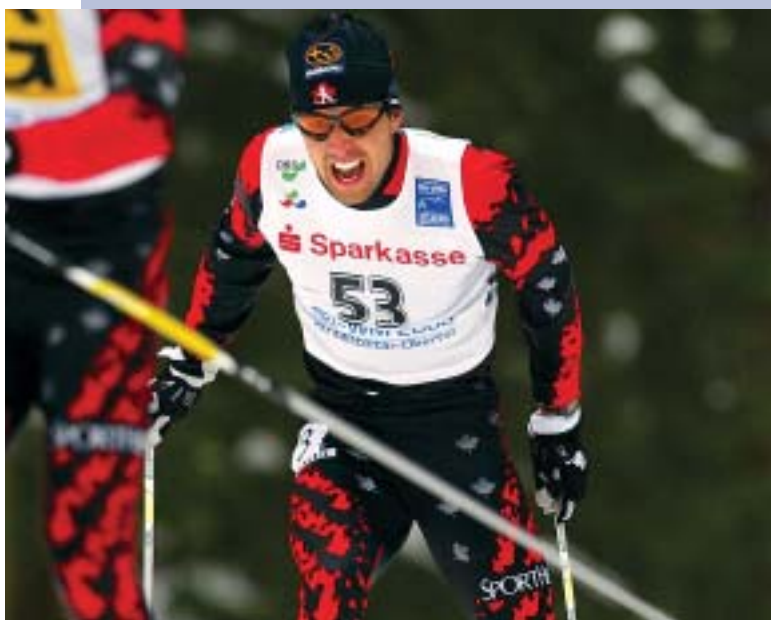
### Inside IPC



Page 12 Surprise Guest at IPC New Year's Reception: Otto the Otter

## New Levels Reached at World Championships

Photo: Baumann (Ludwigsburg)



Brian McKeever, winner of five gold medals

### Nordic Skiing

The 7th IPC Nordic Skiing World Championships in Baiersbrunn, Germany (7 to 15 February) got off to a good start with 4,000 spectators enjoyed the Opening Ceremony, in which Phil Craven, IPC President, officially declared the World Championships open. The specifically for these World Championships composed song "Motion & Emotion" was also presented at the Opening Ceremony.

Despite very cold temperatures (up to minus 17 degrees Celsius), more than 40,000 spectators visited the competitions, the daily side programme and the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, setting new standards for future Nordic Skiing World Championships. The media coverage was also outstanding with the main domestic broadcasters present and, for example, 1,73 million people watching the 10min long summary of highlights broadcast on Sunday afternoon with main non-disabled sport events, eg, Ice Hockey, only being viewed by an audience of 0,95 to 1,55 million persons.

Photo: Baumann (Ludwigsburg)



Verena Bentele (Germany) in action

A total of 97 competitors from 19 nations participated in the disciplines Biathlon and Cross-Country. Brian McKeever (Canada) was named Best Male Athlete of the World Championships whereas the prize for the Best Female Athlete went to Anna Burmistrova (Russia). Both prizes were awarded by the German State Secretary Ute Vogt at the Closing Ceremony. McKeever won gold medals in all five of the events for visually impaired athletes in which he started: Biathlon Long Distance, Biathlon Short Distance, Cross-Country Short

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Chelsey Gotell (Canada), gold medalist in 100m Backstroke class S13

### Swimming

More than 50 world records were broken and many personal bests set at the 3rd IPC Swimming World Championships in Mar del Plata, Argentina. A total of 574 participants from 53 nations took part in the competitions from 6 to 17 December 2002. Apart from the exciting competitions in the indoor pool, a highlight was the first IPC Open Water World Championships, which were carried out in the Atlantic Ocean.

The 600 helpful and friendly volunteers gave the World Champs a cheerful atmosphere. At the end of six days of tough competitions, the final medal tally was topped by Great Britain with 32 gold, 23 silver and 21 bronze medals. Canada was second with 28 gold, 14 silver and 6 bronze, whereas China secured third place with 21 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze. The complete final medal tally can be found on the IPC website ([www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)). The Championships also included demonstration events (non-medal events) in the heat sessions for swimmers with an intellectual disability.



"The performance level of the swimmers continues to improve all the time, which the over 50 new world records prove. The volunteers and the Organising Committee have been extremely enthusiastic and have worked very hard to make these World Championships great ones," said Anne Green, IPC Chairperson Swimming.

Dora Pasztory (Hungary) was chosen as Female Swimmer of the Meet for her performance in the 200m Individual Medley class SM8, with Sascha Kindred (Great Britain) receiving the title Male

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Editorial



## IPC Focuses on Development

The World Championships of the last months have clearly demonstrated that Paralympic athletes perform at the highest level. Impressive and sometimes even unbelievable world record times were achieved at the IPC World Swimming Championships in December in Argentina. The participants of the 7th IPC World Nordic Skiing Championships in February 2003 had to give their all on an extremely challenging course and finished the races in remarkable times which were founded on hard training, excellent body conditioning and sophisticated technique.

Apart from these elite sporting events, the International Paralympic Committee is increasingly focusing on sport development activities. This new centre of attention has to be seen twofold: first, sport development in a sense of developing sport opportunities for people with a disability on a grass root level. It is important for us as the international representative organisation of sport for people with a disability to cover all aspects of sport.

The Paralympic Games are clearly the pinnacle of this movement, but they could never exist in such a successful format without a global basis of sport being performed on a recreational level. The IPC is committed to support sport opportunities for all people with a disability, as recreational athletes are an equitable target group of the IPC as are elite athletes.

The fact that the number of applications for the IPC's development fund tripled in the last years shows the great demand for assistance regarding sport opportunities especially in less developed countries. During the upcoming months, we will draft a development concept and will also hire a new staff member specifically dedicated to this programme.

Secondly, sport has to be seen as a means to promote global development. I had the opportunity to attend a United Nations Conference on Sport and Development in Switzerland in February, at which specific recommendations to the UN Secretary-General were detailed. Especially for people with a disability, who are too often neglected in society, sport plays an important role in social, economic and personal development.

Another important aspect of human development is education. In physical education classes, many children with a disability have their first active sport experience. Physical education is an important means of accessing other human rights such as securing good health, liberty, security, economic well-being, and participation in social and political activities.

I truly believe that the IPC is on the right track when promoting sport from grass root to elite levels. In the long-term, this approach will strengthen our movement, because it will enable many athletes with a disability to practice sport according to their needs, their talent and their goals.

Phil Craven  
President

### ► Nordic Skiing

Distance, Cross-Country Middle Distance and the Cross-Country Long Distance. Burmistrova won three gold medals in the women's Biathlon Short Distance Standing event, the Cross Country Middle Distance Standing event and the Cross Country Relay as well as two silver medals in the women's standing events Biathlon Long Distance and Cross Country Short Distance.

Rita van Driel, IPC Nordic Skiing Chairperson, said: "These championships showed us exciting races with close results, which is a real promotion for our Paralympic sports. This was the first big competition since the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Games where we used the three class system, which is based on a percentage system to recalculate the race times based on the different disability groups, for all events and it seems to be working well. I hope it will inspire new athletes but also other sports to find a solution to reduce the number of events held for all different disability groups."



On the way to the finish line

With the motto of the World Championships "More than a World Championship" in mind, the friendly and helpful 500 volunteers and the hardworking Organising Committee left their mark on many of the competitors, some of whom named these World Championships the "best ever".

### ► Swimming



A participant of the Open Water Champs is rapped up in a blanket

Swimmer of the Meet for his performance in the 200m Individual Medley class SM6.

On 16 December, the 5 km Open Water event took place in the Atlantic Ocean with a water temperature

of 20 degrees Celsius. Of the 63 swimmers who started, 46 completed the course with the men's event won by Enrique Floriano from Spain in a time of 56 min and 53sec and the women's by Dianna Ley from Australia in 1hr, 7 min and 30sec.

"The organisers of the Open Water event did a marvellous job. I have been to a lot of races and this was definitely the best run," said Dave Thomas, IPC Swimming Technical Delegate for Open Water, as the last competitors had crossed the finish line.

Boats with lifeguards as well as four jet skies were placed at several strategic places along the route. Blind swimmers had the possibility of being escorted in a kayak. Furthermore, around 20 kayaks and ten rubber boats equipped with food, drink and blankets made sure that the event was a safe one. In an Open Water event, it is not necessarily the best swimmer who wins, but the swimmer with the best mind—underlining the Paralympic motto: Mind Body Spirit.

### Testing at Swimming World Champs

Because of advances in portable technology as well as the increased professionalism within governing sport bodies, the scientific support provided for our athletes is becoming more widely spread and is not only moving from the lab into the training area but also to competitions. At the 2002 IPC Swimming World Championships in Mar del Plata, Argentina, Australia, Canada as well as Great Britain carried out systematic blood lactate testing of their participants following individual events. The results were used, for example, to assist the swimmers following their race performance in determining their warm-down programme.

The testing is common practice in cyclic individual sports (swimming, running, rowing, cycling) and has been used in labs and in the field, especially in swimming, for more than 20 years. A small capillary blood sample is taken from the ear lobe or finger with an apparatus that immediately determines the value. Testing is often done during training according to a fixed protocol several times during the season. The boarder line swimming speed at which aerobic training becomes anaerobic is determined. When this anaerobic threshold speed increases, one can assume that the aerobic condition has improved and/or that the swimming technique has become more efficient.

Several hundred tests were carried out in Argentina by the countries on their athletes requesting this service. As IPC Swimming is concerned with the health and welfare of all participants, a short protocol was introduced for the countries involved. This included aspects of athlete consent, safety procedures and predetermined locations for testing and waste disposal.

After reviewing the reports from the countries as well as that of the IPC Swimming representative responsible in Argentina, an updated version of the protocol will be produced and published on the IPC Swimming web site: [www.ipcswimming.org](http://www.ipcswimming.org). In addition, FINA, the world swimming federation for non-disabled, has also been and will continue to be consulted during this process. In the future countries wishing to provide this service will be required to make their request to Anne Green, IPC Chairperson Swimming, at least six months prior to IPC Swimming sanctioned events.

D. J. Daly, IPC Swimming Science Officer



# Advertising Spot Launched

On 4 February 2003, the communications campaign phase of the Athens 2004 Volunteer Programme began with a television advertising spot entitled "Remember". Through a series of images of expectation, enthusiasm and joy there is a "back to the future" type of review of the announcement with the basic feelings of the Games: joy, celebration, pride and willingness to pursue a collective effort.

The message that is conveyed through the television spot is that the Olympic and Paralympic Games have the image and soul of the volunteers who help in the staging of the Games and that consequently the 2004 Games, which will promote the human dimension, will be unique "because they will reflect our own image". The slogan of the promotion campaign "we will all be there", reminds how valuable the participation at the Athens 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games is for all.

By the end of February, the response to the volunteers' programme of ATHENS 2004 was over 61,000 incoming applications. Candidate volunteers interested in offering their services to both the Olympic and Paralympic Games make out approximately 30% of the applications submitted. In February, the number of applications is expected to increase by 25%. For the Paralympic Games, 15,000 volunteers are required.



Paralympic staff members and volunteers

Photo: ATHENS 2004

The majority of the applicants (40%) are between 18-24 with the age group of 25-34 following with 33%. It is also worth noticing that 6% are persons over 55 whereas those between 45-55 only make up 2%. A majority of the applicants reside in Greece (65%). The rest of the world covers a total of 35%, with Cypriots reaching 4%. The volunteers programme is a core element of every Olympic and Paralympic Games Organising Committee. For ATHENS 2004 the volunteers programme began in 2001 with an information and

awareness campaign for the Greek population. One year later, 2002, was the deadline for the official applications. The process of selection is divided into three stages: interviews, training and then the participation in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Vaggelis Kontaxakis  
Communications Administrator  
Paralympic Games ATHENS 2004

# Significant Progress Made in Preparations for 2004 Paralympics



Photo: ATHENS 2004

## Members of the Paralympic Games Liaison Committee

- Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Paralympic Games Liaison Director
- Dr. Björn Hedman, IPC Medical Officer
- Carol Mushett, IPC Technical Officer
- Miguel Sagarra, IPC Secretary General
- François Terranova, IPC Vice-President Games Liaison

Part of the Paralympic Games Liaison Committee hard at work with ATHENS 2004. From left to right: Xavier Gonzalez, IPC, Paralympic Games Liaison Director, François Terranova, IPC Vice-President, Games Liaison, Ioannis Spanudakis, ATHENS 2004 Managing Director, Ioanna Karyofylli, ATHENS 2004 Paralympic Games General Manager

The third Paralympic Games Liaison Committee meeting between the IPC and ATHENS 2004, the organising committee of the Paralympic Games, was held in Athens, Greece, from 28 to 30 January. During the meeting it became clear that significant progress had been made since the last Committee meeting eight months ago. However, with less than 600 days to go to the opening of the Paralympic Games a critical phase is being entered into.

During three days of working sessions, ATHENS 2004 presented the status of preparations in 15 sectors: accommodation, accreditation, doping control, ceremonies, education, health services, information technology, marketing, the Paralympic Village, press services, sports, tickets, venue operations and work projects. Good progress had been made in many areas, especially in transportation, sports, accommodation and health services. The preparations for the Paralympic Village are advancing well and the IPC is satisfied with the present progress in making sure that the Village will meet all necessary requirements for the Paralympic teams.

The IPC commends the good co-operation existing between the various Greek Ministries and ATHENS 2004 with regard to the Paralympic Games preparations. The Greek government has introduced new legislation on accessibility of public buildings, with non-compliance of this legislation resulting in penalties. Furthermore, the Greek Minister of Culture has announced that also the Acropolis will be made accessible.

Up to date, 120 National Paralympic Committees have confirmed their participation in the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games. Therefore, it is expected that more nations will participate than in Sydney, with the same number of athletes, signifying yet another step up in the level of the elite competitions to take place. Around 4,000 athletes will compete in 19 sports at 19 venues from 17 to 28 September 2004. The sport 5-a-Side Football (for visually impaired athletes) will be on the Paralympic programme for the first time in Athens as well as other new events. The selected events reflect the IPC's commitment to support female athletes and those with severe disabilities. For example, Judo and Sitting Volleyball will be offered for women for the first time. In Boccia

and Wheelchair Tennis, new events have been added, which cater for athletes with severe disabilities.

There are still some areas for the Paralympic Games that need to be further addressed such as the promotion of the Games, finalisation of the budget and the full participation of the information technology partners. However, the IPC is confident that ATHENS 2004 will take all necessary action.

François Terranova, Chairperson  
IPC Paralympic Games Liaison Committee

Mr. Spanudakis and Mr. Terranova briefing the media



Photo: ATHENS 2004

Paralympic Games/Torino

## Torino 2006 Paralympic Games Logo Unveiled

Abstractness and style, these are the characteristics of the Paralympic emblem presented to the President of the Italian Republic, Mr. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, in Rome on 20 January. Three Italian Paralympic medal winners in Salt Lake City, Ronald Ruepp (two golds and a bronze), Christian Lanthaler (two silvers) and Florian Planker (one bronze), gave the emblem to the President.



Photo: La Presse

The Torino Paralympic emblem was presented to the President of the Italian Republic in Rome. From left to right: Florian Planker, Ronald Ruepp, Christian Lanthaler, Valentino Castellani, Luca Pancalli, Gianni Petrucci, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Tiziana Nasi, Evelina Christillin and Sergio Chiamparino.

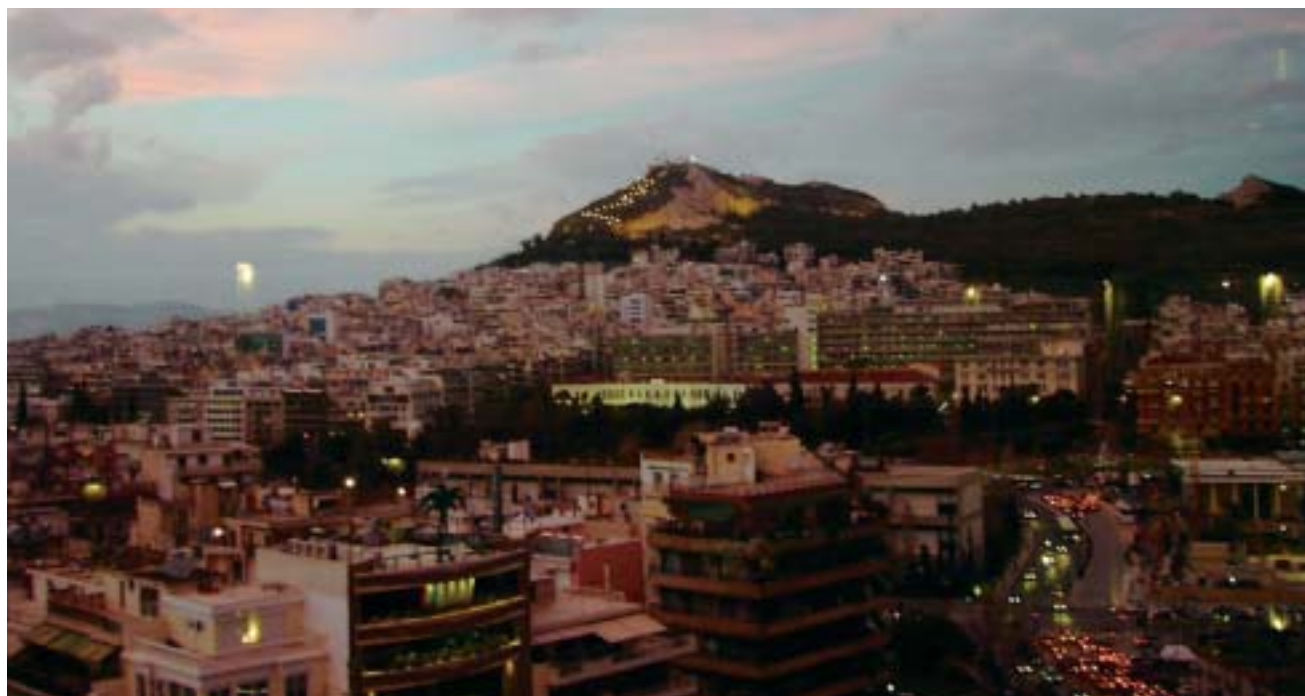
The emblem chosen for the Torino 2006 Paralympic Winter Games, designed by Studio Husmann-Benincasa, has ties to the Winter Olympics emblem and that of the IPC. The simplicity of the emblem provides various levels of interpretation. "Like the Torino 2006 emblem, the Paralympic emblem carries important meanings", said TOROC President Valentino Castellani. "The Paralympics represent the values of solidarity, friendship among people, bravery and fair competition. I like to see the outline of three people hand in hand in the emblem, three people who are supporting each other and creating a bond of solidarity."



The three graphic elements forming the emblem recall a human figure and the three drops of the IPC logo (symbolising the most significant components of the human being: mind, body and spirit). The colours chosen for the logo—green, blue and red—re-interpret the three colours of the IPC logo in a Torino 2006 perspective: blue is the colour of Italian sports world-wide as well as the colour of snow and ice; green symbolises the natural elements of Italian landscape; red is the colour of passion, the value which best expresses the vitality and enthusiasm of Paralympic athletes.

Paralympic Games/Athens

## Greek Action Plan to Make Athens Accessible



The city of Athens will be made accessible for the 2004 Paralympic Games

The Olympic and Paralympic preparation, which is co-ordinated by the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, is one of the most ambitious modernisation plans of the country. The aim is to improve structures and create a safe and friendly environment, accessible to all people with a disability. The Hellenic Ministry of Culture has already put forward a number of legislative adjustments in order to improve accessibility. One of the most important adjustments refers to the obligation to make all public buildings accessible.

The Interministerial Committee for the co-ordination of the Olympic Preparation approved the "Action Plan for the Support of the Paralympic Games 2004". The Ministry of Culture along with ATHENS 2004, the organising committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, is responsible for co-ordinating the Action Plan and reports to the Interministerial Committee. The Greek government works in close co-operation with the National Confederation for People with Disabilities and the Hellenic Paralympic Committee.

The basic goal is to secure the accessibility and functionality of the venues and the Paralympic Village but emphasis is also given to hospitality, tourism, transport, health, sports, culture and education. This means that accessible hotel rooms are secured in all categories, public transportation is upgraded or renovated and public servants are educated/informed of the needs of persons with a disability, a special medical programme is being prepared and a law obligates all public buildings, banks, post offices, etc to be adjusted in line with accessibility requirements. This legal adjustment must be applied to the city of Athens and the four Olympic Cities by the end of 2003, otherwise penalties will be implemented. Furthermore, Paralympic education has been developed and is implemented on all educational levels and a number of archaeological and cultural sites and buildings have been made accessible. In January, the Greek Minister of Culture also announced that the Acropolis will be made accessible.

From the IPC Committee

## IPC Legal Committee Welcomes New Members



François Terranova

At a meeting of the IPC Legal Committee, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 17 January 2003, two new members were welcomed: Dr. Bob Price (Great Britain), European Paralympic Committee President, and Enrique Perez (Spain), International Blind Sports Federation President.

(Great Britain), Dr. Don Royer (Canada) and François Terranova (France), who is the Chairperson of the Committee.

A proposal regarding the definition of sports and disciplines in relation to voting rights at the IPC General Assembly, which will be discussed by the Sports Council Management Committee in the beginning of March, was examined. Furthermore, an extensive review was conducted of the bylaws of the Athletes' Committee and Sports Science and Medical Committee. The Legal Committee was also provided with a comprehensive overview of the IPC's various legal activities and contracts developed at Headquarters.

The Legal Committee advises the IPC Executive Committee and the IPC in general, on constitutional and bylaw matters, contracts and agreements and, if required, on membership applications. It also controls the election procedures at the IPC General Assembly. With the two new members included, the Legal Committee now comprises six members: Mattias Berg (Germany), Dr. Jens Bromann (Denmark), Enrique Perez (Spain), Dr. Bob Price

The Legal Committee will extend its membership to a panel of lawyers, in order to be able to interact on possible future law cases. Nominations for suitable candidates can be submitted to the IPC Headquarters.

François Terranova  
IPC Chairperson Legal Committee

# Sport's Profile: Athletics, Part II



*Chris Cohen has been involved in Athletics for persons with a disability since 1979. In 1992 he was elected Chairperson of the IPC Athletics Sport Assembly Executive Committee (SAEC). In his professional life he is a teacher of Physical Education. The Paralympian has interviewed him about the development of the sport and his future goals and achievements (the first part of this athletics sport profile was printed in the previous issue of The Paralympian: 4/2002).*



**TP: The classification system in Athletics is based on disability. Are there discussions taking place to move towards a functional classification system like in Swimming?**

**Chris Cohen:** The points score system allows athletes with different disabilities to compete fairly against one another and the new Athletics Sports Science Committee set up by John Bourke, its Chairman, has, as one of its aims, to address the whole issue of classification and to ensure that a fair system of competition is in place for all our athletes regardless of their disability. If this brings us a similar system to the one used in other sports, I cannot say, but I know that John has the cooperation of classification experts from all the IOSDs to make progress in this area. What we do have to ensure is that athletes feel they can trust the competition they enter to allow them a fair chance of winning, based on serious training and good coaching.

**TP: Highly developed equipment (racing wheelchairs, prosthesis) always trigger discussions about the protection of equal opportunities. What can be done to ensure that also athletes without costly equipment have a fair chance?**

**CC:** What we have noticed over recent years is that nations starting out in track and field tend to start with events that they can develop cheaply and easily, such as field events. Some countries have had great success with this method and have then gone on to convince national sporting bodies to fund programmes that require more financial commitment. That is not to say that the sport does not recognise the unfairness that is evident in some events and some classes. Some NPCs have approached others to purchase second-hand equipment and I would hope that wealthier NPCs would look to assist partner nations with equipment, so that the inequalities which people see can start to be removed. As the sport itself does not have superfluous funds, it is very difficult for us to help, and members have been reluctant to impose rules that limit the developments, which have brought us to the present position.

**TP: Which are your tasks and goals in the preparations for the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games?**

**CC:** In a sport as large and complex as Athletics, there are many tasks associated with staging successful Paralympics. These range from producing entry standards that are fair to all classi-

fication groups, selecting international officials and classifiers, ensuring the facilities and equipment are appropriate, that training facilities are available and accessible, that officials are well-trained and prepared, that transport will work, in fact a whole range of activities spread over a five or six year period. My goal for the Games is just to improve on the last one, which will be difficult enough.

**TP: At previous Paralympic Games, many events for women and severely disabled athletes had to be cancelled or be combined due to the lack of entries. How do you plan to safeguard the participation of women and severely disabled athletes in Athletics events?**

**CC:** It is true that the group we want to protect most, has suffered to some extent in the past. One of the challenges is to help IOSDs to develop events for these groups, to ensure they fulfil the requirements of the IPC and organisers. Using the points score systems has already helped to arrest the decline in some groups and their development will hopefully continue this trend. Staging new and improved competitions around the world will also help improve the level and size of the athlete population, which can only be good for Athletics.

**TP: How did you get involved in this sport? What are some challenges of the position as Sports Chairperson?**

**CC:** My own background in Athletics started at the age of nine, when I started high jumping on the field outside my home. I joined a club and competed at national level as a triple jumper, then took up coaching and officiating. My first contact with athletes with a disability was a competition at Stoke Mandeville around 1979, when I acted as a field judge. From there I "got the



bug" and increased my involvement until I became involved in sports politics as Chairman of Athletics of ISMWSF (International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation), before becoming Chairperson of IPC Athletics in 1992. My main challenge as IPC Athletics Chairperson is trying to lead a group of committee members some of whom, because they are representatives of the IOSDs, do not necessarily have the same priorities as I do, as an NPC elected member. This has led to many challenges, over many issues, and is another reason why the NPCs need to ensure their voice is heard in the direction the sport takes, so that athletes, who represent the NPCs at the Paralympics, can have the best chance of doing so, and can get the most from their sport throughout their competitive life. Hopefully, the Strategic Planning conference, which will be held from 9 to 11 May in Paris, will let NPCs realise how important their input can be.

## Athletics Courses in Iran Foster Expertise and Sports Development

Many National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) find it difficult to improve the standard of Athletics within their countries for reasons to do with cost, access and expertise. More and more are asking for help to overcome whatever challenges they see within their countries, in order to develop their sporting success. The Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered because of its isolation from the world over the past few years, due to regional conflicts. Throughout that period, however, coaches and officials have continued to work hard with the athletes, with remarkable success in Paralympic sport.



*Students and teachers in the lecture hall of the Olympic Academy in Tehran, Iran*

Like many less developed nations, Iran decided that its best chance for success was in field events, partly due to the lack of facilities and equipment for track events and the culture of encouraging strength sports in the country. The Iranian Olympic team has had tremendous success over many years in sports as Weightlifting and Wrestling. In attempting to further this development, the NPC Iran invited IPC to send a team of teachers to conduct courses in athletics with regard to classification, coaching and officiating. The courses took place over the New Year at the National Olympic Academy in Tehran.

The courses followed a similar theme of assessing the current situation and level of knowledge and then working to increase the knowledge of the men and women involved. Around 100 people attended the four courses in total, with a very high level of initial knowledge. The classification groups, working towards success in locomotor disabilities and in visually impaired classification, were all previously experienced on a national level and, with a little more experience, will be capable of becoming international classifiers. The coaching course worked with coaches and athletes on improving standards of throwing for both ambulatory and wheelchair athletes. Over thirty enthusiastic officials, many young but knowledgeable, both men and women, attended the officials course. For only the second such course, all the attendees achieved the minimum score of 80% in the examination, which closed the course. A number of the participants also showed the potential to become IPC International Technical Officials at regional competitions in the near future.

Apart from the students, the work of the NPC Iran and the respect shown to it by the National Olympic Committee and its President was equally impressive. The NPC is working on staging a National Paralympic Week later this year, with education and awareness raising activities as well as a major international throws competition in Tehran in mid-September.

Chris Cohen  
IPC Chairperson Athletics

# International Sailing Federation Includes Paralympic Classes in Grade One Events



Silver medal winner James Thomson (Australia)

Photo: Jeff Crow © Sport The Library

for the series. Coming home as third overall was Andrew May (New Zealand). He finished the final day with 5-1, after sailing in light 5-knot breezes on the Bay.

Sandringham YC, host for the entire Olympic & Invited Classes Regatta, has done a marvellous job, both on and off the water, keeping officials and competitors happy. With an army of smiling and helpful volunteers, things could not have been better.

## The first three results in the 2.4mR class were:

1	AUS	Stuart Shimeld
2	AUS	James Thomson
3	NZL	Andrew May

## Sail Melbourne

For the first time the Sail Melbourne regatta included the 2.4mR Paralympic class within the classes competing. The regatta, which took place from 11 to 16 January, saw a total of eight entrants from Australia and New Zealand.

Stuart Shimeld (Australia) sailed an excellent series to take out the 2.4mR Keelboat class at Sail Melbourne on Port Phillip Bay. In the one race drop series, Shimeld has well and truly outclassed his competitors, winning five of the eight races sailed, his worst result was an eight placing. His nearest rival was James Thomson (Australia), who scored a 6-4 result to finish second overall

For full results and information go to the official website at: [www.sailmelbourne.com.au](http://www.sailmelbourne.com.au)

## Rolex Miami OCR

The 2003 Rolex Miami OCR took place from 28 January to 1 February in the classes chosen for the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Regattas. The 2.4mR class saw 20 entries, from Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden and the USA; and the Sonar class saw 8 entries, from Canada and the USA.

In the Paralympic Sonar class, the team of John Ross-Duggan, JP Creignou and Mikey Ross turned in a solid performance to maintain their early regatta lead and achieve first place. The team of Rick Doerr, Richard Hughes and Tim Angle placed second with Ken Kelly, Peter Steel and Kirk Westergaard third. In the Paralympic 2.4mR class, Germany's 2000 Paralympic gold medallist Heiko Kroeger won with Hans Meyer second and Stellan Berlin third.

More information can be found on [www.ussailing.org/Olympics/RolexMiamiOCR/](http://www.ussailing.org/Olympics/RolexMiamiOCR/)

IFDS Event Media

Heiko Kroeger (Germany) sailing for gold in the 2.4mR class



Photo: Daniel Forster © Rolex Miami OCR

# Active Juniors Playing Hard

## Top Players at Famous Tournament



Participants of the East Pacific ITF International Junior Camp



Kaitlyn Verfourth (USA), winner of the girl's Les Petits As event

Photos: ITF

The world famous junior tournament Les Petits As took place in Tarbes, France, from 31 January to 2 February. Eight boys and four girls from eight different countries participated in this year's event, which is a fantastic opportunity for the top juniors in Wheelchair Tennis to play alongside the top non-disabled juniors in the world. The tournament has been won in the past by many high profile players such as Martina Hingis (Switzerland), Anna Kournikova (Russia), Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) and in the Wheelchair event by present world number one Esther Vergeer (Netherlands).

The boy's event was won comfortably for the second time by number one seed Stefan Olsson (Sweden) at sixteen years of age, beating the number two seed, Zack Sikora (USA) 6:0 6:2 in the final. Kaitlyn Verfourth (USA) proved victorious in the girl's event, overcoming Annick Sevenans (Belgium) 6:2, 6:2 in the final of the round robin competition.

In the doubles events, Stefan Olsson (Sweden) and Zack Sikora (USA) defeated the British pair Stephen Evans and Robby Davy 6:2, 6:0 and, in a gruelling three set match, at just twelve years old Aniek Van Koot (Netherlands) partnered Annick Sevenans (Belgium) to victory over Kaitlyn Verfourth and Elizabeth Williams (USA), 6:3, 0:6, 7:6.

For more information about the tournament, please visit [www.lespetitsas.com](http://www.lespetitsas.com)

Photo: ITF



Lindsay King practicing at Camp

## Wheelchair Tennis Juniors Go To International Camp

Junior players from three countries attended the ITF International Junior Camp for the Asia Pacific region. Australia, Singapore and New Zealand sent players to the Mooloolaba Tennis Club in Queensland for five days of instruction from Australian National Coach Greg Crump. ITF Wheelchair Tennis Development Officer, Mark Bullock, also attended the Camp.

The Camp precedes the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour event, the Queensland Open and some of the juniors will stay to compete

in this event. The ITF Camp in the Asia Oceania region is one of three international junior camps. The others are held in the United States and the Netherlands.

For more information on opportunities for juniors in Wheelchair Tennis please contact Mark Bullock on [mark.bullock@itftennis.com](mailto:mark.bullock@itftennis.com).

Mark Bullock, ITF Wheelchair Tennis Development Officer

Stig Ericson, Member of ITF Wheelchair Tennis Committee and International Wheelchair Tennis Association (IWTA) Vice-President  
Dan James, Member of IWTA Coaches Commission  
Amy Garlick, Wheelchair Tennis Assistant, ITF

## INAS-FID Eligibility System Unsatisfactory: No Participation in 2004 Paralympics

The IPC Management Committee decided that events for intellectually disabled athletes will not be included in the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games. This decision was taken because the revised system for testing athletes' eligibility submitted by the International Sports Federation for Persons with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) did not meet the conditions required by the IPC.

The Athens 2004 Paralympic Games event programme was set in October 2002 in order to meet the timelines for the organisation of the Games. INAS-FID was granted an extended deadline of 31 January 2003 to meet the conditions set by the IPC 2001 General Assembly after several athletes were found guilty of cheating at the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games by wrongly claiming to have an intellectual disability.

The IPC's conditions require athletes to present primary rather than secondary documentation of their eligibility, for INAS-FID to create and test a sport-specific eligibility system and for athletes with an intellectual disability to participate at Paralympic Games under the same protest rules as all other athletes. These conditions were fully accepted by INAS-FID in October 2002.

The decision of the Management Committee was based on several specific considerations: first, the IPC Management Committee deemed that INAS-FID had not yet demonstrated a systematic and reliable impairment verification process. INAS-FID had developed Eligibility Verification Procedures that included the provision of primary documentation on the assessment of intellectual disability, as requested by the IPC. This approach, however, had not been tested. Second, INAS-FID had not successfully implemented a valid method of assessing the disability (the functional implication on sport). The status of consultation by INAS-FID with the relevant sports did not provide sufficient evidence of the validity and reliability of the system in providing the linkage between intellectual disability and its effect on the ability of the athlete to practice his/her specific sport. Third, INAS-FID had not provided evidence that a protest procedure had been developed and implemented in compliance with IPC Protest Procedures.

The IPC Management Committee recognised that some progress had been made by INAS-FID, especially with regard to the development of a more stringent verification procedure of documents that are to prove an athlete's intellectual disability. However, INAS-FID had fallen short of developing the sports specific component of its eligibility system and the development and implementation of protest procedures in line with the IPC policy. Under these circumstances the IPC decided that events for athletes with an intellectual disability could not go ahead in a fair manner at the 2004 Athens Paralympics and that there was a risk of potential cheats.

The IPC has received many reactions of disappointment regarding the decision but also a general understanding for it. Said IPC President Phil Craven: "As the IPC has expressed from the beginning of this process, it will continue supporting and co-operating with INAS-FID's efforts to achieve satisfactory resolution of the IPC conditions. In this effort, the IPC is preparing a series of comments and recommendations for INAS-FID in response to their report submitted in January 2003. We will continue our relationship of trust and a constructive dialogue."

## Chinese Taipei's Success Story



Dr. Linda Chen Lee-Chou

*Dr. Linda Chen Lee-Chou is the President of the Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee. She is also Vice-Chairperson of IPC Table Tennis. The Paralympian interviewed her about the past, present and future of the NPC when she visited the IPC Headquarters during a Table Tennis Sports Assembly Executive Committee meeting held in Bonn, Germany, in January.*

The Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee was established in 1985 under the name Chinese Taipei Sports Organisation for the Disabled. In 1993 a huge growth was experienced and since then it has been on the road to success. Today, six persons work full time for the NPC, with the president working part time and 50 volunteers on a needs basis. The CTCP has seven member groups (disability specific) with approximately 100 members each, totalling about 700 athletes.

In the beginning, promoting sport for persons with a disability in Chinese Taipei was difficult due to financial problems. Today, however, the CTCP is strong and receives grants and government support. The NPC is financed to 80% by the government, with a total budget of approximately EUR 1 million in 2003.

As the CTCP grew stronger, so did the media coverage. During the 2002 IPC Table Tennis World Championships, which were hosted by Chinese Taipei, there were not only reports on television but also in newspapers and on the radio. To augment public awareness further, the NPC organises domestic championships every two years in Chinese Taipei. The first championships were held in 1994 and the next ones will be held in 2004. Competitions take place in 12 different sports: Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Boccia, Goalball, Judo, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis with around 1,200 athletes participating. In addition to the championships, the NPC publishes a "Journal for the Disabled".

The CTCP does not only work hard on augmenting general public awareness, but also on continued internal training. This includes organising training courses and seminars for coaches and classifiers as well as organising adaptive physical education camps for persons with a disability more than twice a year. In 2002, six camps took place in different parts of Chinese Taipei. The teachers at these camps are volunteers who are, in their professional lives, teachers at special education schools, colleges or universities.



*Mr. Chang (Secretary General of DDP), Mr. Yu (Vice-Secretary General of DDP), Mr. Lai (Adviser of CTCP) and Dr. Chen Lee-Chou (President of CTCP) with the CTCP flag*

With the knowledge that it is problematic to combine a work carrier with a sports carrier, the CTCP gives certain athletes grants. However, this grant is not enough to be able to survive financially. The National Council on Physical Fitness and Sports has also been giving grants to athletes based on the number of medals the athlete won at Paralympic Games and World Championships. For each gold, silver or bronze medal, the athlete received a certain sum. In 2004, the CTCP hopes that this system will change from an achievement based financial grant to a monthly, lifelong salary. When these

athletes decide not to compete anymore, they can work for the NPC, implementing the deep knowledge and experience they have collected during their years as an elite athlete.

Apart from the grants, the NPC holds 20 different training courses every year where the athletes can develop their technique. At the moment the facilities of non-disabled organisations and universities are used, but it is the hope of Mrs. Chen Lee-Chou that this will change some time in the near future. The good relationship to many of the non-disabled sport associations does not only mean that training fields and facilities are placed at the NPC's disposal, assistance is also given, when needed, for training programmes and equipment is made available.

The first major competitions for Chinese Taipei's athletes were the Barcelona 1992 Paralympic Games. The NPC has never participated in any Paralympic Winter Games but in all Paralympic Summer Games since 1992.

From Barcelona, the athletes returned home with a bronze medal. The NPC also participated in Atlanta in 1996 (one gold and two bronze), at the FESPIC Games in 1998 (16 gold, 17 silver and 20 bronze), in Sydney in 2000 (one gold, two silver and four bronze) and last year at the FESPIC Games. "We have always won medals but we were especially successful at the 2002 FESPIC Games with 17 gold, 25 silver and 21 bronze medals,"

said Mrs. Chen Lee-Chou. Due to the political situation between Chinese Taipei and the People's Republic of China, the NPC takes part under the CTCP flag (not under the flag of the People's Republic of China) at international competitions.

In Sydney, the athletics gold medallist Chiang Chih-Chung (a B3 visually impaired athlete) set a new Paralympic and world record in Javelin. Lee Ching Chung is another successful athlete, who competes in Judo, and who is also visually impaired.

There is a need for more competitions to be hosted in the Far East and South Pacific region. Said Mrs. Chen Lee-Chou: "We only have the FESPIC Games. We need more competitions, more sport activities in the region—most competitions take place too far away. We would like to set up an Asian Sports Organisation for the Disabled, this organisation could then organise more competitions. We hope that the new IPC Regional Representative East Asia will support us in this issue. We have already discussed the idea with other NPCs and they were positive."

Of the 15 sports in which Chinese Taipei has practising athletes, Athletics, Judo, Table Tennis, Powerlifting and Shooting are the most popular. The reason that these sports are more popular than others lies in the personality of the coaches. The coaches are volunteers and for each of the 15 sports practiced (including the 12 sports at the domestic championships and 10-pin Bowling, Snooker and Wheelchair Dance Sport), the CTCP has two or three coaches.

In the upcoming Paralympic Games in Athens, the aim is to achieve even better results and win more medals. So keep your eyes open for Chinese Taipei athletes competing in Powerlifting, Shooting and Table Tennis, as these are the sports where Mrs. Chen Lee-Chou thinks that the chances for gold are the best.



Chiang Chih-Chung

From the Nations

# NPC Germany: Rehab Sport Since 50 Years



*Sport as a mean of rehabilitation*

The National Paralympic Committee (NPC) of Germany (Deutscher Behindertensportverband, DBS) was founded by veterans of World War II who were often active sport participants prior to injuries sustained during conflict. In Germany, as in many other nations in the world at that time, the youth had incurred impairments resulting from the war. These young active people were not deterred by their disability but were eager to put their abilities to use in the great field of sport.

Through the efforts of the NPC Germany, legislation was enacted which provides benefits to athletes with a disability through the health care system in Germany. In the 1950s, a law was established which resulted in significant financial assistance to the veterans with a disability in their quest for active living through sport. A variety of sports clubs sprung up throughout the country to support these athletes who had clearly demonstrated the need for organised instruction, training and competition opportunities.

As the NPC Germany continued its relentless pursuit of support for athletes with a disability they were able to prove the value and benefit of offering rehabilitation sport programmes, which have become the foundation of the German disability sports movement, to the health care system. Today, the NPC is one of the largest national sport organisations for people with disabilities in the world with over 340,000 members organised within 17 regional associations and 3,400 sports clubs throughout Germany.

As young veterans with a disability could not get a firm footing within sport clubs after World War II they soon began to build up sport clubs of their own. Their aim was sports but soon they learned that sport meant a lot more than movement. Adapted physical activity was found most important in the process of rehabilitation.

The founders of the NPC Germany had the aim, which is included in its constitution, "to use and offer sport as a mean of ehabilitation for people with disabilities of any kind". They built up a network to assist the association to fulfil this aim (politicians, social associations, physicians, scientists). In 1956, the Social Ministry established a guideline: the clubs and the NPC were recognised as the organisation to carry out "rehabilitation sport" for veterans under certain conditions. This was the starting point of a very special development for the sport movement for people with disabilities in Germany. After different steps and recognition through various laws a contract was established with the governing bodies of the health care system (eg, health insurance). It was agreed that under certain circumstances people with disabilities could receive funding to take part in rehabilitation sport organised in one of the NPC's sport clubs. At the beginning of last year a further step was reached: according to a social law, people with disabilities have the right to be supported to take part in rehabilitation sport as supplementary contribution in the process of rehabilitation.

The general aim of the NPC and the most important task according to its constitution is to offer each person with a disability the chance and the possibility to take part in an adapted sports programme in the three pillars of the NPC: rehabilitation sport, sport for all (leisure time activities) and competitive sports/elite sports (more than 40 sports divisions, over 40 German Championships, 23 national teams in Paralympic sports, more than 6,000 athletes).

The NPC Germany feels as a part of the "functional rehabilitation system" in bridging the gap between the healthcare rehabilitation structures (hospitals, doctors, etc), the education system (schools, etc) and the social rehabilitation in offering sport with the aim of reintegration and for recreation. To achieve functional significance in the rehabilitation process, the individual needs of the disabled persons and the other people concerned (eg, family) have to be met. This involves an evolution from the status patient to that of an independent person responsible to the greatest possible extent for her/his own life. The purpose is ultimately to develop or im-

prove the functional capacities of the individual so that she/he (re)integrates to lead a satisfying life encompassing love, work and leisure. Each person should be equipped to cope with the successes and the failures of daily life. The NPC tries to meet these tasks in being one part in the network of rehabilitation. It tries to support individuals and their families. This is to enhance the quality of life for the individual and therefore aid rehabilitation.

Some of the future tasks and aims of the NPC are to motivate more people with a disability to join sports, to enlarge the number of sport clubs, to prove the ability of individuals with a disability, to reach more public awareness of people with a disability in sports. The NPC also aims to develop the network in the field of functional rehabilitation in enlarging the cooperation between associations, public authorities, service providers and the NPC,

to develop quality management in rehabilitation sport, to improve evaluation of the effects of sports not only in physical strength or endurance or for metabolism and circulation but also in the social environment etc and to strengthen the aspect of "encouraging to self help". More than 6 million people with a disability live in Germany but only approximately 5% are organised in the NPC's sports movement. Therefore, the NPC will try to double its membership to 600,000 by 2012. The NPC is aware of the fact that this goal can only be reached with support from the public, the government and the people concerned. If the NPC Germany is able to show the effects of sport through the people themselves, there is no doubt that it will be successful.

Dieter Keuther, Secretary General  
NPC Germany



*NPC Germany also offers rehabilitation sport to its constituency*



*Silver medalist April Holmes training*

## USA: Sprinter April Holmes Featured in Music Video

Does U.S. Paralympics have a rock 'n' roll diva on its hands? Perhaps "diva" is too strong of a word, but there is nothing weak about amputee sprinter April Holmes' presence in the Shaggy video "Strength Of A Woman." Since the video's U.S. debut early last month, music-lovers around the world are becoming acquainted with one of the Paralympic Movement's rising stars.

"This isn't about me. It's bigger than me. There are so many disabled people in the world who live within the constraints that society places on them. If I can change one person's life—or one thousand—I'd be extremely happy with that," Holmes said. Even if it means doing it one song at a time.

The video highlights women of various backgrounds, interspersed with clips of Shaggy singing in front of an all-female band. Holmes receives a 15-second spotlight that flashes scenes of her face, a picture of her running, her prosthetic leg and her medal from the 2002 IPC Athletics World Championships in Lille,

France. In Lille, Holmes captured a silver medal in the 100-meter dash in 14.12 seconds, an American record for her class.

"It was such an incredible experience," Holmes said. "It was such a positive video with such a powerful message. I was really thankful to be a part of that." In the video, Shaggy sings about the values and virtues of women, while also wondering what the world would be like without them. During the shooting of the video, Holmes had a chance to meet Shaggy. "He seemed like a really nice guy. In fact, he seemed almost as flattered to meet me as I was to meet him," she said.

To see the Shaggy "Strength Of A Woman" video, visit [www.mcarecords.com](http://www.mcarecords.com) and do an artist search for "Shaggy." It should take you to a page where you can download the video.

Paul Meznarich  
Communications Manager, U.S. Paralympics



# Middle East Elected IPC Regional Representative



Dr. Hussein Abu Al-Ruz

At the IPC Middle East General Assembly, which took place in Amman, Jordan, on 25 February, Dr. Hussein Abu Al-Ruz was elected new IPC Regional Representative Middle East. Dr. Abu Al-Ruz, who is from Jordan, has been engaged in sport for athletes with a disability since 1990, eg, as Board and Executive member and Technical Officer of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped. From 1992 to

1996 he was Secretary General of the IPC Middle East Region and from 1994 to 1996 and 2000 to 2002 he was also President of the Jordanian Weightlifting Federation. Dr. Abu Al-Ruz not only has experience in Weightlifting as an International Referee for the International Weightlifting Federation but also in IPC Powerlifting as an International Classifier and International Referee. He is Chairman of the Powerlifting Committee of the Jordanian and Pan-Arab Confederation of Sport for the Disabled as well as a member of the Jordanian Anti-Doping Committee and a board member of the Jordanian Olympic Academy.

During the General Assembly, a new IPC Middle East Executive Committee was elected, with Dr. Abu Al-Ruz as President and

Mahmoud Khosravivafa (Iran) as Secretary General. Eight NPCs (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) attended the General Assembly, which was held under the patronage of his Royal Highness Prince Raad Bin Zaid of Jordan.

Dr. Abu Al-Ruz is of the opinion that the general attitude of the people in the region towards persons with a disability, the difference in the economic level of the countries of the region and the fact that the former committee was not very active, are the major problems, which the new committee now has to tackle.

The Committee's aim is to strengthen relations between the NPCs in order to have more communication, co-ordination and co-operation. Another aim is to bridge the gap in the fields of coaching, classification and event management to facilitate the development of sport in the region (through clinics, seminars, etc). The Committee also wishes to bring the co-ordination of all sport activities held by the three sport organisers in the region (IPC Middle East, Arab Sports Federation for the Disabled and the Golf States Co-ordinating Committee) under the IPC Middle East as an umbrella organisation and to reactivate regional activities to augment awareness and encourage other countries in the region to become active members.



Participants of the Middle East General Assembly. From left to right. Top: Dr. Hussein Abu Al-Ruz, Jahda Abu Khalil, Sabah Althawadi, Sabine Mikulas, Dr. Al-Matar, Ahmed Hassan, Daoud Shehadeh, Abdulkarim Alhusein, Ameer Almula, Mahmoud Khosravivafa. Bottom: Basel Al-Hourani, Ali Ibrahim Sunba, Said Abdulmajeed, Ali Harzullah, Hassan Suedi.

## Let the Youths Lead the Way



From 23 to 27 December 2003, the first FESPIC Youth Games will take place in Hong Kong, China. The idea of this new competition is to foster sport participation among youths with a disability and to nurture potential youths as stars of the future. Additionally, the Organising Committee hopes to increase the friendship and communication among the FESPIC (Far East and South Pacific) countries.

Athletes with a physical disability will compete in five sports: Athletics, Badminton, Boccia, Swimming and Table Tennis, where as participants with an intellectual disability will compete in three sports: Athletics, Swimming and Table Tennis. As these Games are the first FESPIC Youth Games ever, the organiser can only give a rough approximate of the number of athletes expected. They estimate that 500 athletes, aged 12 to 19, from more than 15 FESPIC member nations will take part. The preliminary number of participating nations and athletes will be available after the first entry in late March. The participants will be divided into two age groups, born between 1984 and 1987 (aged 12 to 15) and between 1988 and 1991 (aged 16 to 19). Each participating nation can nominate two outstanding athletes (one male, one female) for the Sport Stars of the Future Award of the Games. The most outstanding 30 athletes' flight ticket will be sponsored by the Organising Committee.

The official website of the FESPIC Youth Games will be launched in late March. However, the FESPIC Federation has included the details of the first entry of the Games on its website: <http://www.taiyonioe.or.jp/fespicygames%20top.htm>.

Only nations that have indicated their interest to participate in the first entry (deadline 28 March 2003) will receive the second entry, which must be returned to the Organising Committee not later than 11 July 2003. Early September 2003, the Final Entry will be sent to the participants. This must be returned not later than 3 October 2003.

## Augmenting Integration of People with Disabilities

The IPC, together with its regional member, the European Paralympic Committee (EPC), and the European Disability Forum (EDF) plan to jointly promote and expand the opportunities of people with disabilities to play a more active role in society. An agreement on future collaboration of these organisations was signed on 27 January at the Ministry of Culture in Athens, Greece.

Specifically, participation in all aspects of community life, better accessibility and the integration of people and athletes with a disability in mainstream society and sport are the main goals of the three organisations' partnership for the future.

Europe will be the centre of Paralympic sport in the years to come with the next Paralympic Games taking place in Athens, Greece, in September 2004 immediately following the Olympic Games, and the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games being hosted by the Italian city of Torino. "These events will be a great opportunity to give more visibility to the abilities of people with a disability," said IPC President Phil Craven at the signing ceremony.

Yannis Vardakastanis, the President of EDF, mentioned that "we expect concrete outcomes in 2003 European Year of People with Disabilities and 2004, European Year of Education through Sport. Sports for the disabled people represent an important social aspect of their lives, as a social activity that develop their abilities, which can then lead to the individual's maximal participation in social life."

On 26 February, the day before the signing of the agreement, the official European opening ceremony of the European Year of People with Disabilities took place in Athens. The event was jointly organised by the Greek authorities and the European Commission, with the support of the EDF and the Greek Confederation of Disabled People. Key EU and national politicians held speeches followed by cultural and musical acts.

The aim of the opening ceremony was to transmit all over Europe the message of the right of people with disabilities to be accepted and participate fully in society. The opening ceremony also marked the starting point of the route of the European bus,



Yannis Vardakastanis, President of EDF, Evangelos Venizelos, Greek Minister of Culture and Phil Craven, IPC President, at the signing of the agreement of co-operation in Athens.

which will travel around Greece and then continue on its route through the 15 EU member states. The bus will be in Bonn, Germany, on 27 September, on the occasion of the International Paralympic Day organised by the IPC.

From the IOSDs

## New Facilities in Stoke Mandeville



Building works on the main centre

The Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Great Britain was opened in 1969 by Her Majesty The Queen to provide a venue for the Stoke Mandeville Games and the development of sport for the disabled, to continue the work of neurosurgeon Sir Ludwig Guttmann, who developed wheelchair sport as part of rehabilitation for people with spinal injuries. For over 30 years the centre hosted events and training at all levels from novice and junior to international, including the 1984 wheelchair sports element of the Paralympic Games.

The "Spirit of Stoke Mandeville" is famous around the world and athletes from many countries recognise Stoke Mandeville as the "home of wheelchair sport" and where it all began for the Paralympic Movement in the 1940s. However, the facilities had become somewhat dilapidated of late and it was felt that a re-build was needed. The new development will see the centre become once again the national and international home of wheelchair sport, boasting some of the highest standard sports and leisure facilities anywhere in the United Kingdom.

Included in the redevelopment are: athletics arena with 8 lanes, 10 lane straight mondo athletics track, 6 lane indoor bowls centre, 12 court, sprung wooden floor sports hall, 25 metre deck level swimming pool, 70 station fitness suite, multi-purpose room, changing village, catering/bar area, 50 room, 100 bed Olympic Lodge hotel and a car parking. These facilities will be added to the existing Olympic Village, part of which is to be converted into multi-purpose rooms suitable for meetings and conferences.



Construction of the 25m pool

The funding for this unique project has come from two main sources, a Sport England Lottery Fund Award of EUR 7,583,550 and the remainder of the EUR 14,464,366 project from the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation (BWSF) Sporting Chance Appeal. The Appeal was launched by HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Patron of BWSF in 1999 and around EUR 1,5 million is still needed to complete the funding required.

The Stadium will be officially opened on 8 April 2003 and a full report will follow in the next issue.

Rikki Singh  
Disability Sport Producer  
BBC Sportsnews

Conferences

# World Anti-Doping Code Endorsed



International athletes came to Copenhagen to endorse the World Anti-Doping Code

Photo: WADA

On 5 March, all major sports federations and 73 governments endorsed the first World Anti-Doping Code by backing a resolution that accepts the Code as the basis for the fight against doping in sport. The resolution was adopted at the final session of the three-day World Conference on Doping in Sport and lays out the responsibilities of the Olympic and Paralympic Movement as well as world governments to adopt and implement the Code in a timely manner. The Code is the first international instrument to harmonize rules regarding doping across all sports and all nations.

"This Conference has truly been a historic event," said Richard W. Pound, WADA's (World Anti-Doping Agency) President and Chair of the Conference. "I congratulate both the governments and the Olympic Movement for putting the good of the athletes above any other interests and making sure that we waste no more time in taking the fight against doping to a new level."

Prior to the adoption of the resolution, WADA's Foundation Board, the supreme decision making body of WADA, met and unanimously adopted the Code. Phil Craven, IPC President, who is now a member of the WADA Foundation Board, also took part in this meeting.

Furthermore, 50 governments signed the Government Declaration on Doping in Sport, which outlines the governments' commitment to the adoption and implementation of the Code. Another 23 governments present at the Conference have said they will sign at a later date.

The acceptance of the resolution and signing of the Declaration capped three days during which governments, the sports movement and athletes had an opportunity to express their views on the Code. More

than 1,000 people attended the Conference in Copenhagen including IPC President Craven and IPC Paralympic Games Liaison Director Xavier Gonzalez.

"The endorsement of the Code is a big step forward in the fight against doping in sport. The IPC will now work hard to make sure that the Code is fully implemented by the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games," said Mr. Craven.

In addition, athletes made it clear during a session set aside for them that they feel the Code is needed and should be adopted and implemented as soon as possible. Sports organizations are expected to adopt and implement the Code before the 2004 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens. Governments will have an additional two years, until the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Turin in 2006, to put into place legislation accepting the Code.

Richard Pound, WADA President and Chair of the conference, with Kai Holm, Danish IOC Member



Photo: WADA

# President Craven Helps Develop Recommendations for UN Secretary General

Photo: Daniel Käsermann



Adolf Ogi, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, and former President of Switzerland held the key note speech

The International Conference on Sport and Development took place in Magglingen, Switzerland, from 16 to 18 February, with the aim to bring sport, development and the promotion of peace closer together with beneficial results for all. More than 300 high-ranking representatives from UN Organisations, governments, sports associations, civil society, the scientific community and the economic sector attended the conference. Phil Craven, IPC President, was one of the panellists at the conference workshop session "Human Development: Education".

The main message of the Magglingen Declaration, addressed to international and national leaders in the public and private sectors and to sport federations all over the world, was that sport should be an integral part of international development co-operation and peace building programmes. Furthermore, a comprehensive list of recommendations developed in workshop sessions during the conference was presented as a way to

implement the declaration. The topics include "Sport and Peace Building and Conflict Prevention", "Sport and Human Development" and "Sport and Socio-economic Development". Adolf Ogi, Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, will hand over the two documents to Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General, in March. Ogi said: "In Magglingen we have created a solid, common basis for using the huge potential of sports specifically, systematically and sustainably to further development and peace building".

"The Magglingen Declaration and the recommendations are good first steps in prompting development and peace through sport internationally. Especially in the development process for people with a disability, sport plays a crucial role. We look forward to Mr. Annan's and the UN's reaction to these," said Mr. Craven. The conference recommendations seek to promote a more systematic and coherent use of sport in development activities. An information platform for sport and development is to be created and a conference on "Sport and Peace" is planned for sometime between now and 2005.

"The Magglingen Conference is just the beginning", said Mr. Ogi. "Now we have to build a global network for sport and development and translate the spirit of Magglingen into

concrete projects. We will also play an active role in the future." The follow up conference will be held in 2005.

For the full Magglingen Declaration and recommendations, please visit the official website of the conference on [www.sportdevconf.org](http://www.sportdevconf.org).

Photo: Daniel Käsermann



From right to left: Walter Fust, Executive Director of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Adolf Ogi, Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace and Heinz Keller, Director of the Federal Office of Sports signing the Magglingen Declaration

## Paralympic Subjects Popular at Scientific Congresses

The growing interest in Paralympic subjects from a scientific point of view is reflected in several congresses, which will be discussing such topics in the future: the VISTA 2003 Conference, the VII IOC World Congress on Sport Sciences and the 2004 Pre-Olympic Congress.

The Swedish Sports Organization for Disabled (SHIF) will be hosting the next VISTA conference from 11 to 14 September 2003, in Bollnäs, Sweden. The main theme will be "Sports for Youths with Disabilities". The invitation, a call for papers regarding the parallel sessions (deadline for contributions 14 April 2003) and further information can be found on <http://www.suh.se> and in the previous issue (4/2002) of The Paralympian. The selection and final programme will be determined by the IPC Sports Science and Education Subcommittee based on the abstracts and papers received.

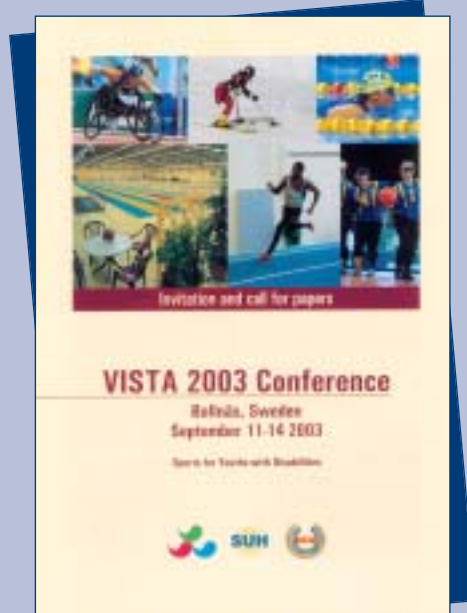
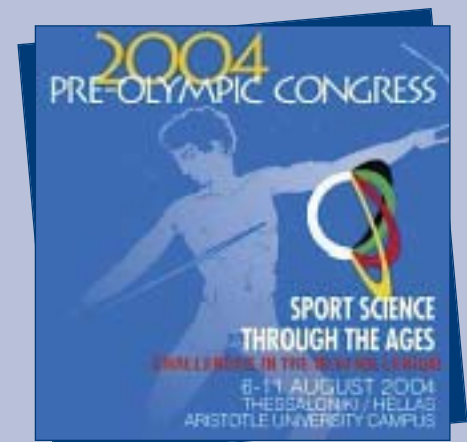
The theme of the VII IOC World Congress on Sport Sciences (7 to 11 October 2003) will be "Physical, Nutritional and Psychological Care of the Athlete in the 21st Century". The congress will allow for an exchange of information on sport and the practice of sport beyond the traditional barriers of the disciplines. The VIIth Congress will explore the science and medicine of the human body to the level of therapeutic prevention, recognizing that sport, physical activity and healthy diet play a primary role in the maintenance of human biological and psychological health. Prominent sports scientists and physicians will be sharing their knowledge and experiences in the behavioural, biological, medical, physical disciplines and information technology in sports. An important number of internationally known physicians, therapists, scientists and coaches will be participating in the symposia and presentations and will be contributing their own point of view on several issues of common interest. Paralympic issues and Paralympic speakers will also be included in the programme, eg, in the Behavioural

Section, Dr. Dietmar Samulski had been chosen to present a keynote speech entitled "Psychological Support for Paralympians". For more information please visit the official website: <http://www.iocworldcongress.org>.

The 2002 IOC Olympic Prize in Sport Sciences winner, Professor Bengt Saltin from the Copenhagen Muscle Research Centre in Denmark, will deliver the keynote address at the congress in Athens. The IOC Olympic Prize in Sport Sciences is awarded to outstanding researchers in the field of science applied to human movement, exercise and sport.

The International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and its Department of Physical Education and Sport Science will be organising the Pre-Olympic Congress to be held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from 6 to 11 August 2004. The theme will be "Sport Science Through the Ages: Challenges in the New Millennium". The Pre-Olympic Congress is one of the largest multi-disciplinary meetings in the field.

The international scientific community will gather at the Pre-Olympic Congress to exchange the latest findings, experiences and developments in the various areas of Sport Science and Physical Education. The goal of the congress is to disseminate information about the most recent developments in the field and it is designed to be an interdisciplinary forum in which this process can take place. It is intended to be of interest and relevance to both researchers and practitioners. In addition to original research reports and scholarly symposia, the congress will provide an opportunity to present findings related to the practice of sport. Papers from the Biological, Behavioural and Social Sciences as well as from related professional areas will be presented at the Congress. For further information please go to <http://www.preolympic2004.com>.



# IPC Headquarters Welcome New Staff

Three new staff members have begun their work at the IPC HQ in Bonn: Andy Parkinson, IPC Anti-Doping and Classification Manager, Laura Siklossy, IPC Administration Manager and Personal Assistant to the President and Renée Sullivan, IPC Finance Assistant.



Andy Parkinson

Having worked in New Zealand for the last eight years, Mr. Parkinson's choice of a new job meant moving across the globe back "home" to Europe (Mr. Parkinson is a British citizen). From his previous job at Paralympics New Zealand and as an International Wheelchair Rugby Classifier, he brings with him a comprehensive knowledge of classification, which he will be able to implement in his position as IPC Anti-Doping and Classification Manager. Mr. Parkinson's main duties will be to enforce the IPC Medical/Anti-Doping Code and to develop and manage the IPC classification programme. Says Mr. Parkinson: "Both these areas are fundamental to the spirit of sport and fair play in the Paralympic Movement and therefore it is essential to continue to develop clear and transparent policies and procedures to protect the athletes and the entire IPC's constituency." Apart from his French and Spanish speaking skills, he looks forward to learning German.

Ms. Siklossy is an American citizen and has lived in Germany since 1969. She therefore not only speaks fluent English but is also fluent in German. Before joining the IPC, Ms. Siklossy held

administrative/personal assistant positions in the German university system, in a non-profit international environmental organisation and in private industry. Ms. Siklossy is responsible for office administration, facility management, travel management, IT co-ordination, various aspects of Executive and Management Committee meetings and the General Assembly, as well as assisting the IPC President. As PA to the President, she replaces Gesa Hauser, who resigned to be able to concentrate on finalising her Master's Degree. Ms. Hauser will continue to assist the Media Department when needed.



Laura Siklossy



Renée Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan, also from the USA, is a certified public accountant with experience in corporate controlling and global finance. After having received her degree in Accounting, German and International Relations from Michigan State University, USA, she moved to Europe to begin her work in Switzerland and later in Germany. She now works part time for the IPC, assisting the Finance Director in all areas needed. Parallel to her work, she continues to study for a degree in computer science. Ms. Sullivan speaks English, German and French fluently.

## Surprise Guest at IPC New Year's Reception: Otto the Otter



Present at the IPC New Year's reception were, among others, from left to right: Xavier Gonzalez, IPC Paralympic Games Liaison Director, Theodor Zühlendorf, President of NPC Germany, Jocelyn Craven, Phil Craven, IPC President, Prof. Walther Tröger, IOC Delegate for Disabled Sport, Walter Eschweiler, ex-FIFA referee, Friedhelm Julius Beucher, former Chairperson of the German Parliament's Sports Committee

Several well-known representatives of sports and politics joined the IPC President Phil Craven and his around 100 guests at Headquarters in Bonn, Germany, for the third consecutive IPC New Year's Reception. Prof. Walther Tröger, IOC Delegate for Disabled Sport, Theodor Zühlendorf, President of the NPC of Germany, Timothy P. Shriver, President and CEO of Special Olympics and Bob Hawkins, Special Olympics Chief Operating Officer were among the numerous guests present.

In his welcoming speech, the President looked back at the year that had past, highlighting the successful Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Winter Games and 21 World Championships in 18 sports. Looking ahead, he reminded the guest of the launching of the European Year of People with Disabilities in January in Athens. The IPC will take this as an opportunity to promote Paralympic sport in many different ways throughout Europe; for example with the International Paralympic Day to be held in Bonn in September. Exact plans are still secret but Mr. Craven assured that the event would be worthwhile to visit. Another occasion to come is the IPC General Assembly, which will be held with around 300 delegates in Torino, Italy, in November.



Otto the Otter enjoyed the reunion with IPC President Phil Craven and other guest at the New Year's Reception

The highlight of the evening was the surprise visit of Otto the Otter, the Salt Lake 2002 Paralympic Games mascot, who showed up and gave guests the opportunity to be photographed together with him. This allowed Otto to relive the popularity he experienced during the Paralympics, which he of course fully relished.

## WADA Launches Educational Interactive Programme

The WADA has launched an educational interactive programme for athletes, trainers and others involved in sports. The website contains information on doping in sport, a discussion forum and an interactive game.



Through "The True Game", an interactive, multilingual game, players can enrol and test their knowledge of doping issues. The heroine of the game, a young athlete named Fair, has been sent to Earth to save the planet from doping. On each continent, with the aid of the player, Fair must answer questions on some aspect of the fight against doping, such as doping control procedures, ethics and the World Anti-Doping Code.

Visitors to the site can also consult medical, scientific and sociological information on doping in both French and English and share their opinions on these themes.

"This programme demonstrates the importance we at WADA give to education and prevention of doping in sport," said Harri Syvasalmi, WADA's Director General. "Our aim, as always, is to promote sport free of doping and by using the internet and an interactive game; we can reach young athletes through a medium they are familiar with."

The interactive programme was originally financed jointly by the European Commission and WADA and will be further developed in the coming months. For further information, the discussion forum and the interactive game please go to <http://www.wada-ama.org> and the section Ethics & Education.

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