

Bonn, 18 March 2011

## **Past Paralympian Programme: London 2012**

Dear IPSF President and Secretary General,

In order to celebrate past Paralympic accomplishments and the development of the Paralympic Movement, the IPC, supported by the IPC Athletes' Council, would like to stage a Past Paralympian Reunion during the London 2012 Paralympic Games.\* The aim of the event is for past Paralympians to come together, share stories and celebrate their accomplishments from previous Paralympic Games whilst enjoying the action of the London 2012 Games. In order to spread this message within the Paralympic Family, we ask for your assistance in passing this letter on to any former Paralympians who have competed in the Paralympic Games through your IPSF.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games will be striving to provide an exciting and inspiring worldwide event, allowing athletes to achieve competitive excellence. It will bring athletes and spectators alike back to the time when the Paralympics were first organized in 1948 by Sir Ludwig Guttmann, involving World War II veterans with spinal cord injuries in Stoke Mandeville, England. The very day of the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympic Games in 1948, was the day Guttmann held the first competitions. His idea was for this event to occupy a wider stage and create a parallel Olympics for athletes with a disability. These first games, originally organized in 1948 not only built the foundation for the Paralympic Games we know them today, but also were the inspiration for the London 2012 mascot called Mandeville.

The Paralympics today are an elite sporting event for athletes with a disability. The emphasis is put on the achievements of these athletes, rather than the disability. The movement itself has grown dramatically over the past decades. The London 2010 Paralympic Games will have 20 sports offered on the official programme and will showcase more than 4200 athletes from some 160 countries. They will begin with a spectacular Opening Ceremony in the Olympic Stadium on 29 August. World class venues and historic landmarks will provide the impressive backdrop to the events, before the Closing Ceremony on 9 September 2012.

International Paralympic Committee  
Adenauerallee 212-214  
53113 Bonn, Germany

Tel. +49-228-2097-200  
Fax. +49-228-2097-209

E-mail: [info@paralympic.org](mailto:info@paralympic.org)  
Web: <http://www.paralympic.org>



On behalf of the International Paralympic Committee and the IPC Athletes' Council, we hope to organize a memorable event for these important Paralympians upon which the success of our Movement is based. The following link can be used to register interest in the event.

[http://www.paralympic.org/Athletes/Past\\_Paralympians\\_Programme/](http://www.paralympic.org/Athletes/Past_Paralympians_Programme/)

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Xavier Gonzalez', is positioned below the text 'Kind regards'.

Xavier Gonzalez  
Chief Executive Officer  
International Paralympic Committee

\*Please note that the organization of the Past Paralympian Reunion during the London 2012 Paralympic Games is subject to the receipt of sufficient interest by participants. The IPC cannot cover any travel or other related expenses related to their attendance.