

Great Britain Takes BT Paralympic World Cup Title



breaking world records so to do it is fantastic," Pistorius said after his 400m win.

Great Britain was crowned BT Paralympic World Cup team champions after winning eight out of 12 Swimming events on the sixth and final day of competition.

The event in Manchester, Great Britain saw over 245 athletes from 34 countries represent four different teams – Americas, Europe, Great Britain and Rest of the World – in Athletics, Swimming and Wheelchair Basketball.

In the pool good friends Charlotte Henshaw and Liz Johnson took the top two spots in the 100m Breaststroke SB6 with Henshaw just 0.28 seconds ahead.

Double Paralympic champion Eleanor Simmonds was in fine form taking gold in 200m Individual Medley SM6 in 3:09.36, just outside her own world record.

Away from the pool, 24-year-old South African Oscar Pistorius stole the show for the Rest of the World team. Affectionately known as 'Blade Runner', he stormed to gold in the 100m T44 in the fastest time for four years, before setting a new 400m T43 world record with a time of 47.28 seconds.

"I'm extremely chuffed. I came out here to enjoy the race and didn't have any eyes on

In the field Great Britain's Discus thrower Dan Greaves set a new world record with a distance of 59.27m as he romped to gold in the F42/44 competition.

"I am pleased that the hard work is paying off. My aim is to break new records and this is a great stepping stone." Greaves said. Elsewhere there were victories for Brazil's Terezinha Guilhermina in the 200m T12 and USA's April Holmes in the 100m T44.

In Wheelchair Basketball, Great Britain took the Women's title whilst Canada claimed victory in the Men's competition.

This year also saw exhibition events in Boccia and Sitting Volleyball and coverage from all the sports was broadcasted on Channel 4, the host broadcaster of the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

World Sport Round-up

March

Paralympic champions Canada won the 10 team strong 2011 World Wheelchair Curling Championships with a 7-3 victory over Scotland in Prague, Czech Republic.

Great Britain topped the medals table at the 2011 UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships in Montichiari, Italy winning nine golds. In total 230 athletes from 27 countries took part, breaking nine world records.

April

More than 1,000 athletes from 60 countries gathered in Antalya, Turkey for the 4th IBSA World Championships and Games which featured eight sports including Athletics, Swimming, Futsal, Goalball, Judo, Powerlifting and Chess.

In Wheelchair Tennis, the Netherlands claimed both the Men's World Group 1 and Women's titles in the ITF World Team Cup in South Africa.

May

More than 300 athletes took part in the 2011 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia, which featured four para-sports – Athletics, Swimming, Powerlifting and Table Tennis.



Melissa Tapper claimed gold in the Para Table Tennis singles and team events (class 10)

June

Maikel Scheffers claimed his first Wheelchair Tennis Grand Slam singles title winning the French Open while Esther Vergeer won her fifth Roland Garros crown to seal a Dutch title double.

The final list of qualified countries for the London 2012 Sailing events is now known after the IFDS Sailing World Championships in Weymouth, Great Britain.

The Netherlands' Thierry Schmitter took the 2.4mR World title, Great Britain's Alexandra Rickham and Niki Birreel the SKUD 18, and Israel's Dror Cohen, Benni Vexler and Arnon Efrati were confirmed as Sonar champions.



Canada take Curling gold in Prague, Czech Republic

July

Russia are the CPISRA 7-a-side Football World Champions after beating Iran 6:1 in the final played in the Netherlands.

After winning four gold medals, a silver and bronze, China topped the medal standings at the 2011 World Archery Para Championships in Turin, Italy.

Eighteen out of the 22 2011 UCI Para-cycling World Cup champions were crowned during the world circuit's final which took place in Baie-Comeau, Canada. Thirteen nations shared the titles at stake in the three-event series with the American delegation claiming the most titles with five World Cup winners.

There was further Dutch delight at Wimbledon after Maikel Scheffers and Roland Vink won their first Men's Doubles title. Not to be outdone Sharon Walraven and Esther Vergeer also retained their Doubles title.

With 7 gold medals, Hungary topped the medals table at the 2011 IWAS Wheelchair Fencing European Championships in Sheffield, Great Britain.



GB's Suzannah Rockett (left) in action at the 2011 European Fencing Championships

Jiri Jezek (CZE)

The five-time Paralympic champion's head-to-heads with Britain's Jody Cundy will be one of the highlights in the Velodrome. This is his fifth Paralympic Games, and he will be keen to add to the two golds, one silver and one bronze he won in Beijing.

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www.paralympic.org

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>> Ran the fastest 100m para time in the past 4yrs and clocked a paralympic WR in the 400m - 47.26sec. Really happy with the 2golds! :) <<

@OscarPistorius
Oscar Pistorius

>> OMG! Could not be happier right now... PB and a new WR 59.26 thanks for all the kind messages of support! <<

@DiscusDan
Daniel Greaves

>> Thanks for all of the good luck/congratulations messages and the #ff s. Another great race with @ermypops at the @BTPWC, bring on Europeans <<

@lizjohnson_gb
Liz Johnson



Russians Dominate on Home Snow

The signs for home success at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games are looking good after the Russian team topped the medals table at the IPC Biathlon & Cross-Country Skiing World Championships in Khanty Mansiysk, Russia.

With 48 medals in total, including 20 golds, the Russian team won twice as many medals as their nearest competitors, partly due to the heroics of Mikhalina Lysova.

The visually impaired 19-year-old Paralympic Champion won four gold and three silver medals at the Championships add-

ing to the five medals she won last year in Vancouver.

Another highlight of the Championships was the dual between Canada's Brian McKeever and Russia's Nikolay Polukhin in the visually impaired events.



McKeever, with guide Erik Carleton, took gold ahead of Polukhin in three events – the 10km Cross-Country Free, the 20km Cross-Country Classic and the 1km Sprint CC Free – whilst the Russian powered to gold in the 12.5km Biathlon, leaving the Canadian with silver.

McKeever's success was instrumental in securing Canada's third place finish on the medal's table, winning over half of the country's medals. Ukraine claimed second place with a total of 23 medals partly due to Oleksandra Kononova who won four gold medals, two silver and a bronze medal during the week long event.



World Athletes to Look Out For in 2012



2011 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships

August 10-14, 2011
 More than 175 swimmers are set to take part in this long-course competition in Edmonton, Canada. Like July's IPC Swimming European Championships, this event will be a good indicator for the London 2012 Paralympics. Some of the countries set to take part include Canada, USA, Thailand, Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Chinese Taipei and Brazil.

CIPISRA Boccia World Cup

August 18-27, 2011
 The CIPISRA (Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association) Boccia World Cup 2011 will be held at the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland. Almost 200 athletes are expected to compete in what is the last opportunity for athletes to be classified and gain essential qualification points for the London 2012 Paralympic Games. Portugal will be looking to retain the World Cup trophy they won in Vancouver in 2007, but they will face fierce competition from Spain and Great Britain as well as emerging talents from Asia, like Korea.

web >> www.sportsulster.com/boccia2011.php



2011 All Africa Games

September 3-18, 2011
 The 10th All-Africa Games will take place on September 3-18, 2011 in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Maputo's hosting will mark only the third time the Games will be held in the southern part of the continent. The last one was held in Algiers in 2007.

The 2011 All Africa Games promise to be the best integrated games yet and will serve to showcase and promote Para-Sport in Africa. Sports ministers will be present from countries across Africa to witness the potential of Para-Sport. The International Paralympic Committee is supporting NPC Mozambique with development so that they can use the momentum of the games to promote Para-Sport in their country.

web >> www.maputo2011.com

UCI Para-Cycling Road World Championships

September 8-11, 2011
 September's Para-Cycling World Championships in Roskilde, Denmark hopes to be the country's biggest Para-event ever. It will be the highlight of the town's "Year of Cycling", aimed at encouraging people to ride bikes. The exciting 15 km route, follows the same route as the 5th stage in the 2009 Tour of Denmark, and will act as a qualification event for London 2012.

web >> www.uci.ch



European Para-Table Tennis Championships

October 19-30, 2011
 The 12,000 capacity Spaladium Arena in Split, Croatia will host the event which will see a number of medal winners from the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games in action. All will be keen to put in good performances ahead of London 2012.

Global Games

September 24-5 October, 2011
 The third INAS Global Games will take place in Liguria, Italy. Around 865 athletes with an intellectual impairment from 39 countries are expected to take part in eight sports including Athletics, Futsal, Wheelchair Basketball, Swimming, Wheelchair Tennis, Table Tennis, Rowing and Cycling. Judo will be a demonstrative discipline. The event is the highlight of INAS calendar and takes place every four years.



Dario Della Gatta, President of Global Games 2011 LOC is excited about hosting the event

web >> www.globalgames2011.it



Parapan American Games Approaching

November 12-20, 2011
 The 2011 Parapan American Games are heading to the home of tequila, in Guadalajara, Mexico in November.

Around 1,500 athletes from 26 countries are set to compete in 13 sports in the Games and for many this could be the last or only chance to qualify for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.



The Para Pan logo is based on agave fruit, which is used to make tequila, the drink of the Guadalajara region.



It is the second time that the event, which takes place from 10 to 20 November, will be held in the same city as the Pan American Games, which take place the month before.

In preparation for the Games Brazil's Paralympic swimming champion Daniel Dias has been training in San Luis Potosi, Mexico to acclimatize for Guadalajara's high altitudes. He's hoping to defend the eight gold medals he won in classes S5, SM5 and SB4 at the last Parapan American Games in Brazil in 2007.

A June Project Review saw the IPC updated on the 13 strong Sports Programme for Guadalajara, broadcasting, technology, protocol, Opening and Closing Ceremonies, classification and anti-doping and medical services amongst other subjects.

Following the Project Review, a two day Chef de Mission Seminar also took place which informed the Chef de Missions about the arrival process for teams, transportation, and what they can expect in the athletes' village.

The competition draws for Wheelchair Basketball, Goalball and Sitting Volleyball also took place.

web >> www.parapan.guadalajara2011.org.mx



Australia (Wheelchair Basketball)

Australia are the favourites to win Wheelchair Basketball gold and retain their title in arguably the most spectacular and exciting Paralympic Sport there is. In Justin Eveson and Shaun Norris, they have two superstars of the world game. But also look out Patrick Anderson (CAN) the undisputed "king" of the game who returns after a two year break.