



London 2012



Paralympic heritage

Easy Read

The history of the Paralympic Games

The UK has a strong link to the Paralympic Games.



www.london2012.com/games-heritage

Stoke Mandeville hospital

In 1948, Dr Ludwig Guttman held a wheelchair archery competition at Stoke Mandeville.



The competition was for World War II soldiers with spinal cord injuries.

The competition was between sports clubs and other hospitals.

It was on the same day as the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games.



In 1952 more sports were added.

Athletes from Holland joined in and the International Paralympic Movement was born.



The International Paralympic Movement

Read more about Paralympic Games History on the International Paralympic Committee Website.

www.paralympic.org



1984 Paralympic Games

The 1984 Paralympic Games were held in both Europe and North America.



Athletes with spinal cord injuries competed at Stoke Mandeville in England.



All the other athletes competed in New York in the United States.

The Games in Stoke Mandeville were organised by the British Paraplegic Sports Society.

They were opened by HRH Prince Charles on 22 July and finished on 1 August 1984.

More than 1,100 athletes from 41 countries competed in 10 events.



The UK's role

The UK has kept up its role in sport for athletes with disabilities, staging many international events:

- The 1994 World Swimming Championships.
- The 1994 World Equestrian Championships.
- The 1998 World Athletics Championships (1998).

At the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, events for athletes with disabilities ran alongside the other competitions at the main venues.

