

SOCHI ROUNDUP

With the closing Ceremony of the Sochi Winter Paralympics now completed the Games are now officially over, and what a games they have been for ParalympicsGB;

- The most successful Winter Games ever for ParalympicsGB with a total of six medals.
- The first ever Gold medal on snow for a British Athlete (Kelly Gallagher and her Guide Charlotte Evans) at either the Olympics or Paralympics.
- Jade Etherington and her guide Caroline Powell won 4 medals (3 silver and 1 bronze) making them the most successful ever British female winter Paralympians and the first winter ParalympicsGB athletes to win four medals at one Games.
- Strong performances from across the whole team with 7 top 10 finishes and 4 top 15 finishes.
- Brilliant debuts from our young athletes, laying the foundations for even greater performances in 4 years time.
- A bronze medal from the Wheelchair Curling Team

The Team finished 9th in the Alpine Skiing medal table and 10th overall - impressive for a nation not traditionally regarded as a Winter sport power.



ParalympicsGB at the closing ceremony

The performances from all the athletes have been nothing short of sensational and they have really raised the level awareness and interest in winter sports for the disabled in the UK. Indeed, I have been dealing with an unprecedented number of enquiries from new possible athletes who have been inspired to find out more because of the Games.

A full summary of each athlete's results is below;

Name	Downhill	Super-G	Super Combi	Slalom	Giant Slalom
Jade Etherington & Caroline Powell VI	2nd	3rd	2nd	2nd	DNS
Kelly Gallagher & Charlotte Evans VI	6th	1st	DNF	DNF	DNF
Millie Knight & Rachael Ferrier VI	N/A	N/A	N/A	5th	5th
Anna Turney Sitting	DNF	4th	DNF	6th	8th
Mick Brennan Sitting	N/A	10th	7th	DSQ	14th
Ben Sneesby Sitting	N/A	N/A	N/A	11th	DNF
James Whitley Standing	N/A	N/A	N/A	15th	14th

The athletes could not have put such a strong team performance without the support of the coaching and back room staff. Head Coach Tony McAllister, Assistant Coaches and Ski Tech's Euan Bennet, Robbie Young and Mark Scorgie, Physio Paul Gould and Team Leader Andrew Lockerbie have provided superb support for the athletes in Sochi and brought the very best out of everyone.

There was also great support from all the family and supporters who had made their way out to Sochi to support the team - you could always tell when a British athlete was on course as the noise level in the stands went up ten fold and they were only beaten for noise levels by the home crowd!

The Team arrived back in the UK to a fantastic reception at Heathrow yesterday and, having spent the evening catching up with friends and family, were invited to Number 10 today to meet the Prime Minister - a great endorsement of what they have achieved.

ParalympicsGB meet David Cameron at No10 Downing Street



The athletes will now take some time off to recover and also to fulfil the numerous media engagements they all have before reconvening in April for a post-Games debrief. Before then, the Development Squad athletes will be in action at the Austrian Nationals in early April - this will be the chance to see how the next generation are progressing on the road to Pyeongchang in 2018.

We are incredibly grateful for all the messages of support that the Team got during the Games and hope that their performances have inspired and impressed you. We are now in the process of looking for partners and sponsors to help us build on the successes of the last few weeks and take Great Britain onto even greater success over the next 4 years. If you would like to be part of this journey and help or support us either financially or with equipment or other services then please get in contact with us - we would love to hear from you.