

Paralympic hopefuls on parade at London Ski Show. Winter Games in Vancouver 2010 the next challenge!

As the cheers fade for Britain's Olympic and Paralympic triumphs in Beijing, thoughts are turning to hopes of glory in the next games – Winter Olympics Vancouver 2010.

Members of the **British Disabled Ski Team** (BDST) are fast developing into medal prospects for the 10-day Paralympic Games which takes place in the Canadian city from March 12 to 21, 2010. The team will be at the London Ski Show, Olympia, Wednesday 22nd October, through to Sunday 26th October on the **Disability Snowsport UK** (DSUK) on stand G92.

BDST represents the racing arm of "The Skiers & Boarders Charity" **Disability Snowsport UK**. DSUK are responsible for the management and funding of the team. The **British Disabled Ski Team** is made up of an expanding group of dedicated athletes with a range of disabilities who represent Great Britain at international disabled skiing events and races throughout the world.

Team members are registered and annually licensed with the International Paralympic Committee, Alpine Skiing by DSUK under the delegated powers of Snowsport GB which is the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) member representing Alpine Skiing.

Last winter the team jumped to 10th position in the European rankings – a 14 place improvement in the last three years. Last race season they took over 42 medals home for GB. One of our medal hopefuls is Sean Rose who was just 0.5 secs off a medal place in the Downhill at the Paralympic Games at Turin 2006.

This winter season – with places in Vancouver up for grabs – is expected to produce another dramatic improvement. They are keenly aware that representing their country at the Winter Paralympic Games is the pinnacle of their sport.

The Paralympics (Vancouver 2010) are held every four years and interim World Disabled Ski championships held every two years (commencing 2009). Athletes continue to follow an annual snowsports calendar of IPC Disabled Alpine Skiing World Cup races across Europe, North America and East Asia supplemented by European, North American and National Cup races.

To ensure that those athletes who have the potential to get on to the podium at World Championships in 2009 and the 2010 Paralympics DSUK is working to raise the funds to give the paralympic hopefuls the support and coaching to enable them to gain selection for Vancouver.

The management and coaching team are almost exclusively volunteers and the British Disabled Ski Team needs vital assistance through sponsorship and donations to ensure they can continue their pathway to the Winter Paralympics in Vancouver 2010.

At the ski show, the team are launching their first annual **British Disabled Ski Team Calendar 2009** as a fundraising initiative to help them with their journey to Vancouver 2010. They will be sold throughout the five days. Just look for their red team jackets to get your copy.

Team members will be available throughout the London Ski Show to discuss their individual journeys and indeed the team and what representing and winning medals for GB means to them.

For further information regarding, our current athletes and race results, please visit our dedicated website: - www.britishdisabledskiteam.co.uk or www.disabilitysnowsport.org.uk

For photocall and interview opportunities, please contact: -
Susan Harrison on **07792 320583** or **07901 672174**.