

## Item 14.7 Para-Archery Committee Congress Report

By Carole A Hicks, Chairwoman

**Committee Members:** Carole Hicks (Chairwoman), Sheri Rhodes, Helen George, Dominique Ohlmann, Pang Kimfong (Head of Classification)

Pippa Britton, elected as the Para Athletes' representative to the World Archery Athletes' Committee, has participated in the meetings of the Para-Archery Committee since 2012. There is a motion before Congress 2015 to have the Para Athletes' representative position moved to the Para-Archery Committee. Having a person who is an athlete with an impairment has been of immense help to the Para Committee, bringing a different perspective to our work. The Para-Archery Committee is developing a close working relationship with the Medical and Sport Sciences Committee with Nancy Littke as the liaison person from that committee attending part of the Para-Archery Committee meeting in 2015

### 1. Continental activities

Members of the committee have portfolios through which they seek to promote and develop Para-Archery. The Continental Associations form one set of portfolios

#### World Archery - Africa

This is an area where there is, regrettably, enormous potential to develop Para athletes as a consequence of fighting in many countries and significant issues of disease.

Helen George and Dominique Ohlmann gave a presentation to the African Congress in Luxor where they were able to suggest ways of developing Para-Archery through:

- accepting persons with impairments to join archery;
- teaching coaches to work with persons with an impairment;
- provision of resources in English and French
- working nationally within their own countries with other organisations which may have financial responsibility for persons with impairments;
- access to equipment.

The Development staff of World Archery are assisting.

#### World Archery – Americas

In the past two years significant progress has been made to bring Para-Archery into the active support of the Continental Association and a number of countries in South America.

Sheri Rhodes gave a Para-Archery presentation for archery organisers at the Pan Am Championships.

2014 saw the 1<sup>st</sup> Para Pan Am Championships included with the able body Pan Am Championships.

WA- A elected a Para-Archery Committee whose members are Vincinte Blumenschein, Roger Murray and Sheri Rhodes (chairwoman)

In 2015 an International Classifiers Seminar was held in the Dominican Republic and



there was a Para World Ranking Event in conjunction with the Arizona Cup at which there was classification of Para athletes.

### World Archery - Asia

Para-Archery is developing rapidly in the Asian continent. A wide range of countries have entered the World Ranking Grand Prix hosted in Bangkok in the last two years and the quality of the shooting is ever improving. A number of countries have sent coaches and athletes to the coaching centre of excellence also in Bangkok.

The first ever Para Indoor event was held in Bangkok in conjunction with the second round of the Indoor World Cup.

Korea hosted some 96 athletes at the 2014 Asian Para-Games in Ulsan at which some new countries competed although some athletes were declared not eligible at this their first classification. There are several International Classifiers based in Asia and they will be able to work with the WA-Asia Para-Archery Committee to assist Member Associations to educate national classifiers and thus help Para athletes in their own countries.

### World Archery – Europe

Over the last two years in particular, Para-Archery has received greater recognition and support in the European continent. This includes the:

- decision of the Executive Board to hold Continental Championship every 2 years (instead of every 4 years);
- creation of European records for all new Para-Archery Divisions (since classification criteria change in 01/04/2014)
- increased numbers of participants in tournaments including
  - 2014 European Championship in Nottwil (SUI) with 140 athletes from 25 countries; and
  - the World Ranking Event in Nove Mesto Nad Mttuji (CZE)
  - 2015 World Ranking Events in Almere (NED) and Nove Mesto Nad Mttuji (CZE); and
  - World Para-Archery Championships in Germany.

### World Archery – Oceania

Regretfully there is little Para activity in Oceania. Australia has recently created a Para Committee which includes athletes with a visual impairment as well as those with a physical impairment. In New Zealand this year archery was included in a North Island area camp for children with impairments.

### **Other portfolios**

In many ways the portfolio of Classification provides the base on which Para-Archery is built. The Head of Classification is appointed by World Archery and that person chairs the Ad Hoc Classification Committee. The members of this committee are also appointed by World Archery and the committee members appointed in early 2014 are Pang Kimfong (Head of Classification), Clare Doyle, Roman Suda, John Nyland. The chairwoman of the Para Committee is also a member of this committee.

At the 2013 meeting of the previous committee, new classification criteria were agreed to more accurately support the principle behind Para-Archery, that to be classified as a Para archer, the



person's impairment must significantly affect the person's ability to shoot a bow and arrow at the elite level.

To assist Member Associations a special classification clinic was arranged for the final days of the World Para Championships 2013. "Hubs", where a number of countries could send athletes to be classified under the new criteria, were arranged before the criteria took effect on 1 April 2014. Other Member Associations with a large number of athletes to be classified paid to bring the World Archery Classifiers to their own centres. Classification may be included in major events such as the world ranking events in the Czech Republic, Bangkok, the Arizona Cup and continental championships.

A major aspect of classification is that of consistency of assessment. To promote continuing professional levels of classification, prospective classifiers (mostly physiotherapists and medical doctors) are invited to attend seminars at which their knowledge and abilities are examined. One such seminar was held in conjunction with the World Championships 2013 and another is scheduled for 2015 at the World Para Championships in Germany. A conference for current classifiers is held at these Championships. An online forum has been set up for classifiers as a medium for on-going education and discussion.

Other members of the Para-Archery Committee work in various areas of expertise including working with coaches and specific disability groups. The last three years have seen particular efforts to include athletes with a visual impairment.

World Archery has played its part in working with other International Federations in re-organising relationships with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), in contributing to changes in the IPC Classification Code and as part of the working group establishing a new organisation to represent independent sports on the Paralympic Games programme.

Para-Archery is becoming more accepted by Member Associations although in a number of countries funding is an issue when finance for persons with disabilities is channelled through separate organisations.

The Para-Committee looks forward to continuing its work to develop and promote elite level archery and encouraging Member Associations to develop archery for persons with an impairment in their own countries.

I move this report be received

Carole A Hicks  
for the Para-Archery Committee