



PERY MEDAL 1999 -

PETER YOUNG - Paralympian (Blind B1 Category) - Cross Country Skier and Biathlete

Having skied for pleasure in 1974, after two weeks on snow he took part in the 1976 Olympics where he finished in 18th place. After two more years he collected his first medal in the 10K European Championships. There is a festival of skiing in Norway where he collected numerous medals in biathlon and cross-country skiing. He was the first blind person to complete in the Norwegian Berkebeiner in 1983, and won his first Olympic medal - bronze - in 1984 in the 19K Classic.

Peter Young is an outstanding Winter Paralympian having competed seven times in all the Winter Paralympics since 1976, the B1 Category. Cancer of the retina caused him to be blind. Peter is a competitor first and foremost, and indefatigable athlete who has overcome all kinds of disadvantage to compete at the highest level. His track record of success speaks for itself.

By trade Peter is a piano tuner, and, as he says when he is skiing, he is not working; so it costs! Added to that, he has had considerable difficulties getting guides of sufficient quality to keep up with him on the race track. He has to have two or three over the long distance races to take it in turns to keep him skiing at full tilt. He has little time and resources to train on snow so does the bulk of his training 'dry land' with the occasional visit to Norway to train on snow with his guides.

Peter is a character with a great sense of humour. He is a huge inspiration to athletes who are able-bodied or with disability and is ever free with advice and encouragement. In 1995/96 he overcame the most unpleasant injury (multi-fractured leg) from a traffic accident. By hard training and dedication he just made it to the Nagano Paralympics. Peter never gives up and is talking about Salt Lake 2002.

Peter is a winner and of unquenchable spirit and determination. He changed the scene of Great Britain's participation at the highest level in the Para-Nordic events and is a fine example to all competitors, with or without disability.

Other medals collected:

1986	Bronze	10K Classic	World Championships
1987	Bronze	10K Classic	European Championships
	Bronze	20K Classic	European Championships
	Bronze	Biathlon	European Championships
1989	Silver	20K Classic	European Championships
1990	Gold	10K Freestyle	World Championships
	Bronze	30K Classic	World Championships
	Bronze	10K Classic	World Championships
1991	Gold	30K Classic	European Championships
1993	Gold	20K Classic	Olympic Trial Norway Champion
1994	Bronze	5K Classic	Olympics
1998	Fourth	5K Biathlon	Olympics

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