

More than seventy years ago, on July 29, 1948, the first Stoke Mandeville Games were held. The games – an archery competition for wheelchair athletes – **went on** to become an annual event and eventually inspired the Paralympic Games. [...]. On July 29, 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games, a competition for wheelchair athletes took place at Stoke Mandeville. 16 patients (14 men and two women) from Stoke Mandeville and the Star and Garter Home **took part** in an archery tournament. The competition became an annual event which was named the Stoke Mandeville Games. More teams and sports were added as years went by; in 1949 six teams competed and ‘wheelchair netball’ – which later became wheelchair basketball – was introduced. [...]



Margaret Webb at the Stoke Mandeville Games, 1953

Dr Ludwig Guttmann was a respected Jewish neurosurgeon who had been forced to flee his homeland of Germany in 1939 to escape Nazi persecution. Five years later, he was asked by the British government to open a Spinal Injuries Unit at Stoke Mandeville, intended to treat soldiers and civilians injured during the war. As part of his treatment for the injured veterans, Guttmann promoted sport as a means of physical and mental rehabilitation. The first sport played by patients was a hybrid form of wheelchair polo and hockey, initially played informally on the ward against the physiotherapists, before it was **developed into** a proper team game. Guttmann became a naturalised British citizen in 1945. The Games he created grew in size and stature; by 1952, more than 130 international competitors had taken part. This attracted the support and appreciation of the wider sporting community, and in 1956 Guttmann was awarded the Sir Thomas Fearnley Cup by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his achievement. [...]

*"What Were the Stoke Mandeville Games? Celebrating 70 Years Since the First Paralympics",
Chas Early, 2018.*

I- Answer the following questions in English

- 1) What happened on July 29th 1948 ?
- 2) Who were the athletes of the Stoke Mandeville Games ?
- 3) Who was the inventor of the Paralympic Games ? In your own words, write a paragraph to present him and the most important events of his life.
- 4) Why was sport important for injured soldiers ?
- 5) Make a list of the sports mentioned in the text.
- 6) Show the growing success of the Stoke Mandeville Games.

II- Written expression (30 – 50 words)

In your opinion, what are the values of sports conveyed by disabled athletes?