

## Women's Wheelchair Preview: Former champions to fight for title

Although the defending and world champion, Wakako Tsuchida, has chosen to race in Boston, the women's wheelchair race in London will hardly lack quality.

In Sandra Graf and Amanda McGrory it has the 2008 and 2009 champions, two racers separated by 17 years who have developed a great rivalry on the roads.

Graf is the world record holder who destroyed the 11-year-old London course record when she won here in 2008 in 1:48:04. But a year later the Swiss veteran was beaten by the young American as McGrory reversed the winning order.

In the World Championships this January it was Graf who came out ahead, finishing second to Tsuchida, with McGrory third, although they crossed the line virtually wheel-to-wheel in the same time.

The British record holder, Shelly Woods, opted out of that Christchurch battle on safety grounds. But the 24-year-old will be full of fire for this race, keen to put behind her two disappointing performances in 2009 and 2010 and regain the title she won back in 2007.

"It is going to be tough as always", said the British favourite. "I haven't had much luck with punctures in London in the last three years, which is really gutting, so I'm just excited about racing again. I will be there in good shape and I always really enjoy racing on home soil."

Diane Roy from Canada will also have her eye on the podium. The 2006 world champion was third here in 2009 but didn't finish last year when she was forced out with a puncture. Overall, she had a good year in 2010, however, finishing second in Boston, third in Oita and fourth in New York.

Then there's the talented young American racer, Tatyana McFadden, who makes her first appearance in London only four days before celebrating her 22nd birthday.

Better known as a sprinter, McFadden won four golds on the track in Christchurch but she also has two big marathon victories to her name. She won in Chicago on her debut in 2009 and took the honours in New York last November, so she certainly shouldn't be discounted.

There are seven entries in total in the women's wheelchair race.

### Women's Wheelchair: Elite Entries

<b>Bib no</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>PB</b>
1	Sandra Graf	SUI	1:35:44
2	Shelly Woods	GBR	1:37:44
3	Amanda McGrory	USA	1:39:20
4	Diane Roy	CAN	1:40:10
5	Tatyana McFadden	USA	1:50:47