

# the little de runner

companies and charities. No-one could help, but I did find a charity called LimbPower.

Now Rio can really jump for joy!

They organised something called the Primary Amputee Games.

Perfect for my Paralympics-mad lad!

So last September, we took Rio to Stoke Mandeville to compete. Even with his rigid prosthetic leg holding him back, he had a ball. 'He's got real talent,' a couple of coaches told me and Trevor.

Talk about proud! And Rio was made up. That day was just the start.

Soon after, LimbPower got in touch.

'Channel 4 News is looking for a child amputee for a story about the next generation of Paralympics hopefuls,' they said.

They'd be filmed on a proper racetrack, meet Jonnie Peacock - and they wanted to invite Rio!

On the day, Rio didn't stop smiling as he

chatted to Jonnie, and they had a run together. Jonnie was so sweet.

Back home, I told everyone how well Rio had done and even sent a video of him running, to a company called Dorset Orthopaedic who'd given us advice about his artificial legs in the past.

Three days later, a man from the company called.

'We loved the video,' said the man. 'We want to help Rio. We're going to sponsor him and make a running blade for his leg for free.'

We took Rio to Dorset three times to be measured and, three weeks later, on Christmas Eve, he was fitted with his own top-of-the-range blade.

Just like his athletic heroes, only with Fireman Sam on it!

'I'm fast now,' Rio said. And he literally jumped for joy.

But that's not all. Rio can now hop, jump and skip with both legs, and, boy, can he run?! He keeps up with his fastest friends.

Just the first step to his Paralympics dream!

So many people helped us get where we are today.

The kind folk at LimbPower and Dorset Orthopaedic, the lovely Jonnie Peacock.

I'll never be able to thank them enough.

For Rio, it was the gift of a new blade, a future!

For me, it was the gift of a very happy little chap.

And what more could any mum ask for?



Future Olympian?

## Online...

Follow Rio's progress at [www.facebook.com/RioWoolf](http://www.facebook.com/RioWoolf)  
Rio needs replacement blades as he grows, so Juliette is fundraising at [www.justgiving.com/Juliette-Woolf](http://www.justgiving.com/Juliette-Woolf)