



British Para Table Tennis Ltd Annual Review 2021

Company Number 09044357

Charity Number 1162647

General

British Para Table Tennis (BPTT) has had an extremely successful year culminating in the most successful Paralympics to date where 7 medals were obtained, hence our targets were exceeded. More details are provided in the Performance section of this report.

Exceeding our medal targets has subsequently been reflected with the award received from UK Sport, which increases our funding for the next Paralympic cycle. This increase gives us the opportunity to develop as a Sport in the way we had hoped, it is really good to see that UK Sport have the confidence in BPTT, its staff led by Gorazd Vecko, its directors and the army of volunteers who continually push the development forward. Everyone is focussed on, making sure our next challenging medal target will again be exceeded.

It is a testimony to everyone involved that our success to date has been achieved whilst managing the everchanging constraints of the international Covid-19 pandemic.

The Board met 3 times all via electronic means and a full attendance was held for each meeting. The Board was chaired by Karen Tonge MBE, directors were Mel Cheung-Turner, Martin Clark, Jaime Morgan Hitchcock, Kim Laws, Phil McCallum, John Timms, Catherine Willcocks and Rebecca Hembrough, in addition Mike Smith (Company Secretary), Neil Marples (Assistant Company Secretary) and Louise Larcombe (Minutes Secretary).

Each of the sub-committees – Finance (Chairman Martin Clark, Secretary Louise Larcombe), Governance (Chairman Kim Laws, Secretary Neil Marples), Communications (Chairman Mel Cheung-Turner, Secretary Louise Larcombe), Competitions (Chairman Jaime Morgan Hitchcock, Secretary Shaun Marples), Performance (Chairman Phil McCallum, Secretary Louise Larcombe), Selection (Chairman Shaun Newcombe, Secretary Louise Larcombe), Honours and Awards (Chairman Karen Tonge MBE, Secretary Mike Smith) all met regularly and reported to Board.

Mike Smith took the decision to retire as Company Secretary, thankfully he has agreed to stay on assisting wherever he can. Mike has been Company secretary for many years and has done more than anyone to shape BPTT into the successful organisation it now is. In the early years working with the then Chairman Peter Taylor, a vision was developed that few thought would be achievable. To say that the vision and subsequent success have been achieved is an understatement, it has been massively exceeded. BPTT is now well known throughout the world and feared by opponents, it is a well-respected professional organisation, and this could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts from Mike. Everyone associated wants to offer there thanks to Mike who will always be welcome within BPTT.

Finance

Martin Clark (Financial Director) has completed the accounts for what is referred to as the Non-Performance aspect of the Association, these have been presented to and approved by the Finance Committee and the Board for approval at this AGM.

To be clear, the funding from UK Sport (UKS) is for the World Class Programme is not shown in these accounts and whilst under the direct control of BPTT, the accounts are administered under a Service

Level agreement with Table Tennis England (TTE) and are subject to audit within their accounts to 31 March each year. Thanks to Ms Sam Geary who managed the records at TTE on behalf of BPTT and also to our sponsors Butterfly for clothing and equipment throughout the performance programme. As a consequence of tight budgeting within the year where COVID-19 continued to play havoc with the programme, we have been favoured by UKS and our funding has been secured for the remainder of the four-year cycle.

The Finance Committee met three times during the year on Zoom that is proving to be a suitable alternative to physical meetings when appropriate.

As a consequence of the pandemic, as with the previous year, the National Championships were not held in 2021 and as a result, due to the lack of competitions particularly in the early part of the year, subscription levels were down 16%. We were, however, able to run Grand Prix Tournaments in Sheffield, Cippenham, and St. Neots, during the latter part of the year when restrictions were eased somewhat. Despite entry to the Sheffield GP being made free, we only suffered an insignificant loss on GP's of £62. The ultimate results for the year amounted to a small surplus of £285 that has increased the overall balance of funds to £31,592.

After taking over as Financial Director Martin would specifically like to register his thanks to his predecessor Robert Geary for assisting in the changeover and also to the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment throughout the year, with special thanks to Mike Smith whose help and guidance in my first official year of office has been invaluable.

Governance

During the year the committee met on three occasions, all of these meetings were 'virtual' meetings held on Zoom. The only items unresolved from our BDO Governance Audit, were the requirement to hold director training in the two areas of Data Security and Conflict of Interest. As we were unable, once again, to have a director training day, we are very hopeful that these two areas will be covered during our training day in 2022.

Kim Laws and Catherine Willcocks were the two board members on this committee and along with Mike Smith and Neil Marples, attended all three meetings. Louise Larcombe also attended and took the minutes.

Kim and Catherine have been working on the new Risk Register format. This will help the board understand the risks facing BPTT in a clearer format to the existing register. It will enable all the board's sub-committees to see at a glance which of their risks are likely to create the biggest problems. Conversely, the new register will also show any risks which have been adequately mitigated as low risk.

The committee also carried out the annual Skills audit of the board members and the annual appraisal of the Chair and the BPTT board itself. Both these appraisal exercises resulted in the committee recommending that the performance of the Chair was excellent and that the board was performing well (given the constraints of the pandemic).

Finally, this committee recommended to the board that a recruitment campaign should be undertaken to find new board members to fulfil the skills shortages identified. These are:

1. Lack of a para-athlete (current or retired) on the board
2. Lack of a board member with legal expertise

BPTT's Nominations committee will take this task forward.

Communications

Here are the BPTT social media and website statistics for the period of 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021:

Facebook:

2,066 Fans, 128 bespoke posts, 338,639 people reached, 57,003 post engagements.
Still the most followed NGB Para TT Facebook page in the world.
Huge engagement with all posts, particularly during the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games.

Instagram:

999 Followers, 101 bespoke posts, 8,630 post engagements.

Twitter:

1,483 Followers, 1,256,848 impressions, 94,744 visits, 341 new followers in 2021.

Website (since launch on 1st March 2021):

10,907 users, 10,838 new users, 37,896 page views.

E-newsletter:

BPTT members are very engaged and receptive to our e-newsletters which drive significant open rates ranging from 65-83% in 2021 with an average 11.9% clickthrough rate (CTR).

In addition to the previews and reports for the Tokyo Paralympic Games (see separate Tokyo 2020 Communications Update):

Press & media press releases:

Communications continue to be covered by Fran Bullocks contracted activity, with regular news updates to all the social media platforms, these have included:

- News about Kim Daybell joining the True Athlete Project as a mentor
- Jack Hunter-Spivey being mentored by former World snooker champion Ken Doherty (February)
- World Qualification Tournament preview with individual previews for each athlete's regional media (May)
- UK to bid for 2023 European Para Table Tennis Championships (June)
- Appointment of Pathway Development Coach, Matjaz Sercer (June)
- Reports from World Qualification Tournament (June)
- Tokyo selection announcement with individual releases for each athlete's regional media (July)
- Tees Sport BPTT contract renewal (August)
- Preview and reports from Costa Brava Open (October)
- Preview and reports from French Open (November)
- Preview and reports from Costa Rica Open (December)
- BPTT to benefit from UK Sport funding increase (December) WEBSITE FEATURES
- Greg Baker, Kim Daybell and Jack Hunter-Spivey talking about the True Athlete Project (February)
- Neil Robinson on his 10th Paralympic Games in Tokyo (August)
- Josh Stacey talking about his first Paralympic Games (September)
- Kim Daybell talking about his work during the pandemic and missing out on competing in Tokyo (October)
- Felicity Pickard interview after taking gold in Costa Rica and France (November)
- Rob Davies talking about returning to competition after two years (December)
- Kim Daybell chosen to take part in ITV's Royal carol service (December) PLUS

- Ross Wilson provided a video #22for22, a video series set up by Birmingham 2022 and Team England encouraging people to exercise at home (February)
- Kim Daybell won the award for Inspirational Story of the Year at the Pride of Table Tennis National Awards - England international and medical student Tin-Tin Ho wrote an open letter to him explaining how much he has inspired her (April)
- Jack Hunter-Spivey was named as Liverpool FC's Disabled Supporters Association first sporting ambassador (December)

Competitions

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the majority of 2020/2021 was non-existent for competitions, and having to cancel two Nationals during my tenure as Chair hasn't been the best highlight reel.

However, competitions returned for the first time in what felt like forever on Saturday 18th September at the Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix 2021 at Sheffield's EIS. A strong return to the tables of 35 old and new members (all complying with COVID protocols) enabled a fantastic display at the home of British Para Table Tennis. A full cohort of umpires helped elevate the level of competition. Full details of the results can be found here -

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=britishparatabletennis&set=a.4514827141893746>

Cippenham Para Open Grand Prix 2021 followed Sheffield's successful return to competition on the 23rd October at Cippenham Table Tennis Club with a total of 29 players entering. Full details of the results can be found here -

<https://www.facebook.com/britishparatabletennis/photos/a.1388350104541481/4628864773823315/>

Our first 2-day competition in a year and a half took place at St Neots Regional Table Tennis Centre on the 27th and 28th November. St Neots Para Open Grand Prix featured 28 athletes competing in Class Singles, Mixed Restricted Singles – standers/wheelchairs together, Juniors, Open Singles and Doubles (a crowd favourite). This was a great end to a tough year, with plenty more competitions to come in 2022 - the first being a return to Sheffield in March for the Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix 2022

The Competitions Committee would like to extend a special thanks to all the umpires who gave up their time to officiate excellently over the past 3 tournaments; our field of play managers Howard Brialey, Mick and Cheryl Mckeown; our excellent tournament referees Dave Cochrane, Brian Jackson, and Matthew Pryke; and the very hospitable Table Tennis Clubs of Cippenham and St Neots. As Chair of Competitions Jaime Morgan Hitchcock would personally like to thank Dave Cochrane for all he has done for British Para Table Tennis over many years. Incredibly knowledgeable and highly experienced, Dave has volunteered a huge number of hours to serve the organisation and push and promote para table tennis in the UK. Without him, the organisation wouldn't be the same. Dave is a fantastic asset in the table tennis world and outside it.

Performance

There have been three Performance & Monitoring Group meetings which were both held on Zoom due to the Covid 19 restriction. These were held on: 9th March 2021, 9th June 2021, and 20th October 2021. The role of the Performance committee has been further enhanced and developed by Rebecca Hembrough who has continued to define and develop the role as Duty of Care Champion.

- **Success in Tokyo**

It is a privilege to report that 13 athletes met the criteria for Tokyo. 11 athletes boarded the plane to Tokyo with an astounding 7 medals captured. This was our best performance and meant that we exceeded the UK Sport medal targets:

After the 3 medals in the 2016 Paralympic Games it was incredible that despite all the difficulties leading up to the games, which included no competitive play for 15 months we were still able to achieve 7 medals. This included four classes we had never medalled in before, well beyond expectations and an achievement to be very proud of.

The medallists were

Silver - Mens Class 7 singles - Will Bayley

Silver - Mens Team Class 6-7 team – Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak

Bronze – Mens Singles Class 1 – Thomas Matthews (Toms first medal in first Games)

Bronze – Mens Singles Class 5 - Jack Hunter-Spivey

Bronze – Mens Singles Class 6 - and Paul Karabardak (Pauls first medal after 4 games)

Bronze – Womens Team Class 4-5 – Sue Bailey and Megan Shackleton (Sues first medal after 6 games, Megans first medal in first games)

Bronze – Mens Team Class 8 – Aaron McKibbin, Ross Wilson and Billy Shilton (Billys first medal in first games)

Congratulations to all the athletes and coaches for a monumental achievement, which has enthused everyone for the upcoming World Championships and Paralympics in Paris

- **UK Sport Submission**

A major piece of work carried out by the Senior Leadership Team has been the successful bid to UK Sport that has resulted in an increase in funding for the next Paralympic Cycle, this allows us to develop our squads and particular the pathway programme, which should enable us to ensure that our success continues to grow. We are hopefully in a position where we can look forward to consistent long-term success. Thanks to the SLT who put in an incredible amount of time to ensure the bid was successful.

Thanks

Grateful thanks go to everyone who has served in support of BPTT in whatever capacity.

Neil Marples
Acting Company Secretary