

BRITISH PARA TABLE TENNIS

Company Number: 09044357

Charity Number: 1162647

2022 ANNUAL REVIEW



National Lottery team photograph taken at the end of the World Championships (Fran Bullock)

General

2022 was the final full year that our chairman Karen Tonge OBE will remain at the head of the organisation and what a year it turned out to be. The World Championships in Andalucía were a testament to how BPTT has developed. Looking at a target of 4 medals, no one could have envisaged that we would win a total of 10 which included 3 golds. Massive congratulations to everyone who participated and all the supporting staff, who helped provide the foundation and continuous support to totally exceed expectations. The successful athletes were:

Men's Class 7 - Will Bayley MBE - Gold

Men's Doubles Class 14 – Paul Karabardak & Billy Shilton - Gold

Women's Doubles Class 14 – Felicity Pickard & Grace Williams - Gold

Men's Class 9 – Joshua Stacey – Silver

Men's Doubles Class 18 – Ross Wilson & Joshua Stacey - Silver

Men's Class 1 – Rob Davies MBE – Bronze

Men's Class 6 – Martin Perry – Bronze

Men's Class 8 – Aaron McKibbin – Bronze

Men's Class 8 – Ross Wilson – Bronze

Mixed Doubles 14 – Felicity Pickard & Billy Shilton – Bronze

The Commonwealth Games were held in Birmingham and whilst this is not a BPTT event it was our Performance Athletes who were selected to represent their respective Home Nations. The number of events is limited in combined classes but our success was not. Special congratulations to our medallist's:

Men's Class 3-5 - Jack Hunter – Spivey Gold

Men's Class 8-10 – Joshua Stacey Gold

Men's Class 8-10 – Ross Wilson Bronze

A significant success is that the ITTF have chosen us to host the European Para Table Tennis Championships, which will be held in Sheffield on the 4th to 9th September. Please come along and support the athletes and hopefully generate an atmosphere that drives them forward to even greater success.

This is the first time a European Para Table Tennis Championship will have been held in Great Britain. This event also marks the final chapter in Karen's tenure as chairman

Our chairman also needs special congratulations as she received a very well deserved OBE. This is undoubtedly a reflection on the work she has carried out which includes the development of BPTT.

One of our athletes, Kim Daybell decided the time had come to retire. When Covid hit the country Kim had a dilemma, continue as a performance athlete and strive to win medals in Tokyo or pursue his career as a doctor working in the Covid wards. He chose the latter and has decided that going forward he won't be able to make the necessary time available to continue as a performance athlete. A decision we didn't want to hear but one that we fully understand. We are all very proud of Kim and his achievements and hope that in the future he will remain and play an important part in the future of BPTT. Kim is now registered on a course in Greece with a view to becoming a classifier.

Our Head Coach, Greg Baker decided that the time had come to move on and took up a role as Performance Director for Boccia. We wish him well and would like to record our thanks for the role he has played in the development of BPTT.

Whilst Greg chose to move on, our Performance Director, Gorazd Vecko continued to commit himself to at least the Paris cycle. We are very fortunate in having Gorazd lead us, his commitment, knowledge, passion and drive is unsurpassed and the envy of every other competing nation. With the loss of Greg, Gorazd has taken the opportunity to make changes in the Senior Leadership team. Shaun Marples now takes on the Programme Manager role as well as managing the pathway and Andrew Rushton has been appointed as Head Coach. Two excellent appointments, well received by all the athletes.

We can now congratulate Gorazd on the Award of an Honorary MBE in recognition for his work and commitment to BPTT, an incredible achievement that is richly deserved.

The performance programme becomes more intense each year and unfortunately with conflicts of events, on-going covid situation and availability of premises, we were unable to hold our National Championships this year, something very much regretted. However, the event has been fixed for 2023 and will be on the 22nd-23rd April at EIS supported by Sheffield City Council in lead up to E23.

In the summer, we were fortunate to have the very experienced Maurice Hammerton, join the Board, which met 3 times all at English Institute of Sport, with virtually 100% attendance. The Board was chaired by Karen Tonge OBE and attended by Senior Independent Director, Kim Laws, fellow

Directors Mel Cheung-Turner, Martin Clark, Maurice Hammerton, Rebecca Hembrough, Phil McCallum, Jaime Morgan-Hitchcock, John Timms, Catherine Willcocks, Neil Marples now appointed Company Secretary, Mike Smith, Advisor to the Board 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 OBE, Secretary Mike Smith) met regularly and reported to Board.

Finance – Martin Clark

We continue to benefit from the funding from UK Sport (UKS) for the World Class Programme (WCP) for the four-year cycle that whilst under the direct control of BPTT, is 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 Garey 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, the WCP programme continues to provide support for our athletes' securing medals at the Commonwealth Games and the World Championships.

On the membership aspect of BPTT, as with the previous two years, the National Championships were not held in 2022 and partly as a result of which, whilst at the same level as 2021, subscription levels have not recovered to the levels before COVID. This year we were able to run two Grand Prix Tournaments in Sheffield showing a small surplus as no venue costs were incurred, one in St. Neots and one in Halton, both making small deficits. The ultimate Income & Expenditure results for the year amounted to a surplus of £859 that has increased the overall balance of funds to £32,451 of which £20,652 are Restricted funds relating to the Michael Hawksworth bequest.

The Finance Committee met three times during the year on Zoom that continues to prove to be a suitable alternative to physical meetings when appropriate. I would like to register my thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for their commitment throughout the year.

The accounts are subject to an independent examination and have been presented to the Board and subsequently the Annual General Meeting for ultimate approval.

Governance – Kim Laws

During the year the committee met on three occasions, all of these meetings were 'virtual' meetings held on Zoom or Teams. Kim Laws and Catherine Willcocks were the two board members on this committee and Maurice Hammerton who joined the board during the summer of 2022 and became a member of the Governance committee. Mike Smith having retired as Company Secretary is a member of the Governance committee and along with Neil Marples, attended all three meetings. Louise Larcombe also attended and took the minutes.

The only items unresolved from our BDO audit, were the requirement to hold director training in the two areas of Data Protection and Conflict of Interest. The training day was held on Thursday 17th

March 2022, facilitated by Lorraine Young. Jaime Morgan Hitchcock led the Cyber Security briefing and Lorraine led the session on Conflict of Interest. All directors were present and for many, this was the first opportunity to get together, face to face, since lockdown and since some of the new NEDs had been appointed.

The training day also gave the board a chance to assess its own performance and to set targets for the future. The Board Skills Matrix was completed and this has given a clear picture of the board formation and possible missing skills. This will also be used to inform the appointment of our new Chairperson in 2023.

The committee have continued to work through the policy and procedure documents and there has also been progress in developing a new format Risk register. But still, lots of work to do.

Communications – Mel Cheung-Turner

Our social media platforms continue to grow year-on-year. They are fundamentally our most important communication channels to share the performance of our athletes’ achievements, and also to showcase the opportunities available for those who may wish to get involved.

British Para Table Tennis still have the most followed NGB Para TT social pages in the world across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

FACEBOOK	INSTAGRAM	TWITTER	LINKEDIN
2,458 followers	1,071 followers	1,685 followers	235 followers
107 bespoke posts	81 bespoke posts	887 tweets	403 page views (+860% LY)
201,029 people reached	40,729 accounts reached	836.4K impressions	208 unique visitors (+804% LY)
9,694 post engagements	3,431 post engagements	171 new followers	19 custom button clicks
392 new followers	72 new followers		
Top Post	Top Post	Top Tweet	Top Post (video)
Jack Hunter-Spivey playing for gold at CW Games	Kim Daybell retirement (Oct 2022)	Gold for Paul Karabardak in Copa Tango, Argentina (July 2022)	Martin Perry reaching semi at World Championships
14,373 people reached	697 accounts reached		1,285 views, 3,209 impressions
839 post engagement	176 post engagement	37.9K impressions	3.12% CTR, 63 reactions

Website – visitors to the website continue to grow each year. In 2022, the site had 26,656 visitors, largely driven from social media sources, namely; Facebook 6,341 (+225%), Twitter 1,734 (+17%), LinkedIn 181 (+83%) and Instagram 124 (+21%). Overall, the website generated £5,337 in sales from memberships and competition entries.

E-mail newsletters – still a very popular communication source where we have 213 subscribers and an average open rate of 62%, which is significantly higher than an industry standard of 17-28%.

Press & Media - Francesca Bullock continues to provide excellent informative press releases and media support. Last year, activity included the following.

PRESS RELEASES

Tournament reports and previews

- Costa Brava Spanish Open (March)

- Egypt Open (March/April)
- SQY French Open (May)
- Slovenia Open (May)
- Montenegro Para Championships (June)
- Copa Christina Hoffmann, Mexico (June)
- Czech Open (June)
- European Para Youth Games (June/July)
- Para Copa Tango, Argentina (July)
- European Universities Games (July)
- Thailand Open (July)
- Commonwealth Games (August)
- Finland Open – website reports only due to passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II (September)
- Greek Open (September/October)
- World Championships, Spain (November)

News

- Wilson and Williams join True Athlete Project for 2022 (February)
- Statement from BPTT on Russian invasion of Ukraine (March)
- Statement from BPTT regarding the IPC decision to ban athletes from Russia and Belarus from Winter Paralympic Games (March)
- Hunter-Spivey and Wilson retain National titles (March)
- Ashley Facey leaving BPTT to pursue a career in cycling (April)
- BPTT supports Commonwealth GAPS Training Camp (April)
- Williams takes next step on road from Pathway to Performance (May)
- Flight cancellations ground British Para Table Tennis Team (June)
- British Para Table Tennis Chairman awarded OBE (June)
- BPTT Head Coach Greg Baker to take up role as Boccia UK Performance Director (June)
- Wilson to defend his Commonwealth title in Birmingham (June)
- BPTT coach selected for ITTF high level coaching course (July)
- NHS hero Daybell one of official Baton bearers at CW Games Opening Ceremony (July)
- BPTT statement regarding the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II (September)
- Paralympic champions pay tribute to HRH Queen Elizabeth II (September)
- Doctor Daybell calls time on table tennis career (October)
- World Championship success testament to BPTT's Development programme (November)
- Ashley Facey returns to British Para Table Tennis (December)

Website features

- Ross Wilson looking for work-life balance in defence of World and Commonwealth titles (January)
- All the world's a stage for Hunter-Spivey (February)
- Daybell says 'au revoir' but not goodbye to table tennis (October)
- A special relationship – Fliss Pickard and Grace Williams on winning gold in the World Championships (December)
- BPTT Chairman receives OBE at Windsor Castle (December)

Additional features

- Kim Daybell interviewed on BBC Radio 5 Live about his hopes for Commonwealth Games and World Championships and his NHS work during the pandemic (January)
- Jack Hunter-Spivey and Jacob Pritchard Webb interviewed on Sky News during visit to Grand National at Aintree (April)
- Two days of media training with Pathway Squad (August)
- Kim Daybell interviewed on BBC Radio Sheffield regarding his decision to retire (October)
- World Championships media day in Sheffield (October) with coverage on BBC Look North and BBC Radio Sheffield (Fliss Pickard live interview)
- Grace Williams and Fliss Pickard interviewed live on BBC Radio Sheffield (December)

Big thanks to Committee Members, Jaime Morgan-Hitchcock, Francesca Bullock and Committee Secretary, Louise Larcombe for all their hard work and contribution to communications and media activity in 2022.

Competitions – Jaime Morgan-Hitchcock

The British Para Table Tennis community saw a fantastic display of talent and competition at the Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix in March 2022, with a strong return of 31 old and new members and a team of seasoned umpires elevating the level of play.

A second Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix took place on the 28th and 29th May 2022, held once again at the home of British Para Table Tennis, and produced a strong field of 34 competitors.

Following the success of British Para Table Tennis players representing Home Nations at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, the Para Open Grand Prix series continued with the Halton Para Open Grand Prix in September. Halton Regional Table Tennis Centre hosted a field of 34 players, including a strong showing from Table Tennis Ireland for the first time, creating a fantastic atmosphere and highly competitive play.

The hugely successful World Para Table Tennis Championships 2022 in Andalucía took place in November, with British Para Table Tennis bringing home 10 medals - including three golds, and four medals in the inaugural doubles' events. The team's success in Spain highlights the effectiveness of British Para Table Tennis' development strategy, with medal winners Joshua Stacey, Billy Shilton, Martin Perry, Fliss Pickard, and Grace Williams all being products of the Pathway programme.

The Para Open Grand Prix series reached its end with the St Neots Regional Table Tennis Centre hosting another competition in November 2022. 27 athletes competed in Class Singles, Mixed Restricted Singles, Juniors, Open Singles and Doubles, providing a great finale to a successful year.

The Sheffield Para Open Grand Prix 2023 will kick off the new year on 11th and 12th February.

The new Events Committee would like to extend a special thanks to all the umpires who gave up their time to officiate excellently for the 2022 Para Open Grand Prix Series; our field of play managers Howard Brialey and Cheryl McKeown; our excellent tournament referees; and the very hospitable Table Tennis Clubs of Halton and St Neots. I should personally like to thank Howard Brialey, Cheryl McKeown, Margaret Allen, Daniel Bullen and Alex Bland for all they have done for the Competitions Committee in 2022.

Performance Monitoring– Phil McCallum

It has been a huge honour for me to present this report as Chair of the Performance and Monitoring Committee for British Para Table Tennis for 2023. I am pleased to report on the progress that continues to be made in relation to the Performance Programme.

Over the past 12 months there were meetings held on:

25th May 2022, 11th October 2022 & 7th February 2023

My thanks to Becca Hemborough who has continued in the role as Duty of Care Champion

Staffing changes

Congratulations to Shaun Marples now Programme Manager and Andrew Rushton who now takes on the Head Coach position.

We also thank Greg Baker who has now joined Boccia as Performance Director.

World Para Championships (Granada)

The World Para Championships took place in Granada from 6th – 12th November. The squad had an incredible championship winning 10 medals, far exceeding the UK Sport Target.

Paris 2024

It's great to see that the athletes in the Performance Squad are currently on track to qualify for Paris 2024. We look forward to their progress over the next 12 months

UK Sport Submission

As reported last year the Senior Leadership Team worked very hard on the UK Sport bid which was successful. We were also successful securing an additional amount after the success in Granada.

Anti-Doping

In the past 12 months, all BPTT Performance Squad athletes have taken part in a Clean Sport Workshop. A session was also run for pathway/futures athletes.

All appropriate Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) have completed either an Introduction to Clean Sport Course or the Coach Clean Course in the last 2 years.

Support

I must say a huge thank you to Louise Larcombe who is an incredible asset to British Para Table Tennis. Louise is always there to provide support to not just the Performance & Monitoring group but all committees as well as the BPTT Board.

I would also like to thank the committee members – Karen Tonge OBE, Neil Marples, Gorazd Vecko, Greg Baker, Andrew Rushton, Shaun Marples, Jill Crompton, Mike Smith and Rebecca Hemborough for their contributions over the past year and let's hope for a successful 2023 and beyond.

Welfare – Becca Hemborough

Overview: The focus for 2023 was on the new roles acquired, namely the Safeguarding and Anti-Doping Board Lead roles.

BPTT are fully compliant with the UKAD Assurance Framework with a Clean Sport Education Strategy and Implementation Plan. All athletes, BPTT personnel and I as Board Lead have engaged in the necessary education, and the BPTT website and social media channels have supported the raising of awareness of anti-doping to the wider membership.

All Performance Squad athletes, coaches and ASP received information regarding the prohibited list changes for 2023. It is also available to view on the BPTT website and has been shared on social media. No athletes were tested by UKAD in 2022.

Following the launch of the framework, UKAD are supporting NGB Boards with establishing and maintaining a clean sport culture within their organisations. I will continue to engage in the sessions that they offer in support of this.

With regard to Safeguarding, BPTT need to complete a framework provided by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) by March 2025 at the latest. The current plan is for BPTT to mirror the Table Tennis England Safeguarding documents for policy and process. TTE are in the process of updating these and in the meantime BPTT have a holding page on the website to signpost to the TTE policy and lead contact. All BPTT personnel are up to date with the appropriate qualifications and the Board will be completing specific Board training with CPSU and Ann Craft Trust in early 2023.

Future Actions: • Support adherence to UKAD Assurance Framework. • Support progression of work to complete the CPSU Framework for Safeguarding. • Progress the Duty of Care area and to develop structure, processes, lines of communication and procedures to support the athletes and staff. Continue to learn from and collaborate with other organisations as this role progresses

Chairman - Karen Tonge OBE

We are now getting underway with planning for the LA 2028 cycle and beyond with UK Sport.

I have continued to represent BPTT as a member of British Paralympic Association National Council; at Team England Commonwealth Events; at Sport & Recreation Alliance Games & Sport Division where I continue to serve as Deputy Chairman. As the nominated representative of TTE, I was elected as Deputy Chair of ETTU Para Committee 2020-24 and member of ITTF Para Committee 2021-23.

Special congratulations to the English players who won medals at Tokyo for being presented with the Victor Barna Award by Table Tennis England at their AGM in July 2022. The Victor Barna award was for the most notable performance by English players in 2022. Special thanks to Fran Bullock for all the press releases and media sessions she organises for World Class Programme and Pathway.

This will be my last Nationals as Chairman as I have reached the end of my term of office, although extended for the 2023 European Para Table Tennis Championships.

Finally, it has been an honour to have been your Chairman and attended many para events and made so many friends across the world. Last year was very special to receive the OBE in the Queen's last Birthday Honours list for services to Para Table Tennis nationally and internationally. This was great recognition for all involved in British Para Table Tennis.