

# BTTAD NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2009



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<p><b>“PARALYMPIC TABLE TENNIS FUNDING</b> British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities ( BTTAD ) as the National Governing Body for Paralympic Table Tennis in Great Britain has been awarded a sum of £1, 623, 000 by UK Sport for the 4 year London cycle ( 2009-13) subject to the usual confirmation of plans and agreements in January 2009. Planning is now in hand with partners including the British Table Tennis Federation (responsible for the Uited Kingdom Olympic Table Tennis ) to ensure the best use of resources . The delivery of the programme, based mainly at English Institute of Sport at Sheffield, will build on the work already done in the previous cycle 2005-08.</p>	<p><b><i>BTTAD AGM adjourned</i></b>  <b>Election of officers</b> Following the adjourned AGM of the BTTAD, the officers proposed at the May AGM were elected at the adjourned AGM held at the Mencap Open in October at Crewe after the Saturday’s play. Chairman Peter Taylor Vice Chairman Shaun Newcomb Secretary Mike Smith Treasurer John Mackey Committee Members Dennis Beech, Cathy Mitton, Mark Palmer</p>
<p><b>EDITOR WANTED</b> As you are well aware, there should have been a newsletter out in October and January. The demands on myself acting in the role of chairman have been so great that I have been unable to devote the time to producing the newsletter. The BTTAD need someone to take over as editor. One of the problems in this sort of job is getting the information. I am quite willing to help in this but we need someone to put it together and produce the newsletter. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact me ASAP</p>	<p><b>BTTAD Nationals are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May at the English Institute of Sport Sheffield.</b>  <b>The Annual General Meeting will be held at the end of the first day’s play on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 5.30pm</b>  <b>Memberships due soon.</b> Present one runs out in March Membership form for 2009-10 should have been distributed to all members. Please return it as soon as possible and encourage as many others- new and past - to do so as well</p>
<p><b>Playground to Podium</b> BTTAD are very pleased to be involved in the Playground to Podium programme This program was recently announced by ETTA after a successful bid to Sport England and will develop pathways for disabled players in the regions Judy Rogers has done a fantastic job in preparing and securing the Playground to Podium program. She has already made a significant difference with her work on the premier ability club program and in the development of coaching programs and disability awareness sessions. It shows how valuable it is to have a committed professional working on your behalf. The P2P program will provide a good base for developing young talent and having fulltime regional coaches working solely on disability will obviously make a tremendous difference to the pathway for those players. The BTTAD are committed to work closely with the ETTA through both the P2P and Regional Coaching Programme.</p>	<p><b>Contents</b> Page 2 Links with British Table Tennis Federation BTTF Page 3 Draft Structures for Planning in 2009 – 13 Future events Obituary Page 4 Report on Beijing 2008 Page 5 Ormesby Table Tennis club , European Gold for Class 11 in 2008 Page 6 Mencap Open 2008, Class 11 ITTF Ruling <b>Retirements</b> The BTTAD would like to pay all due thanks for their tremendous commitment, expertise and endeavour to Andrew Horsefield (Head Coach), Neil Robinson (player) and Sarah DeLacey- Munday (Physio) who have decided to retire from the international fray and to wish them well for the future. <i>More next issue</i>  <b>Reminder to send me your views, comments, suggestions so that I can make this newsletter as interesting as can be. Publication Dates 2009</b> <b>Early April                      2009 June                      2009</b></p>

## **Links with British Table Tennis Federation BTTF**

BTTAD had an independent review in the summer of 2008. This indicated that subject to finance from UKSport (UKS) in the 09-13 cycle, the appointment of a full time Performance Director (PD) supported by appropriate full time national coaches was the way forward. It also accepted that BTTAD should withdraw from the British Paralympic Performance Services (BPPS) Managed Sports Programme and instead link ( but not merge ) with BTTF. The result would be that the sport regains full accountability and responsibility for programme delivery and shared resources, best value, practice, coaching, science, medicine and management would be achieved. Since the production of the report, BTTAD's Management Team have worked with UK S and BTTF to achieve a pathway to integration and will seek to achieve the integrated approach via a Service Level Agreement with the English Table Tennis Association for the commencement of the new plan in April 2009 or at the earliest possible date. This has all been accepted readily by the Officers and current PD at the report meeting and then by all the Technical Support Group in July.

Because of the £100 million shortfall in the UK Sport budget, details of financing to Governing Bodies were delayed and it was not until December that we knew how much we had been awarded. Until this was known it was difficult to plan for the next cycle. A planning session with Paul Buxton of UK Sport was held in December to begin to establish strategy and we are now working on the details required in the planning process with UK Sport and BTTF. Table Tennis was one of the five Olympic sports having to wait until the end of January to find out what level of funding they will be receiving from UK Sport. The reduction in their funding will obviously affect their programme. Discussions with BTTF and UKS have therefore had to wait until the BTTF assess the implications.

Plans will be submitted to UK Sport in order to secure our funding. . Steve Ward, our Performance Director, in particular, has been working extremely hard on the plans both for the rest of the current

cycle up to April and for 09-13. He has been in discussions with the English Institute of Sport to provide support for our World Class Performance Program in areas such as sports science, physiotherapy , sports psychology and sports medicine. He has also been in discussion with Steen Horsen, the BTTF Performance Director, to look at ways in which the two organisations can share resources. There is obvious frustration because of these delays but, as we move forward over the next period planning for 09-13, it is vital that we have to get it as right as possible and that takes time especially at this time of year as we continue internal discussions as well as ones with various partners. BTTAD had an independent review in the summer of 2008. This indicated that subject to finance from UKS in the 09-13 cycle, the appointment of a full time Performance Director (PD) supported by appropriate full time national coaches was the way forward. It also accepted that BTTAD should withdraw from the British Paralympic Performance Services (BPPS) Managed Sports Programme and instead link ( but not merge ) with BTTF. The intention is to use shared services and linked governance feature strongly in the thoughts. This has all been accepted readily by the Officers and current PD at the report meeting and then by all the Technical Support Group in July. Because of the £100 million shortfall in the UK Sport budget, details of financing were delayed and it was not until December that we knew how much we had been awarded. Until this was known it was difficult to plan for the next cycle. Plans will be submitted to UK Sport by the end of February. Steve Ward, our Performance Director, in particular, is working extremely hard on the plans for the rest of the current cycle up to April and beyond are taking place and the There is obvious frustration because of these delays in national funding decisions but, as we move forward over the next period planning for 09-13, it is vital that we have to get it as right as possible and that takes time especially at this time of year as we continue internal discussions as well as ones with various partners.

To give a better idea of what is happening, I have published below the draft proposals that we are working on. Remember that these are at present only DRAFT and may not be the final outcome. This is why the BTTAD are in negotiation with the relevant bodies.

#### **DRAFT STAFF STRUCTURE – DISABILITY TT 09-13**

The appointments to be made are as follows

- A PERFORMANCE MANAGER (FULL TIME)
  - B HEAD COACH ( FULL TIME )
  - C ASSISTANT COACH ( FULL TIME )
  - D PART TIME COACH / TRAINING PARTNERS =  
MAXIMUM OF ONE FULL TIME ASSISTANT COACH
- Adverts will be placed nationally by UKS consultants for initially the post of PM, HC and AC. Interviews will then be held to make those appointments. All interviews for the appointments of PM, HC and AC would have a BTTAD member majority on the panel and be chaired by the BTTAD Chair. Appointments for the other coaching posts would be delegated to PM but with a BTTAD member involved. The PM will lead the programme and manage at the major events. The Head Coach to lead the coaching and deliver the program with PM,

AC and all of D. He will work with ETTA and other Head Coaches re internal programmes eg ETTA – P2P and Regional Coaches. The Programme will be based in Sheffield but with distributed support bases under D.

#### **DRAFT DELIVERY STRUCTURE**

Using draft SLA as agreed as the basis, BTTAD will discuss with BTTF/ ETTA appropriate arrangements. An example of this will be to utilise existing administrative / financial capacity. Discussions to take place with EIS re the access to sports science, physiology, psychology and performance analysis.

#### **NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

Revised governance structure will be developed as soon as possible

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**BTTAD Website**  
Hopefully, our website will be on-line soon

#### **FUTURE EVENTS in 2009**

**Grand Prix events**  
**Michael Hawkesworth Championships**  
(BTTAD Nationals) EIS Sheffield  
2 – 3 MAY  
**DSE Championships** Stoke Mandeville  
11 – 12 July

**Mencap Grand Prix**  
4-5<sup>th</sup> October Sports Centre

**Other events**  
**BSWF Junior Games** 1 – 5 October  
Stoke Mandeville  
**European Championships** 3 – 14 June  
Genova , Italy  
Squad selected by BTTAD  
**Merseyside Open Games** Liverpool  
7 December

#### **Obituary Rebecca Wright**

Sadly, I have to report that Rebecca lost her fight against breast cancer on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008. The first symptoms became apparent whilst travelling towards the Arctic on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. Before even reaching Norway Rebecca suffered a minor stroke and after docking at Stavanger the next morning a second one occurred. She was taken to Stavanger University Hospital where she received treatment in their heart unit and after nine days she was thought fit enough to fly back to the UK. Tests to find the cause of the strokes revealed the cancer. Rebecca came home after her operation for three days before returning to hospital and ultimately their Intensive Therapy Unit where she died peacefully.

During her 35 years Rebecca won the hearts of everyone she met. Her warm smile and affectionate nature will be remembered by all who knew her. The family held a private family burial service at Drinkstone Church and a Service to Celebrate Rebecca's Life was held at All Saints Church, Drinkstone on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Peter Taylor represented the BTTAD at the service and it was a very moving and memorable services. Drinkstone Church is relatively small with seating for about 120, but there is standing room inside for many, many more. It needed it for the church was full. With no parking at the church, cars were parked on the church side of the Street, causing one way traffic for over 400 yards through the village. Our sympathies go to Rebecca's family Chris, Sue, Tim, Tara and Nick.

## Beijing 2008

Eleven players from Great Britain competed in the Beijing Paralympics last September.

The Paralympics GB team included Cathy Mitton, the only British player to win an individual medal in Athens, as well as James Rawson and Neil Robinson, two of the three members of the men's class 3 team that won silver four years ago.

Cathy Mitton won bronze medals at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004, but her bid for a third individual medal ended on day two. Cathy beat France's Florence Sireau-Gossiaux 11-3, 3-11, 11-3, 11-6, but then lost 9-11, 5-11, 11-8, 6-11 to China's Liu Jing in her class 1/2 singles pool to miss out on progressing to the knockout stage.

Commonwealth champion Sue Gilroy also missed out despite winning two of her three matches in her class 4 pool. Sue beat Nada Matic (SRB) and Alisha Almeida (RSA), but lost the crucial game against China's Zhou Ying - who won the group and went on to take the gold medal.

Claire Robertson, also playing in class 4, lost all three of her pool games, while Dzaier Neil failed to progress from the class 1/2 pool, where she lost her three games.

In the men's competitions, David Wetherill, the youngest member of the GB table tennis team in Beijing, aged just 18, got off to an impressive start in the class 6 pool phase. He beat Athens bronze-medallist, Germany's Rainer Schmidt, on day one but lost out narrowly to Poland's Miroslaw Kowalski on the second day of competition. His crunch match against Brazilian Carlo Franco Michell in the pool stage of the competition ended in victory, but with just one player progressing to the next round, David missed out to Schmidt on the ITTF count-back system, despite winning more games than any other player in the group.

In class 7, another Paralympic Games debutant, 20-year-old Will Bayley, narrowly lost his opening two contests taking No.5 seed Mykhaylo Popov (UKR) to five games and No.1 seed and eventual winner, Jochen Wollmert of Germany, to three deuces. He went on to beat Israel's Shmuel Shur 3-1. Meanwhile Paul Karabardak lost his two openers to Chaoqun Ye of China, the eventual silver medallist, and European gold medallist Jordi Morales of Spain, before rounding off his pool campaign with victory over Czech player Zbynek Lambert.

Neil Robinson in class 3 progressed from his pool to the knockout phase, but lost his round of 16 contest to Brazil's Luiz Algacir Silva. James Rawson beat the Brazilian in his pool, but that wasn't enough

for him to go through to the knockout stage, losing on the mathematical count-back model as all three players in the group had beaten one another. Arnie Chan lost both of his class 3 pool games including one to Tomas Pinas of Spain, after leading 2-1.

Scott Robertson won one and lost one of his pool matches, but didn't progress to the next round, again losing out on count back after all players beat each other.

In the class 3 team event, an easy 3-0 victory for Arnie Chan, Neil Robinson and James Rawson over Libya ensured they made the semi-finals. The following day they played 2004 bronze medallists France, but the French proved too strong and it was they who progressed to the gold medal match. That left GB in a battle for bronze against hosts China. Robinson lost his singles match against Feng Panfeng, the singles gold medallist, but Rawson beat Zhao Ping to level the match score. The Chinese pair won the doubles and in the deciding match Feng beat Rawson to secure the bronze for the host nation.

"I'm pretty gutted," admitted James Rawson, who has won team medals from all four of his previous Games. "That's probably the best I've played at a Paralympic Games and I've not won anything. Fourth is the worst position to finish." Neil Robinson, who was competing at his seventh Games, added: "I've been to seven Paralympic Games and won medals at all of them, so it's hard to come away with nothing. But it's been a privilege to play table tennis here in Beijing."

Cathy Mitton and Dzaier Neil came out on top of an epic battle against Iran in the class 1-3 team event. The game ended 3-2 in favour of Britain after over three hours of play. The duo went on to meet No.1 seeds Italy, who, in the worst possible scenario for the exhausted pair, had received a bye through to the semi-final. The Italians won, leaving GB facing France in a bronze-medal contest. The French team won that one 3-0, which meant that Britain lost a second opportunity for bronze.

Young British trio David Wetherill, Will Bayley and Paul Karabardak were unlucky to draw China in their opening match in the class 6-8 team category, losing 3-0, while the women's class 4-5 team of Claire Robertson and Sue Gilroy suffered a 3-0 loss to Serbia.

Although Britain's table tennis campaign in Beijing ended without any medals, the players put up very creditable performances. Britain's table tennis players had expected a challenge when they arrived in China, an international powerhouse of the game.

## **A personal view of the Disability Section of Ormesby Table Tennis Club by Chris Rayner**

I would like to give my own personal views concerning the setting up of the Disability Section of Ormesby Table Tennis Club and its continuing growth.

I only came into disabled table tennis in late 2005 / early 2006 following my own illness and subsequent disability brought on by a Spinal Cord Injury in June 2005. I was invited to a Disability Awareness Day at Ormesby Table Tennis Club in April 2006 by Alan Ransome who, with his wife Jose, wished to improve and develop disabled table tennis at Ormesby. Following on from the Disability Awareness Day and further discussions with Alan, I agreed to take responsibility as head coach for the Disability Section within the main club.

Since that very day when we started with zero players to this day when we currently run two sessions (third on its way) and with over 50 children and adults attending each week with a variety of disabilities, both Physical and Learning, we have developed into a major section within the club and one which is now fully accepted by the members and is adding value to both the club and the local community.

When the original idea was turned into a disability session I am sure that the idea was in part a means to tick the right boxes. However I now believe that we have proved a fantastic asset to the club and the management and volunteers are fully committed and can now see that it is a crucial area of the club and one which is continuing to develop and add value both financially and to the club's membership.

Whilst it would be very easy for a club to launch a disability section and to promote it to the local community, I feel that a major driving force in the success

that we have achieved at Ormesby was down to Alan's encouraging attitude to the Disability Section and what we could actually achieve. Alan regularly attends the club to see the work that we are doing and spends time both promoting and encouraging players to accept the disabled players into the club. He has been a fantastic motivator for me and the other key volunteers. Ormesby has clearly demonstrated its commitment to us by the number of tables and time allocated to the section of the club that I run. It would have been easy at the early stages to take the view that things were not successful as the number of players attending was relatively low. Without Alan's determination and drive to make Ormesby such a successful club for all areas of the community, the Disability Section could have fallen by the wayside.

As we stand at present, the club is keen to continually develop the sessions that we run and to capitalize on the successful relationship that we currently hold with Middlesbrough Council and the Social Services Department responsible for Adults with Learning Disabilities. This is particularly encouraging as I know that resources and the available "table space" is limited and yet we feature so highly in the Ormesby Club's future plans.

### *Editor's footnote*

*This shows what a few committed people can accomplish. Judy Rogers has done a great job in her work at the ETTA in setting up the Disability Awareness courses and the premier ability club framework. These can act as a kick start. It takes dedicated people to make it happen. Ormesby is an example to all of us as to what can be achieved. There are lots of successful clubs around the country. Let's hear about some more. Write in about your club.*

## **British Gold and Silver for Britain in the European Championships 2008 by Jacqueline Smith**

The British mixed doubles pair, Adam Thompson (Cheshire) and Victoria Bromley (Wolverhampton), took gold at the INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships held in Spain in October. They demonstrated their superior play by beating their key rivals France in one of the most exciting and action packed finals of the tournament. After 5 tough games the British pair took the mixed doubles title 11-9.

Victoria then paired with Jacqueline Smith to win silver in the ladies doubles, losing in a gruelling 5 game match against the strong French pair.

8 athletes from Class 11 along with Dennis and Wendy Beech, Head Coach Mick Vesey and escorts Beryl Jarvis and Sheena Feltham flew out to Valencia to take part in these Championships. Neil Handley and Simon Green lost to France in their doubles event but then beat Portugal and Italy to have a great match against Japan for the quarter final place. Duncan and Alistair Feltham also got to the ¼ final by beating Italy and losing to Japan. Jeffrey

Jarvis and Adam Thompson also reached the ¼ final by beating Italy and Portugal but losing to France. In the mixed doubles Jacqueline Smith and Jeffrey Jarvis beat Japan but lost to Hong Kong..

Victoria reached the semi-final of the women's singles, Jacqueline reached the second round. Dennis Beech the GB Team Manager, commented "It can only get better. It was just so emotional hearing our National Anthem for the first time. Every Game was incredibly close and France has always been our biggest rivals. We are really on the brink of bringing home medals and by the Global Games I think we will be ready to do that. Tracey McCillen, National Director UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability said "This is the first time our British table Tennis players have reached the podium and we are very proud. It demonstrates the hard work and commitment not only of these talented players, but of Dennis, Wendy and Head Coach Mike Vesey. Now that we are on the podium, you can rest assured we'll be back for more!"

## Class 11 ( Learning disability)

The IPC (International Paralympic Committee) have delayed the decision regarding the Class 11 Learning Disability and will not make their decision until October this year. We are hopeful that they will then decide to allow Class 11 into the Paralympics. This would mean incorporating the Class 11 into our elite squad.

## Ranking list

The British Grand Prix Ranking list for people with Disabilities will be issued by the end of February. It should take account of doubles results as well as single results from last year and will also take into consideration international events as well so as to give a more accurate representation of the actual rankings of all players.

## Mencap Open October 2008 at Crewe

The final Grand Prix of 2008 were held at Coppenhall Leisure Centre, Crewe. All credit to Dennis and Wendy Beech for this is their local and the playing facilities were very good. With the absence of some of the top male players, it gave an opportunity for some of our promising youngsters to shine.

Krysten Coombs reached the final of the Open Singles for standing players having a good win over newcomer Jason Evans, who had beaten Chris Cattell in the group of the Class event.

Jack Pegram also did well to reach the final of the equivalent wheelchair Open and also take the class 1-3 singles with good wins over the experienced John Welsh and Oye Jemiyo.

As always nowadays, Adam Thompson and Victoria Bromley dominated the Class 11 singles. The tournament attracted some promising new players. Jason Evans had a good first tournament losing in the final of the class event and taking third place in the Open Singles with a good win over Adam Thompson

Arran Plaice, having played in the UK School Games, had to play in a tough debut group with Andrew Harper, Mark Spinks and Ella Booker and although he finished fourth, he played well in his first time in a grand prix tournament.

It was good to see Paula Latham back in action but she is going to have improve considerably is to challenge to the continually improving Victoria Bromley.

Results		
<p><b>Mixed Class 1 – 5 Open Singles</b> Final Shaun Newcombe b Jack Pegram 0, 9, 9 Semi-Finals Shaun Newcombe b Lee Hamill 17, 9, -7, 8 Jack Pegram b Mike Predergast 12, 9, 12</p> <p><b>Mens Class 6 – 11 Open Singles</b> Final Chris Cattell b Krysten Coombes 3, 9, 8 Semi-Finals Chris Cattell b Adam Thompson 5, 2, 78 Krysten Coombes b Jason Evans -8,-6,- 4,- 7, 7 Third Place Jason Evans b Adam Thompson 7, -7, 7, - 6, 5</p> <p><b>Ladies Class 6 – 11 Open Singles</b> Final Victoria Bromley b Ella Booker 10, 7, 4 Semi-Finals Victoria Bromley b Paula Latham 5, 3, -5, 5 Ella Booker b Jacqui Smith 7, 5, 7 Third Place Paula Latham b Jacqui Smith 9, 5, 7</p> <p><b>Mixed Class 1 – 5 Doubles</b> Final Lee Hamill and Shaun Newcombe b John Welsh and Jack Pegram 7, -5, 8, 2</p>	<p>Third Place Mike Prendergst and Oye Jemiyo b Hannah Coulthurst and Josie Chchokyi 7, 7, 8</p> <p><b>Ladies Class 6 – 11 Doubles</b> Final Victoria Bromley and Jessica Bromley b Jacqui Smith and Kaley Heath 7, 8, 3 Third Place Nadia Stanley and Jane McCrudden</p> <p><b>Mixed Class 6 – 11 Doubles</b> Final Jason Evans and Chris Cattell b Adam Thompson and Jeffrey Jarvi 3, 8, 4 Semi -Finals Jason Evans and Chris Cattell b Andrew Harper and Krysten Coombes 7, 7, 12 Adam Thompson and Jeffrey Jarvis b Kenny Dale and Warren Tipling 9, 6, 5 Third Place Andrew Harper and Krysten Coombes b Kenny Dale and Warren Tipling 8, 7, 4</p> <p><b>Mens Class 1 –3 Singles</b> Final Jack Pegram b Oye Jemiyo 6, 7, -11, -10, 7 Third Place John Welsh b Josie Chchokyi 7, 7, 9</p> <p><b>Mens Class 4 – 5 Singles</b> Final Shaun Newcombe b Mike Prendergast 4, 9, 4</p>	<p>Third Place Lee Hamill b Jack Hunter-Spivey 8, -8, 4, 7</p> <p><b>Mens Class 6 – 9 Singles</b> Final Chris Cattell b Jason Evans -9, 3, 4, 4 Semi-Finals Chris Cattell b Andrew Harper 3, 4, 4 Jason Evans b Mark Spinks 9, 6, 7 Third Place Andrew Harper b Mark Spinks 5, -9, 8, 5</p> <p><b>Mens Class 11 Singles</b> Final Adam Thompson b Kenny Dale 2, 9, 12 Semi-Finals Adam Thompson b Jeffrey Jarvis 4, 4, 29 Kenny Dale b Warren Tipling-14, 5, -8, 8, 4 Third Place Jeffrey Jarvis b Warren Tipling 6, 7, 3</p> <p><b>Ladies Class 11 Singles</b> Final Victoria Bromley b Paula Latham 5, 2, 8 Semi -Finals Victoria Bromley b Jessica Bromley 8, 4, 6 Paula Latham b Jacqui Smith 6, -8, 13, -6, 5 Third Place Jacqui Smith b Jessica Bromley -8, 8, 9, 8</p>