



15 August 2022

Dear Members,

At last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) we reflected on a season that had been disrupted by Covid-19 but which had nevertheless delivered excellent results. The same is true of the season just ending, albeit our Olympic athletes returned from Beijing without medal success. Our Paralympic athletes had a hugely successful campaign in Beijing, exceeding expectations. Our athletes, coaches, support and HQ staff have been managing one of the most challenging winters ever with travel restrictions resulting from Covid and Britain's exit from the European Union, closures of slopes and cancellation of events, all in a critical Olympic and Paralympic qualification year.

The cost to GB Snowsport (GBS) of running all athlete and competition programmes increased substantially as a result of different national and international Covid testing regimes, increased accommodation needs to create covid-secure bubbles and complex travel arrangements which were often only able to be confirmed at late notice. All aspects of team logistics were impacted, with Programme Manager colleagues having to pick up significant additional administrative burdens to allow athletes, coaches, and support teams to navigate diverse global public health restrictions. Brand and media engagement was further impacted, with opportunities for media coverage, content creation and athlete interviews diminished in order to safeguard covid-secure settings.

Travel, administrative and cost impacts were exacerbated further by on-going challenges related to Brexit and impacting on the ability of team members to travel, train, and compete in European Union territories.

World Cup, World Championships, Europa Cup and all other major competition schedules were significantly affected with cancellations, delays and postponements disrupting athletes' planned training and competition blocks across two full seasons. For many team members, the initial reduction or removal of on-snow opportunities at a critical point in the Olympic and Paralympic cycle continued to have knock-on impacts through to the Beijing Games. Restrictions in place at competition and training venues further hampered team and athlete experiences, although the team rose to the challenge and demonstrated great dedication and adaptability.

Physical and mental health and wellbeing issues were experienced by athletes, coaches, and team members during the period of covid restrictions, with a number of team members experiencing covid infections themselves at various points. Unfortunately for some athletes, this continued right up to the Beijing Games with participation at the Games impacted or ruled out as a result of the strict playbook conditions imposed by the Organising Committee. For other team members, covid restrictions led directly to a reduction in opportunities to attain qualifying standards for the Games and other regular season competitions, while most athletes' preparation and training schedules were affected at various points across the two full seasons of restricted activity.

Mental wellbeing was also a significant concern, both in terms of athletes and teams having to operate within heavily restricted covid-secure bubbles, and in terms of GB Snowsport staff and contractors needing to deliver high-class support and administration plans that were at constant risk of changing regulations or unavoidable public health exposure.

Despite the challenges of the last couple of years, our athletes have still had some of the most successful results of their careers. Dave Ryding made history by becoming the first Briton to win a Slalom Alpine World Cup. World champion Charlotte Bankes continued to prove she's the best in the World by taking the overall title and Crystal Globe having won the majority of the World Cups this season. Snowboard star Mia Brookes, aged 15, won the World junior championships and World rookie tour giving a clear indication that she is on a steep upward path in Snowboard. Kirsty Muir showed she is one of the best Freeskiers in the world after an incredible performance at the Olympics placing fifth in the Big Air and eighth in Slopestyle. Makayla Gerken Schofield made history by becoming the first ever British mogul skier to make finals in the Olympics and finished a respectable eighth.

Our Paralympic team had a hugely successful year winning 10 medals at the World championships and following this up by winning 6 medals in Beijing. Ollie Hill won Britain's first Paralympic medal in snowboarding, and Alpine athletes Menna Fitzpatrick and Gary Smith and Mille Knight and Brett Wild also won medals with Neil and Andrew Simpson taking an historic gold medal. We have a young and extremely talented team of athletes and the future looks very bright as we move forward to the next cycle in Milan-Cortina 2026

On behalf of the Board. I would like to thank Vicky Gosling and her team for their enormous contributions over the last twelve months and to thank all our athletes, coaches and support teams and staff for their continued dedication and hard work in the face of the difficult circumstances caused by Covid-19.

I would also like to thank Trafford Wilson and Iain Mackay for their contributions to the board. Trafford, who joined the board in 2019, resigned in May when he left Snowsport Scotland (SS); he helped GBS build stronger contacts with SS especially with regard to pathways.

Iain, who joined the board in 2014, has been one of the three directors to represent the discipline committees and retires after the 2022 AGM; the board will miss his great knowledge of skiing and his insightful contributions to all our discussions. The care taken, and wisdom provided, will be difficult to replace. The discipline committee chairs have been asked to nominate a person to replace him.

Ill health has sadly caused Paula Cardwell to step down as our Treasurer. Since joining the board in 2019 she has been worked tirelessly to enhance our financial reporting and risk management and we will miss her contribution to the board. We are currently seeking a new Treasurer and also an additional independent non-executive director.

Whilst this report is a summary of the past year, it is published soon after we have received the disappointing news from UK Sport (UKS) of our funding allocations for the Milan-Cortina cycle. We continue to work to persuade their team that additional support is needed and will appeal their decisions. In this, my final year as Chair of GB Snowsport it is all the more disappointing that the huge effort of the past 7 years may now be at risk, however I am hopeful that the massively increased visibility and success of all our athletes will now make it easier to secure alternative sources of funding.

The Board has decided to continue with the format that allows attendance at the AGM either physically or by video. To ensure that only members gain access to the meeting we would ask that those of you who wish to attend either at New Cavendish Street or online should let us know by email at cossec@gbsnowsport.com We will either send you video conference login details a few days before the meeting or arrange for you to meet the security arrangements at New Cavendish Street.

If anyone wishes to submit questions in advance of the AGM then they can do this by emailing cosec@gbsnowsport.com and we will do our best to see that they are answered at the meeting. Of course, live questions during the meeting will also be permitted.

There are two resolutions to be voted on at the meeting:

1. Report and Accounts

The audited Report and Accounts for the twelve months to 30 September 2021 are for adoption. GBS is a not-for-profit organisation and the accounts show a relatively small loss for the twelve months which largely reflects the additional costs of dealing with issues caused by covid that are mentioned earlier in my report. You will see that there is a note to the accounts which reflects the difficulties posed by having to wait until July 2022 for UKS to confirm its funding from October 2022 and for the period through to Milan Cortina in 2026. The board is disappointed that UKS has reduced funding and decided not to support some of the disciplines and it is unfortunate that this should happen immediately after so many of our athletes have produced excellent results in FIS competitions.

The Report and Accounts and governance statement are available on our website.

2. Election of auditors

Covid had caused the Audit and Risk Committee to defer its plans in 2020 to undertake a tendering process for the company's auditors. That has now been completed and it has recommended the appointment of Crowe LLP to replace Moore Kingston Smith.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Rory Tapner
Chairman