2 SEPTEMBER 2024

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEASON 2023/24

INTRODUCTION

I write to you as Chair of the British Biathlon Union for the seventh consecutive year. The past year has been one of significant growth for the organisation. Our commitment to excellence and athletes' development has led to numerous achievements and opportunities that I look forward to sharing with you.

In addition to the achievements on snow, we are thrilled to announce this year we have successfully been accredited as the National Governing Body of Biathlon in the UK. We have also enhanced our relationship with the British Para Biathlon Team and subsequently joined the British Paralympic Association.

SPORTING REVIEW

Our presence in international competitions has increased, with a total of 33 athletes proudly representing GBR in international competitions. Here we fielded Athletes at the World Championships, Open European World Championships, Youth and Junior World Championships, Youth Olympic Games, Summer World Championships, IBU World Cup, IBU Cup, IBU Junior Cup and IBU Regional Events. Overall, the season reflects a successful team who are dedicated to continuous improvement, grasping as many opportunities to compete as possible.

There was tangible success for our youth and junior team last season, exemplified through the qualification of four youth athletes for the Youth Olympic Games, where we took three Athletes to games in South Korea. Here they showcased the dedication and hard work as they competed at such a prestigious event.

We also celebrated a significant milestone where 15 athletes qualified and participated at the Youth and Junior World Championships – this marked the highest participation we have had in this prodigious competition. This achievement reflects the strong talent pool and commitment within the BBU to identify, nurture and develop young athletes for success on the world stage.

FINANCE & SPONSORSHIP

We have benefited from partnerships with the International Biathlon Union, Biathlon Canada, and the Swedish Biathlon Federation. However, financial challenges persist, and we are actively seeking additional sponsorships to support our athletes and maintain our current trajectory, which is one of growth.

GOVERNANCE

We regularly review and update our processes and policies, ensuring that we remain aligned with both UK Sport and the IBU but tailored for our own needs. A comprehensive NGB strategic review is planned for the conclusion of the 2024/25 Season.

THE FUTURE

Our summer programmes in Font Romeu mark a significant step forward in the training we provide athletes. We have had several athletes now on full-time programmes, and over 40 athletes have taken part in collective training in France. This is ahead of where we predicted we would be at this stage so we are excited to see the transition from summer training to winter competitions.

There are some key events on the calendar this season including the European Youth Olympic Festival, World University Games, and the British Championships on the horizon. We are also committed to developing new talent through our upcoming talent campaign and expanding the biathlon community in the UK through our Laser-Run, Laser-Roller Ski series.

CONCLUSION

The Board and I are proud of our accomplishments and remain dedicated to delivering excellence, fostering partnerships, and ensuring financial stability for our athletes. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to your involvement as we tackle the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Sincerely,
Rob Weighill
Chairman
British Biathlon Union