

Paralympic Commission Report

2020 Overview

2020 turned into a strange year that certainly no one could have planned for. Expectation was for a Paralympic year with our paracyclists representing Ireland at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Covid-19 certainly put paid to that with the announcement that the Games would be postponed until August/September 2021.

The year kicked off with the Paracycling Track World Championships in Milton Canada in February, where the squad brought back 3 medals and loads of Top Ten finishes. Katie-George Dunlevy and Pilot Eve McCrystal too Silver in the BW 3km Individual Pursuit, Ronan Grimes took Bronze in the MC4 3km Individual Pursuit and Richael Timothy took Bronze in the WC3 Scratch Race. Also on the squad were Chris Burns competing in the MC2 category and male Tandem pairings of Martin Gordon/Eamonn Byrne, Peter Ryan/Anthony Walsh and Damian Vereker/Marcin Mizgajski. Congratulations and well done to all.

The resulting shutdown in March saw cancellation of most events and a focus to training at home and using platforms like Zwift to try and keep sharp. With the general easing of restrictions from July athletes were able to get back out on the road and as competitions opened up. We were able to get a number of legs of the Annual Paracycling Time Trial League run. A big Thank You to the clubs who hosted a round of the League this year.

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions, the Commission will see 3 National Championships in 2020: the Time Trial Championships in Newcastle West, The Track Championships in Sundrive Velodrome, and, for the first time in a number of years, a Road race Championship in Corkagh Park. Again a Big Thank You to all who helped in making the Championships happen.

The Commission launched a "Dreaming of the Paralympic Games" Talent Search, which generated a lot of interest and will to hold a "Test and Trial Day" once restrictions get lifted further.

The Commission would like to record their great appreciation to Phelim Lynch who stepped down as Commission Chairman and Paracycling Manager for personal reasons during the year. His hard work and dedication served the

Commission well over the past few years and we look forward to having him back sometime in the future.

Strategic objectives for 2021

Participate: The Commission will hold Test and Trial Days to encourage new participants at all levels from participation and local competition and participation in the Annual Time Trial League. It is also planned to run a Road Race League in 2021.

Perform: The Commission will support the qualification for and participation at the Tokyo Paralympic Games by Team Ireland paracyclists due to take place in August and September 2021.

Enable: The Commission will continue to advocate for better supports and resources for the development and growth of Paracycling in Ireland and seek opportunities for the attendance of development riders at International competitions where possible.

Commission Members and Roles 2021

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