

# Ban for previous Paralympian whose charity paid £1m to household business

A previous medal-winning Paralympian footballer has actually been prohibited from being a trustee by the charities watchdog after an examination discovered a special needs sports charity he established paid £1m raised by the public to business run by him and his spouse.

The Charity Commission stated Matt Dimbylow, 51, who represented the GB seven-a-side football group in the 2008 and 2012 Paralympics, and was a Paralympic World Cup medal-winner, was guilty of severe misbehavior and abusing public trust.

Of £6m raised for the charity Dream It Believe It Achieve It (DIBIAI) through a lotto scratchcard plan, £1m was paid to business run by Dimbylow and his otherhalf, Emma Dimbylow, the commission discovered.

A additional £4.2m went on fundraising expenses, consisting of payments to an unnamed personal lottery game operator. Just £300,000 was invested on charitable functions.

“The public anticipates trustees to make sure charitable funds are constantly thoroughly handled in the finest interests of their charity and the cause they serve, in this case supporting kids and handicapped individuals with sport. Instead, the Dimbylows mistreated the trust that was positioned in them as trustees,” stated the Charity Commission’s head of examinations, Amy Spiller.

The commission concluded there had actually been considerable breaches of trust at the charity, while its failure to take on disputes of interest had led to the set delighting in “substantial unauthorised monetary advantage” that was not in the charity’s finest interests.

Dimbylow – explained as the “driving force” at the DIBIAI – was prohibited completely from being a trustee, while Emma Dimbylow signed an contract appealing not to act as a trustee once again. The charity is in the procedure of being injury up, and any staying funds will be offered to another special needs sports charity.

Matt Dimbylow ended up being included in the Paralympian videogame after a head injury in 2003 activated a Parkinson’s-like brain condition. He likewise captained the England cerebral palsy football group and was inducted into the National Football Museum Hall of Fame along with Alan Shearer, Michael Owen and Patrick Vieira in 2013.

He signed up the charity the exact same year, and the commission concluded he prepared to “extract funds from it”.

It stated it stepped in early on to avoid him, as a trustee, from paying himself an £80,000 income. He consequently modified the charity’s governing file to make it possible for it to pay business owned by himself and his partner.

The commission started officially examining the charity in 2017, and Matt Dimbylow was got rid of as a trustee 2 years later on. Some of the funds paid by the charity to the Dimbylows’ business were consequently recuperated by the commission through the courts.

While the query was continuous, the commission stated it took action to limit more than 30 bank accounts held in the charity’s name to stop payments being made without the regulator’s approval. Although the charity fundraising regulator looked into the actions of the lottery game operator, no action was taken.

The guard dog criticised 2 other unnamed trustees of the charity, who it stated were insufficiently independent and stopped working to hold the Dimbylows to account for their actions.

“Their absence of oversight and analysis developed an environment where the charity’s funds might be misapplied,” the commission concluded.

The commission stated it hoped its regulative action versus DIBIAI “sends a effective message to others who might be lured to usage charity in this method”.

Matt Dimbylow and DIBIAI were approached for remark.

Source: [Ban for previous Paralympian whose charity paid £1m to household business.](#)