



Minutes
of the
British Weight Lifting Board Meeting

Venue: Queen's Hotel, Leeds
Date: Thursday 8 December 2016
Start: 1.00pm.

Present: Peter Rowley (PWR), Ashley Metcalfe (AM), Malcolm Boyd (MB), Catherine Eastham (CE), David Knaggs (DK), Mark Martin (MM) Patrick Roberts (PR), Kelly Sotherton (KS), Guy Taylor (GT) and Michele Verroken (MV).

In attendance: Emily Godley (EG) for items 1 -7 and David Gent (DG) for items 1 – 8.

1. General

1.1 Chairman's Welcome

PWR welcomed all to the meeting, declared the meeting quorate, outlined the key items of the agenda and reminded members that discussions at the meeting were confidential and none of the proceedings should be disclosed to third parties without his prior written approval in accordance with the directors' code of conduct that all members had signed.

PWR announced that in addition to the agenda items circulated previously, he also intended to include a discussion about safeguarding within the sport following disclosures of allegations of historic abuse in football under item 7.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Stewart Cruikshank (SC), Mike Irani (MI) and Tommy Yule (TY).

2. Declarations of Interest

PWR reminded members of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision. GT declared an interest in TASS and MV in the Commonwealth Games Federation. MM informed members of his recent appointment within the Rugby League International

Federation. No other or new declarations of interest were declared. PWR asked members to inform AM of variations in interests as they occurred so that the register may be kept up to date.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 27 September 2016 and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16 October 2016 and matters arising

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 September 2016 and the Annual General Meeting on 16 October 2016 circulated previously were agreed as read and approved for posting on the website.

Members noted the low attendance at the AGM, but appreciated that all members had been informed of the date, time and venue and that whilst greater engagement with members was desirable, the logistics of linking future AGMs to a particular competition that may encourage more attendees were problematical. DG reported that he had received several complimentary emails from members upon the process, the interaction between members and officers, the openness of replies to questions and the positive actions taken subsequently, e.g. the club competition at future championships.

EG relayed athletes' concerns about and frustrations with the IWF in dealing with doping issues pertaining to athletes of other nations and reported upon the work in progress of undertaking an athletes' survey, to which AM responded.

There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Decisions taken outside the Board Meeting

PWR reminded members of his email of 2 November 2016, thanked everyone for responding so promptly to approve unanimously that an invitation be extended to KS to join the board, that she had accepted and that he and AM had undertaken a preliminary induction prior to the meeting. **KS' appointment was approved with immediate effect.**

AM referred to his previous email offering recommendations for casting votes for a new chair and board member of the British Olympic Association, confirmations from members that our votes be cast as recommended and the outcome of the elections.

5. Minutes and recommendations from sub-committees

CE, GT and PR updated members on respective committee matters and future matters to be considered.

GT commented upon the Performance Committee's athlete selections for competitions and the need for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Home Nations for GB selections when the outcome of funding was known.

CE reported upon the Development Committee's scrutiny, challenge and subsequent support for the Sport England submission, congratulating the management team on a professional

submission and the ongoing work in developing a communications strategy to be presented to the March 2017 meeting.

PR reported upon the Finance and General Purposes Committee's forthcoming considerations upon forward budgets and the work in progress of a policy to mitigate cyber risks.

6. Performance and UK Sport update

In the absence of TY, AM spoke to his PowerPoint presentation. Members were updated on athletes' performances at the World Youth Championships, the Commonwealth Championships and the World Universities Championships; the final Tokyo strategy and budget submitted to and accepted provisionally by UK Sport, the outcome of which would be known on 9 December (postscript: UK Sport informed BWL that notwithstanding the quality of our submission, funding was no longer available to sports deemed to be in tiers 4 (like BWL) and 5, that para powerlifting would receive funding through EIS and that we had the rights to represent to the UK Sport Board and/or appeal through Sports Resolutions early in 2017); further development of the England Talent Pathway; and the submission to Sport England re the Commonwealth Games 2018.

AM responded to several questions from members around individual performances, safeguarding matters internationally, possible considerations and medal potentials in the Commonwealth Games.

7. Sport Development, Coach Education and Sport England Review

AM summarised weightlifting's latest APS figures released the previous day confirmed as satisfactory by Sport England and our final submission to Sport England for the 2017/21 cycle, the outcome of which would be known on 15 December (postscript: our bid was well received, earning the highest percentage increase of all NGBs to £2.2m (from £1.0m for 2013/17) for core funding, with additional monies to be awarded in 2017 for talent pathway development and the Commonwealth Games).

DG then updated the board on developments in the sport pertaining to championships, licensing; RDOs; partnerships; sponsorise; relations with home nations and regions; and safeguarding, particularly the statement to be posted on the website, at which point PWR widened discussions to consider risks pertaining to any allegations as to historic or current abuse and our state of readiness to deal with any allegations. There was much discussion about the prior availability of the statement, the need to be proactive and have an appropriate communications strategy in place. AM stressed that the statement did not constitute a change in policy, informed members on deployment of the case management teams and independent determinations of complaints generally to mitigate particular perceptions or potential concerns that investigations may be considered too internal. Posting of the statement was deferred for further consideration, but the appropriate timing was delegated to the Executive.

EG left the meeting.

8. Finance Matters and Update

MM referred to the papers circulated previously and the summary slides in the PowerPoint upon the presentation of financial performance to the end of October 2016. Members noted

the small surplus for the month, but concerns were voiced pertaining to adverse variances in key areas. The revised forecasted outcome for the full year and satisfactory cash flow were noted. PWR reiterated on behalf of the board the need for budget holders to be accountable for their areas of responsibility.

DG left the meeting.

9. Risk register

PR referred members to his update under agenda item 3 above, the risk register circulated previously and invited comments. Members' questioned ratings pertaining to safeguarding, following which **the updated risk register was approved.**

10. CEO's update

AM's comprehensive report circulated previously for information only was noted.

AM shared with members preliminary designs on new BWL branding and received a number of comments and observations.

PWR referred to the complaints' log circulated previously and invited AM and DK to update members upon the withdrawal of the contentious matter by complainant A. AM also drew members' attention to complainant B referring to a third party a complaint last dealt with in October 2015. Members noted with concern recent complaints about incidents at competitions organised by Northern Weightlifting that are now subject to independent investigations.

MV and PR left the meeting.

11. Board matters

11a. Changes to BWL Articles

PWR referred to the paper and attendant appendix circulated previously updating members on discussions with legal advisors as to the changes necessary to the current Articles of Association pursuant to the mandatory governance code launched on 30 October 2016 and the desirability of general updating. Following discussion, **PWR and AM were authorised to refer draft variations to Gemma Sykes of UK Sport at the forthcoming meeting on 19 December 2016 and thereafter to continue to liaise with Emma Mason of Squire Patton Boggs and circulate a final draft of Articles to be recommended by the board for members' approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting on a date to be decided, but preferably by 31 March 2017.** (Postscript: the meeting with UK Sport was postponed due to illness until 5 January 2017.)

11b. UK Sport/Sport England off-line self-assurance Governance Audit

AM referred to the papers circulated previously pertaining to the offline self-assurance documents submitted by 31 October 2016, PWR's review on behalf of the Board and the preference of PWR to apply a "reasonable" assessment, **which was ratified by the Board.** AM

and PWR were to meet with Gemma Sykes of UK Sport to discuss their initial desk top review of our submission on 19 December, following which the board would be informed of the outcome. (Postscript: the meeting with UK Sport was postponed due to illness until 5 January 2017.)

11c. England Group

Members agreed that AM's paper circulated previously be considered outside the meeting and responses thereto be dealt with by email.

11d. BWL Lottery -update

Deferred to a future meeting.

11e. Status of Home Nations/ Regions – UPDATE

Dealt with under item 7.

11f. BWL Strategy 2017-21

Dealt with under item 7.

11g. Complaints' Log

Dealt with under item 10.

11h. Forward Agenda

The forward agenda circulated previously was noted.

12. Any Other Business

None.

13. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be 8 March 2017 at a venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 4.58 pm.