

**BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTERS' ASSOCIATION (TRADING AS BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING)**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 25 October 2021 held at East Stand, Leeds United FC, Elland Road, Leeds and via Virtual Conference Facility

Members Present (physically in attendance)

A Kinnear	A Metcalfe	M Martin	J Tong
T Whittaker	K Leonard	S Ward	D Kent
Z Kettle-Metcalfe	A Smeaton	O Krzyzston	S Martin
J Foster	C Williams	M Hill	G Cropper
E Muskett	K McPhee	D Sawyer	

Members Present (virtual attendance)

A Ajisafe	G Whitlow	R Tawse	R Stoner
M Hancock	G Williams	M Lynes	R Kechacha
M Irani	J Fenwick	R Ashworth	N Wood
P Edmondson	E Campbell		

Apologies

None received

Welcome

The meeting opened at 7.00pm.

Angus Kinnear, Chair of the BWL Board, welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. He noted that despite the challenging circumstances due to the pandemic, it had been a good year for BWL both on and off the platform, with a robust financial performance. He thanked everyone involved for their contribution.

1) To receive the Annual Report in accordance with Article 130.1

The Chair asked Ashley Metcalfe, CEO of BWL, to present the Annual Report.

Mr Metcalfe reported that the year had been challenging and a test of resilience. He noted that the initial focus was on ensuring the long-term protection of the organization with the decision to transition the educational programmes online being extremely popular and creating better than expected revenues although noted virtual competitions had taken longer to gain wider interest.

He thanked UK Sport and Sport England for their continued funding and flexibility of the use of the grant in the final year along with the additional funding which had been secured to support the talent pathway and preparations for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. He also reported that UK Sport had extended the funding to weightlifting within the Aspiration programme which helped those with Olympic qualifying ambitions. Finally, he advised that

support from UK Sport Major Events and Manchester City council had allowed a further Paralympic qualifier WPPO World Cup being run in Wythenshawe.

Mr Metcalfe provided an update on Sport England targets of diversity trends, influencing figures, membership numbers including those in low socio-economic groups.

Regarding elite performance and due to the cancellation of the majority of international competitions, Mr Metcalfe advised that BWL had still supported its leading female lifters so they remained in strong Olympic qualification positions and were well managed by Stuart Martin and his team so they performed well in Moscow at the European Championships. Under the leadership of Tom Whittaker, the team supported the elite para powerlifting team to make huge progress despite the challenges of the pandemic. At the Word Cup in Manchester, there were very encouraging performances from a number of the team members.

Mr Metcalfe reminded everyone of the winners of the Annual Achievement Awards and congratulated them all.

He advised that the financial year made a surplus of £89,835 and that a donation had been made to the new Charity. He also noted that good progress had been made with all areas of governance.

Finally, Mr Metcalfe congratulated Emily Campbell, Micky Yule, Louise Sugden and Olivia Broome for their outstanding performances in Tokyo.

- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Article 130.2

Mr Martin reported that a surplus of £89,835 had been generated which was the best results for a generation. He advised that this had been due to a growth in online course income and due to the generosity of Sport England in the use of the grant money. He provided a high-level analysis of income and expenditure and provided an update on the current position of the reserves which were currently healthy. Mr Kent asked if there was a plan to continue increasing the reserves and it was noted that a figure of £250k was optimal but anything over this should be re-invested back into the sport.

- 3) To formally elect Jenny Tong as a Non-Executive Director in accordance ith Articles 41, 42 and 130.4

The members voted to formally elect Jenny Tong.

- 4) To note that there are no elected directors retiring and seeking re-election and that no other nominations have been received

The members noted that no nominations had been received.

- 5) To transact any other business that is included on the notice calling the meeting in accordance with Article 122.5.

No other business was raised.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 7.40pm.

## Open Forum

The Chair then invited questions from members on any matters not covered by the Annual General Meeting.

D Kent – asked whether BWL had plans to be part of the return to activity. A Metcalfe responded that it was the aim for BWL to become a bigger and stronger voice for strength related activity which was a key part of the new strategy due to be launched. He noted that there were plans to partner with the health and fitness sector in order to reach a broader audience.

D Kent – asked about the plan to correct the recent loss of members in low socio-economic groups. M A Metcalfe advised that projects and schemes would be developed with clubs in these areas.

J Tong – felt that BWL's social media focused on selling courses and not the sport of weightlifting. She also believed prices were too high. A Metcalfe responded that he believed all pricing was reasonable but would take on board the comments and review further. He also advised that the business model for all physical competitions was to break-even and not make money and as a result it was necessary to charge for competition entries and spectator tickets. It was suggested that development programmes to target particular groups and offer reduced ticket prices could be considered in future. A Kinnear advised that the social media calendar would be reviewed in order to balance commercial and athlete engagement posts.

G Whitlow – asked about the prospects for the Commonwealth Games in light of the core sports announcement. A Metcalfe noted that he was confident of a strong performance but there was a need to lobby the Commonwealth Games Federation to maintain the sport in the Games.

R Kechacha – asked if there was a membership strategy in place for 2022. A Metcalfe responded that a review was underway although noted this was challenging as historically members joined in order to enter competitions and there was need to bring membership levels back to pre-pandemic levels and that there was a need to find value added benefits to interest a broader audience. He advised that it was hoped a proposal would be presented to the Board in January and it was then aimed to go out to a wider consultation process before any decisions were made. D Kent asked if other sports had been reviewed and A Metcalfe confirmed this had been covered as part of the current review process. M Irani commented that it was a difficult challenge especially due to wide range of age groups involved in the sport and the lack of the sport being included in the school curriculum.

D Kent – asked about the plans for increased participation/interest on the back of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. A Metcalfe confirmed discussions were ongoing with Birmingham 2022 organisers about the opportunities to engage with the audience during the Games and legacy planning especially to build the sport in the Birmingham area.

A Kinnear thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for the questions raised.

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm.