



BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTERS ASSOCIATION (TRADING AS BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024

Held via Virtual Conferencing Facility

Date: Thursday 24 October 2024
Start: 19:00
Venue: Virtual via MS Teams

Members Present (virtual attendance)

A Kinnear	A Holt	A Smeaton	C MacDonald
D Hembrough	G Whitlow	H Bussey	J Masymor-Gee
J Payne	J Roebuck-Slaney	J Williams	L Hinds
M Lynes	M Hill	M Martin	M Curtain
N Hanakan	P Edmondson	R Wainwright	S Drammeh
S Southern	S Martin	S Ward	T Drake
T Whittaker			

Apologies

A Brigham	B Richens	B Kettlety	C Murray
C Deacon	D Sawyer	H Moore	H Flannery
H Gilmore	J Cowen	J Harrison	J Tong
J Harrison	K Leonard	K Sotherton	K McPhee
L Hinds	L Horvath	L Smith	M Butcher
S Aksel			

Welcome

A Kinnear greeted and welcomed all attendees to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of British Weight Lifting, thanking everyone for their passionate and committed support in driving forward our sports of weightlifting and para powerlifting for the benefit of our lifters and our wider community.

Tonight's AGM is being held legally and in compliance with the articles of association of BWL. This follows last year's Extraordinary General Meeting held on 20 September 2023 when amendments were made to our articles to permit online meetings of the membership.

A Kinnear confirmed the meeting quorate at 25, noting minimum attendance is ten (10) members as per article 103 of the statutes.

Procedural Matters

As per the decision of the Board on 23 September 2024, the Annual General Meeting was called at least 21 days prior to the said meeting. In this regard, the AGM was called on 2 October 2024 with all relevant documents being immediately published on the BWL website including:

- Official Notice / Agenda
- Audited Financial Statements, year ending 31 March 2024
- Proxy Form – (of which none were received)
- Minutes from 2023 AGM, (for transparency, Q&As from members have been included)

The Annual Report and Audited Finance Statement have already been approved by the Board. Moreover, as no elections are scheduled for this year's AGM, no decisions per se are required tonight.

The purpose of tonight is for the membership to receive the Annual Report and Audited Finance Statement and use this opportunity to ask questions of the Executive and Non-Executive Directors.

1) To receive the Annual Report in accordance with Article 135.1

M Curtain, CEO of BWL, presented the Annual Report noting that it had been circulated in advance to membership. No vote is required as the annual report has previously been approved by the Board.

M Curtain noted a successful year of transformation to a modern NGB through an athlete and sports focused approach using the culture of the organisation at the heart of everything we do, from participation to performance. M Curtain celebrated the success of Emily Campbell's bronze medal at Paris 2024 and the three medals at the Paralympic Games. This is the second successive Olympic / Paralympic cycle where Team GB have won four medals. We won our first medal in ten years at the World Junior Championships and secured medals at the European Junior Championships.

BWL remains in the second year of the Stronger Together strategy, showcasing strength as a lifestyle and acting as enabler for sporting success. The two key pillars of this strategy are:

- 1) Weightlifting (one word) and para powerlifting – *Competition/Performance*
- 2) Weight lifting (two words) – *Participation*

We are driving growth across the wider strength and functional fitness markets through partnerships and collaborations with National Fitness Games, and through hybrid competitions, Tier 4 competitions and Turf Games participation.

As detailed in the Annual Report, we have won medals in Armenia, India, Romania, Greece, Bulgaria, France, Georgia, UAE and Thailand across both weightlifting and para powerlifting. We hosted the biggest BUCS Championship to date and the biggest British Championships in Manchester 2023. We went to three platforms for the first time at the British Age Groups 2023 and in December 2023, we hosted the England Championships at the NEC, alongside FitFest which attracted enormous crowds.

BWL membership remains a 50/50 split across female/male and competition participation numbers are approximately 4,600 with BWL clubs delivering 105 competitions across the year.

BWL delivered their first coaching conference in 2023, Stronger Together, and a second conference will be held in January 2025.

The following team members are on the call, should you wish to ask any questions:

- Stuart Martin; Head of Performance, Weightlifting (Performance, Talent Transfer, Raise the Bar)

- Tom Whittaker; Director of Para Powerlifting
- Hannah Bussey; Sport Development Manager (Club Cup, Tier 4, School Games)

A video will be played at the end of the AGM, showcasing our growing online presence, investment into our marketing and communications and events delivered across the year (a link will be made available to view). Our athletes remain our ambassadors and role models, and we promote them across all levels from grassroots through to Masters.

Our membership is growing, but growth remains slower than we would prefer. We believe our membership is on the cusp of further growth, based on the implementation of new developments and systems.

MC highlighted the following areas of focus to the membership:

BWL Masters Strategy

We have recently included the Masters alongside our senior British and England Championships, but demand has increased and capacity is now an issue. A consultation webinar with the Masters community will be held to discuss ambitions and a competition format going forward

British Age Groups

Consideration was given to amending the format of the British Age Group competitions in 2024 but following member feedback the format remained unchanged this year. However, notice was given that the format will change to a more performance-focused competition in 2025. In November 2024, members will be briefed on proposed changes and a consultation will take place.

Regional British Age Groups & Regional British Opens

BWL recognises the need to create more opportunities for competition, outside of national events. Next month, members will be briefed on our intention to run Regional Age Group Championships alongside Regional British Open Championships, which would be held at identified clubs that have capacity to run such events. This should enable us to deliver three-four more events each year.

Para Powerlifting collaboration with British Powerlifting

As BWL continues to grow in the para powerlifting space, we have started a collaboration with British Powerlifting to develop competition opportunities for our athletes to compete.

2026 Commonwealth Games

Weightlifting and para powerlifting have been confirmed onto the programme of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games, an optimised programme of ten sports creating opportunity for our Home Nations and Crown Dependencies. In terms of technical matters, the final details of competition schedule, bodyweight categories and qualification systems are due by early 2025.

2027 European Championships, 2027 WPPO World Cup and 2027 European Masters

BWL have been conducting a feasibility study to consider bidding for the 2027 European Championships which will be concluded by December 2024. Working in partnership with UK Sport, we started with four host cities, which we have narrowed down to one. In parallel, and as a separate project, BWL were already bidding to host the WPPO Para Powerlifting World Cup 2026 with UK Sport. After visiting the prospective host city venue, it became clear that it was big enough for two sports and we decided to submit a joint bid to include the 2027 European Championships and the WPPO World Cup 2027 concurrently. We will know in early 2025 if funding has been approved by UK Sport. In addition, due to the size of the host city venue, BWL have reached out to the international and

British Masters community to discuss the feasibility of also hosting the 2027 European Masters at the same time. The decision on this is due in May 2025.

2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Article 135.2

Mark Martin, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024. It was noted that no vote is required as the Board have already approved the accounts.

BWL ended the financial year with a surplus of £28,205 (versus £22,518 in 2023). The income and expenditure figures are lower than the previous years, due to a fall in grant income, with a corresponding fall in programme costs. The Legacy grant came to an end, and we drew down less on performance grants as the programme became more established. 2023 was a particularly big investment year from UK Sport due to the development of the Olympic programme.

There was a greater dependency in 2024 on commercial income generated by ourselves via our education course sales.

In terms of expenditure, project delivery costs reduced and we have been running with a full quota of staff across the year.

Our reserves continue to grow, and we remain in a stable position. The Board makes a continued effort to ensure that we sit in the middle of the reserves band, striking the right balance between fiscal prudence and investing money back in the sport.

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

A Kinnear noted that there are no retiring directors, so no further action needed.

4) To transact any other business that is included on the notice calling the meeting in accordance with Article 135.5

No other business to be transacted as no requests received. The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and attendance and declared the formal part of the meeting closed.

A short video will be played to close the Annual General Meeting after which the meeting proceeded to Questions and Answers. *Unfortunately, technical issues prevented the video sharing, but a link will; be provided at the end of the minutes.*

Open Forum / Questions and Answers

BWL welcomed questions from the members.

Q: Noting that government funding has decreased, can this be forecasted for the next year?

A: Regarding the 2025-2029 cycle, we as a sport have gone through consultation and review with UK Sport and have received an indicative position. The final decision will be confirmed by December. Sport England have advised us of our funding position, which may be likely to improve noting the Commonwealth Games 2026 announcement.

Q: Regarding the British Age Groups consultation – how is the process of selection going to work including rankings and visibility, and have you considered the mental health challenges that this may present (in terms of weight management)?

A: British Age Groups will be a more performance focused approach alongside participation focused events in the form of the Regional Age Group events. It is still a work in progress and the technical details still need to be discussed and finalised via consultation with members, academies and the Board. Mental health and wellbeing will be a focus in these discussions, we have a clinical psychologist and qualified nutritionist as part of the BWL team who will have input.

Q: What is the health of weightlifting globally and how does that relate to where we are?

A: The sport is in good health internationally, it will always be deemed high-risk because of the historical doping associations but almost 50% of the IWF budget goes towards anti-doping controls, which is an unprecedented level. This level of investment ensures weightlifting to continue to be part of the Olympic programme, with all anti-doping managed by an independent third-party organisation (International Testing Agency). The positive state of the sport is reflected by three points, 1) last year, weightlifting was confirmed for LA 2028; 2) the president of the IOC attended the weightlifting in Paris to watch refugee athlete Ramiro Mora Romero (the president did not attend weightlifting in Tokyo); and 3) weightlifting's inclusion on the programme of the Commonwealth Games 2026.

Angus Kinnear thanked all members for our attendance and noted that BWL and the Board welcome feedback, queries and questions from the membership to continue the growth of our beloved sport.

[BWL AGM video](#)

The meeting closed at 20:03.