

BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTERS ASSOCIATION (TRADING AS BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2025

Held via Virtual Conferencing Facility

Date: Thursday 11 December 2025

Time: 19:00

Venue: Virtual via MS Teams

Members Present		
A Brigham	J Adams	P Edmondson
A Herbert	J Tong	R Ashworth
A Smeaton	K Leonard	R Tawse
B Richens	L Horvath	S Ellis
C Peel	M Curtain	S Finch
C Deacon	M Hill	S Martin
D Sawyer	M Keogh	S Southern
D Leith	M Martin	S Ward
E Agar	M Willis	T Drake
H Bussey	N Absalom	T Whittaker
H Allison	N Hanakam	

Apologies		
A Capavanni	E Muskett	K Campbell
A Holt	H Gilmore	L Smith
B Kettleby	J Maysmor Gee	R Wainwright
C Murray	J Roebuck Slaney	
C McClarnon	J Payne	

Welcome and Notice of Meeting

The meeting was opened by Matthew Curtain, BWL Chief Executive Officer, who welcomed members and noted apologies.

- The Notice of AGM was published on 19 November 2025, providing the required 21 days' notice in accordance with the Articles of Association.
- Members were informed via the BWL website and Mailchimp circular.
- The Annual Report, audited accounts, and proxy forms were circulated with the AGM notice.
- The AGM fell slightly outside the seven-month window set out in the Articles; however, the Board confirmed that the delay was unavoidable due to final-stage scrutiny by the independent auditors.
- The meeting was being recorded.

Matthew Curtain formally introduced Rupinder Ashworth as Independent Chair of British Weightlifting and confirmed that her role as Chair of the AGM was compliant with Article 105 of the BWL Articles.

Chair's Welcome, Attendance and Quorum

Rupinder Ashworth welcomed members and confirmed:

- Attendance (thirty-two) was sufficient to declare the meeting quorate, with the minimum requirement of ten members met in accordance with Article 103.
- No proxy forms had been received by 4 December 2025 deadline.
- The published agenda would be followed, with an informal Membership Q&A session to take place after the conclusion of the formal business.

In Memoriam

The Chair invited members to remember members of the BWL community who had passed away during the 2024–25 year:

- **John McNiven MBE** – Former international weightlifter, technical official, and major contributor to the sport in Scotland and the UK.
- **Chung Kum Weng** – Commonwealth Games gold medallist and Olympian, with significant contributions to weightlifting in Wales and internationally.
- **Trisha Forbes** – Highly accomplished Masters athlete and respected member of the weightlifting community.

A short period of silence was observed in their memory.

Chair's Opening Address

The Chair delivered her opening remarks, reflecting on:

- Her first AGM as Chair of British Weightlifting.
- The strong performances of athletes across Olympic, Paralympic, and other international competitions during the year.
- Appreciation for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, staff, and wider stakeholders who support the sport at all levels.
- Her commitment to supporting the continued growth, governance, and success of British Weightlifting

FORMAL AGENDA

1 To Receive the Annual Report (Article 135.1)

Matthew Curtain presented the Annual Report for the year 2024–25.

Key highlights included:

- Outstanding performances at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, where British lifters secured four medals, equalling the nation's best-ever combined Olympic and Paralympic return.
- A total of 28 medals won across all international competitions during the year.
- Continued growth in participation, with 3,775 members, 147 affiliated clubs, and a record 6,569 competition entries.
- Progress in inclusion and education, including new coaching scholarships and the launch of the UK's first adaptive lifting competition.
- Continued full compliance with the UK Code for Sports Governance, reaffirmed by UK Sport in December 2024.
- Record investment of £5.6 million from UK Sport for the Los Angeles 2028 cycle and an additional £1 million from Sport England.
- Strategic priorities for 2026–2030, including expanding coach education, increasing participation, diversifying income, hosting major international events, and strengthening athlete and coach pathways.

2 To Receive the Annual Accounts (Article 135.2)

The Chair introduced Mark Martin, BWL Chief Finance Officer, who presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Key points noted:

- Total income of £2,767,393 and total expenditure of £2,718,727.

- An operating surplus of £58,353 for the year.
- Reserves increased to £358,966, placing BWL within its agreed reserves policy range.
- Income continued to be driven primarily by grant funding, course delivery, and membership services.
- Staffing costs were effectively controlled, ensuring the majority of funding continued to be invested directly into sport and programmes.

Members were invited to ask questions. None were raised at this stage.

3 To Formally Re-elect a Non-Executive Director (Articles 41, 42 and 135.4)

The Chair proposed the formal re-election of Jennifer Tong as a Non-Executive Director.

It was noted that:

- Jennifer Tong was first elected to the Board on 17 March 2021.
- She was re-appointed by the Board on 17 March 2025 for a further four-year term, ending on 17 March 2029.
- In accordance with the Articles, endorsement by the membership was required.

A confidential poll was conducted with voting options of *Yes*, *No*, or *Abstain*.

Voting Outcome:

- Yes: 54%
- No: 14%
- Abstain: 32%

The required majority having been achieved, Jennifer Tong was duly re-elected as a Non-Executive Director until 17 March 2029.

4 Any Other Business (Article 135.5)

The Chair confirmed that no other business had been included on the notice calling the meeting.

Closing of the Formal Meeting

The Chair thanked members, Board Directors and executive staff for their attendance and contributions. Members were advised that the draft minutes would be circulated in due course. The

formal business of the Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 20:00.

Memberships Questions and Answers

Following the conclusion of the formal AGM, the floor was opened for questions from members:

Qualification Systems and Competition Structure

Members raised questions regarding:

- Qualification processes for national championships, including the allocation of quota places and the use of first-come, first-served entry systems following initial invitations.
- The impact of technical issues with entry systems and the fairness of ranking beyond initial invitation rounds.
- The structuring of A and B groups at national competitions, including the implications for medal contention and competitive fairness.

The Chief Executive and Executive Team explained:

- The historical rationale for invitation-based systems and subsequent adaptations to manage administrative complexity.
- The balance required between performance objectives, logistical delivery, and member experience.
- That feedback would be reviewed, with a commitment to revisit qualification and session structures ahead of future championships.

Virtual Qualification Events

Members queried the continued use of virtual qualification events.

It was confirmed that:

- Virtual events would not be used in the 2026 competition calendar.
- This decision was taken to ensure compliance with UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) requirements and governance standards.

Future Championships and Calendar Planning

The Chief Executive provided an update on:

- Provisional planning for the 2026 British Championships, with dates anticipated in May 2026.
- Ongoing discussions regarding the potential to host a Commonwealth Games qualification event alongside the Championships, subject to international approval.

Athlete Representation

Members were reminded that the Athlete Representative and Non-Executive Directors were available to receive feedback and queries from athletes and members outside of formal meetings.