



Matthew Curtain, CEO

British Weight Lifting updates

April 2026

Dear members

April has been a month of recognition, development, and continued momentum across British Weight Lifting, as we build towards a busy and exciting period of competition.

We were delighted to see **Fatemeh Keshavarz** awarded an **Olympic Solidarity Refugee Athlete Scholarship** - a fantastic achievement and a powerful reflection of both her dedication and the opportunities that sport can provide. This support will play an important role in her continued development, and we look forward to following her progress on the international stage.

With just one month to go until the **2026 British Championships**, excitement is building for what promises to be a standout event in the domestic calendar. As a key qualifying competition for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games for weightlifting, this year's Championships carry even greater significance. We are also delighted to welcome **Junior Team USA**, whose participation will add an exciting international dimension and further elevate the level of competition. It promises to be a fantastic showcase of weightlifting and para powerlifting, and I encourage our community to get behind the event.

This month also saw the announcement of the **shortlist for the 2025 British Weight Lifting Annual Achievement Awards**, recognising the individuals, clubs and volunteers who have made an outstanding contribution to our sport. I encourage all members to celebrate and support those shortlisted as we prepare to honour their achievements.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the future of the organisation, we will soon be sharing a **draft of the British Weight Lifting Strategic Plan** with members. This will provide an opportunity for you to review and contribute feedback, helping to shape the direction of weightlifting and para powerlifting in the UK over the coming years.

We are also currently in the midst of the **European Championships**, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all athletes representing Great Britain and England the very best in competition. We look forward to following their performances on the international stage.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome three new members of staff to the organisation: **Kate Cook**, Head of Marketing, **Emily Thompson-Chisnall**, Event Support Officer, and **Scott Simon**, Powerlifting Pathway Development Coach. The new team members bring a wealth of experience, and we look forward to the impact they will make as we continue to grow and strengthen our sport.

As we move into May, attention turns firmly to the **British Championships**, and I wish all athletes and coaches the very best in their final preparations.

Kindly,

Matthew Curtain

CEO

