

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 11.00am on Sunday 27 October 2019 at the Eddie Gray Suite, East Stand, Leeds United, Elland Road, Leeds LS11 0ES

Members Present and Apologies

Dr M Irani	A Metcalfe	M Martin
T Whittaker	K Leonard	S Ward
K Bailey	A Smeaton	E Halstead
T Lloyd	J Maples	T Shaw
R Stoner	D Kent	J Tong
R Tawes	M Harris	

Apologies:

A Kinnear	G Taylor	K Sotherton
D Knaggs	M Curtain	J Fenwick
R Ashworth	P Roberts	N Wood
S Doran	K Morgan	D Hembrough

Welcome

The meeting opened at 11.00am.

Dr Mike Irani, Board member of BWL, welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. He advised he was chairing the meeting as the Chair, Angus Kinnear, was unable to be present. He requested that all mobile phones were switched off and that no filming was carried out. He advised that the meeting would be carried out in line with the Articles of Association and company law. He noted that following the completion of the full meeting, there would be an open forum for questions and answers whereby he would decide if the questions could be responded to or whether they were considered to be of a private and confidential nature.

The Chair confirmed that appropriate notice for the AGM had been given in accordance with the Articles of Association, that apologies for absence had been received from several Board members, there was a quorum present and he outlined the matters of business to discuss with one item requiring to be voted upon.

1) To receive the Annual Report in accordance with Article 122.1

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

Mr Metcalfe reported that 2018/19 had been a positive year both on and off the platform. He advised that operationally the organisation had over achieved on its targets, had grown the number of national events organised and continued to deliver against its five-year strategy. He provided an overview of the Sport England targets and progress made against these so far noting all KPIs had been achieved. He also advised that all UK Sport performance milestones had been achieved with an improvement from the prior year.

He highlighted the continued international success especially at the Commonwealth Games held at the Gold Coast in 2018 with 11 medals being won in total. Since then a number of other international events had been attended with further success. He thanked UK Sport who had provided additional aspiration funding to support nine athletes in their attempt to reach Tokyo. He also thanked Tom Whittaker and his team in managing the para-powerlifting programme.

Mr Metcalfe thanked the numerous volunteers involved in the sport in a number of roles noting that a strong reputation was being built with a number of British Technical Officials being asked to attend more international events.

He advised that the organisation was in a much stronger position than several years ago but there was a continued need to encourage and embrace change going forward. Sustainability was a key challenge with the reduction in government funding and the need to increase commercial income, grow membership and find new markets. Finally, he thanked the BWL team and the Board of Directors.

2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 in accordance with Article 122.2

Mr Martin reported that a surplus of £7.2k had been generated against a breakeven budget. He noted that the Sport England funding had reduced in the year which had resulted in a higher percentage of commercial income being generated. He advised that the reserves were healthy and would need to be maintained. D Kent asked if there was a target for the reserves and Mr Martin noted that 12 weeks trading figures are normally recommended but the current balance of £100k would only equate to four weeks. However, it was confirmed the current strategy is to breakeven with any surplus made being re-invested back into the sport. T Shaw suggested that developing relationships with Crossfit could be financially worthwhile. A Metcalfe responded that links with Crossfit continued to be pursued but it was important to maintain BWL values of lifting safely and clean.

3) To note the appointment of Angus Kinnear as the Independent Chairman in accordance with Articles 39 and 122.3

The members noted the appointment of Angus Kinnear.

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 approve that the Company's Articles of Association be amended by special resolution the adoption of the Articles of Association attached to the Notice in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Company's existing Articles of Association

The background to the changes were provided noting that the Board of Directors recommended the new Articles be adopted. The members voted to approve the new Articles of Association.

6) 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 12.15.

Open Forum

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

J Tong – suggested that membership should be opened up to supporters and parents. Mr Metcalfe noted that the membership package was undergoing a full review with a new package due to be launched in the New Year whilst acknowledging there was a need to attract new members.

M Harris – suggested offering seminars to large gym chains to demonstrate Olympic Weightlifting and to try to develop relationships with them.

D Kent – noted that some sports offer introductory sessions, eg 8 week courses and thought it could be worthwhile for BWL to develop an appropriate syllabus for clubs to run courses to bring more people into the sport whilst being financially worthwhile for BWL and the clubs.

T Shaw – requested that there were more competitions scheduled with a wider geographical coverage especially in the North East. She also requested that children who compete should be given something tangible, eg a certificate or card.

R Stoner – noted concern over the recent Age Group Competition where it had been published to run over a weekend but was then changed to a one-day event. Mr Metcalfe noted that entry numbers often change/ fluctuate so sometimes it is necessary to change the competition accordingly but acknowledged a need to improve communications around schedules.

There were a number of discussions over appropriate locations for competitions, when the 2020 calendar and NQTs would be published and the need to align club, regional and national competition dates.

R Stoner – asked about the policy over club coaches being able to accompany their lifters to international competitions. A Metcalfe noted that a small number of experienced international coaches were selected to coach the whole GB team at these competitions and this seemed to be working from a performance perspective. He noted that engagement with individual coaches (and parents where appropriate) was encouraged through the Talent and Development camps in order to build communication between the individual/club and arena coaches. T Whittaker advised that BWL need to make decisions from a performance perspective which often means individual coaches cannot attend international competitions.

D Kent – queried the selection policy for the Youth competition running in December noting only a small team was being sent. A Metcalfe responded that the team selection was made based on funding available. D Kent queried whether the selection policy had been followed accurately in this case. Mr Metcalfe noted that all selection policies were checked by appropriate bodies, Selection Committees were chaired by an Independent Board member and there was an appeals process which could be followed. It was suggested that this particular query be discussed outside the meeting.

J Tong – asked why weightlifting had not been included in the GCSE curriculum. Mr Metcalfe noted that BWL had worked with the YST to try to get the sport into the curriculum but the Department for Education had deemed the sport not to be rigorous enough. Mr Metcalfe also noted that BWL was trying to achieve BUCs recognition but this was a time-consuming process.

The meeting was closed at 1.15pm.