



**BRITISH
WEIGHT
LIFTING**

Welcome to the latest edition of our members newsletter. As we enter a further lockdown period in England, we are continuing to lobby the Government, the DCMS and other key stakeholders on your behalf and we are strongly urging the Government to take action now and implement a comprehensive Sports Recovery Fund. We have already signed a recent letter to the Prime Minister, alongside 160 other sporting leaders but recognise that support for the sporting sector is essential, especially as we need communities to be active and healthy, if we are going to get through this pandemic and provide the NHS with the support they need.

While it is disappointing that we are unable to hold a British Senior Championship this year, we believe that cancelling the virtual event will ultimately protect the integrity of the competition. With each home nation being under different restrictions in terms of access to gym facilities, running a Virtual British Senior Championship under these conditions would not have been representative of the whole country's weightlifting abilities. We believe that taking the difficult decision to remove this event from the competition calendar was the fairest approach in light of the developing situation nationally and hope that this will give everyone more time to prepare for the 2021 edition.

For those who are still able to compete, we are assisting the various home nations in running virtual open events over the next month. Lifters from across the UK will be eligible to compete in any of these competitions. We hope that these events will provide a good experience for lifters looking to test their skills in a competitive setting before the end of the calendar.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Sir Ben Helfgott on his recent Pride of Britain award. Sir Ben is a great ambassador for the sport who has demonstrated great courage to overcome adversity and inspire a generation of athletes. He is hugely respected within the weightlifting community and everyone at BWL is absolutely delighted for him.

Ashley Metcalfe

BWL CEO