



**BRITISH
WEIGHT
LIFTING**

Welcome back to the first newsletter of the New Year. I'm hoping everybody is safe and well and enjoyed the Christmas period. There's no doubt that we've stepped into a difficult start to the year with the country going into a national lockdown. It's halted training for many of you and at a tough time of year when so many people rely on it for mental wellbeing as well as competitive sport.

Despite this we're hopeful for the year ahead to be a positive one when it comes to weightlifting. We had confirmation from UK Sport at the end of last year that they're supporting the launch of an exciting new Olympic Weightlifting performance infrastructure as well as increasing their support of our current World Class Performance Programme for Paralympic Powerlifting. This support will allow us all to continue to build upon the solid foundations and recent international successes we already have in both sports for current lifters as well as inspiring future generations.

We have the WPPO Para Powerlifting World Cup in Manchester approaching quickly in March and we remain extremely grateful for the support of Manchester City Council and UK Sport in supporting this event. This support will allow our lifters a fantastic opportunity to qualify for both the Tokyo Paralympics and the 2021 World Championships later in the year. While it will take place behind closed doors we're looking forward to being able to follow along on our social media to help support our fantastic athletes who will be competing.

The national lockdown has meant we've had to look at our competitions calendar again and evaluate what is safe and what's possible to continue with. We're delighted that we will be offering a hybrid calendar this year with opportunities for all our members, whatever age, to lift. This would ideally be in a physical competition but, if not, in a virtual capacity. The new calendar will be re-launched very soon and we will let all members know which competitions we're able to deliver appropriately, and in accordance with the government guidance, as soon as it is available.

We were very saddened to hear of the loss of Brian Hamill in December. He was a well-loved man who dedicated his life to the weightlifting community. He coached weightlifting for an incredible 40 years at Woking Weightlifting Club and sat on the British Weight Lifting Board between 1996 to 2003. His contributions were hugely valuable to the community and the loss of his knowledge, expertise and passion will be enormous.

Stay safe and all the best

Ashley