

Update from CEO Ashley Metcalfe

“What an incredible finish to 2021 on the international platform.

The GB Para Powerlifting team topped the junior Para Powerlifting World Championship medal table in Tbilisi for the first time with every athlete securing a place on the podium. There were some outstanding performances from both junior and senior athletes, the results are the best British Weight Lifting has experienced in many years with two senior silver medals from Zoe and Olivia and an array of impressive junior medal performances.

This was followed by the Olympic weightlifting team competing in Tashkent last week. Although we had hoped to send a large team of athletes to compete in the rearranged Commonwealth Championships this unfortunately was not possible due to the safety of the athletes. Instead, we sent a much-reduced team of four to compete in the World Weightlifting Championships. I must extend my congratulations to Sarah Davies who secured a silver medal in the clean & jerk and a silver for her total and Emily Campbell who secured a bronze in the snatch, silver in the clean and jerk and a bronze medal for her total. Sarah’s medal was also the first Olympic weightlifting silver medal for a GB athlete at a World Championships.

This month UK Sport confirmed an additional £11.2m of funding into summer Olympic and Paralympic sport to support preparations for the Paris 2024 Games. We were delighted to be included in the funding and remain extremely grateful to The National Lottery and UK Sport for their continued support and confidence in our paralympic team that allows our athletes the opportunity to achieve their sporting ambitions.

It has been nice to see all our athletes, coaches and volunteers in the last quarter of the year as we returned to in person competitions. I am looking forward to this continuing in to 2022 as we look forward to the British Championships which is being held at Derby Arena on 29 – 30 January. The Championships will act as a key qualifying competition for Home Nation weightlifters wanting to compete at the Commonwealth Games in July 2022 and it promises to be a nail-biting watch.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks and good wishes to all our members for their continued support of British Weight Lifting. I wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year”.

Ashley Metcalfe, British Weight Lifting CEO.