



Minutes
of the
British Weight Lifting Board Meeting

Venue: Burleigh Court Hotel, Loughborough
Date: Wednesday 9 December 2015
Start: 1.00pm.

Present: Peter Rowley (PWR), Ashley Metcalfe (AM), Catherine Eastham (CE), David Knaggs (DK), Mark Martin (MM), Patrick Roberts (PR), Guy Taylor (GT), Michele Verroken (MV) (from item 3).

In attendance: Tommy Yule (TY) for item 6, David Gent (DG) for item 7.

1. General

1.1 Chairman's Welcome

PWR welcomed all to the meeting, declared the meeting quorate, outlined the key items of the agenda and reminded members that discussions at the meeting were confidential and none of the proceedings should be disclosed to third parties without his prior written approval in accordance with the directors' code of conduct that all members had signed.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Malcolm Boyd (MB), Stewart Cruikshank (SC) and Mike Irani (MI).

2. Declarations of Interest

PWR reminded members of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision. PWR drew members' attention to his role with Sport England and Coachwise Ltd. No other or new declarations of interest were declared. **It was agreed that the register of interests would be circulated in advance of the next meeting so that all board members were aware of connections that may be useful to BWL.**

3. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 23 September 2015 circulated previously were agreed as read. AM was continuing to progress the possibility of a coaching forum with TY and DG. There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 October 2015 circulated previously were agreed as read. PWR, PR and AM responded to questions from other members as to the attendance, proceedings and members' questions at the meeting. PWR and AM undertook to consider the possibility of a presentation and open forum during the British Championships in 2016 to facilitate member engagement, with the AGM to follow immediately after the September 2016 board meeting and revert.

5. Decisions taken outside the Board Meeting

None.

7. Sport Development, Coach Education and Sport England Review (taken as item 6)

DG informed board members upon sport development, in particular that the project with Reebok Archon had been launched; that the work of the RDOs was achieving targets and building local partnerships notwithstanding capacity constraints in view of their part-time positions; and the TCRR circulated previously, now a robust document requiring board approval. DG responded to questions pertaining to health and safety, the role of UKAD, the consultation and review process. **It was agreed that the TCRR would become effective from 1 January 2016 with amendments made as necessary on an annual basis following a 6-week consultation period and thereafter following periodic review, with the board reserving the right to amend as considered fit, delegating the pragmatic amendment of TCRR to the CEO, who should report the use of such delegated authority to the first available board meeting.**

DG also updated the board on discussions with BUCS; agreement to the new competition structure, planning for the 2016 season and continuing modest growth in membership numbers. A technical officials' course had been redeveloped; the number of delivery centres was increasing and relationships with Crossfit's training arm and other private operators were forging; the website for Weight Lifting Learning was still work-in-progress and work had commenced with 1st4sport/Coachwise launching a new range of products.

The mid-year review with Sport England had confirmed that we were fulfilling expectations and the joint market-mapping with swimming was likely to be promising. Sport England, together with AfPE and the YST had welcomed the statement on developing the relationship with young people and **the policy was endorsed by the board** with the board's thanks to be passed on to the joint authors. It was suggested that we should try to have a demonstration included in the 2016 School Games. The APS9 figures had been received earlier that day and

whilst there was a small drop in aggregate numbers from 100k to 97k, the decrease was attributable to fewer numbers lifting free weights in contrast to increasing numbers weightlifting, particularly women. Sport England had confirmed that our results were satisfactory, remaining substantially ahead of the 2017 end target of 92k.

DG reminded board of the unanimous agreement of the need for change to the structure in England at the last meeting and reported upon the positive development of proposals at the meeting of regions at Loughborough the previous month attended by MB, PWR, DG, TY and AM. Members were pleased to learn that the regional representatives were keen to establish this group as the English Regions Group (ERG). CE confirmed that the Commercial and Development Group supported the way forward and **it was agreed that ERG would advise the board on English matters with each region represented by a responsible member who would operate collectively as one integrated body within BWL's corporate structure, with regions retaining their assets and regional representatives acting under a BWL volunteer agreement by 1 January 2017 or sooner.** DG undertook to circulate a draft of the volunteer agreement for comment.

Board then considered Home Nations' matters. In particular, Northern Ireland Weight Lifting (NIWL) had requested BWL's support in gaining NGB recognition with Sport NI. Following an update from DG, AM and PR and questions as to certain anti-doping and safeguarding arrangements and responsibilities, **it was agreed that NIWL become a subcommittee of the BWL board to enable BWL to assist NIWL to seek recognition with Sport NI.** In turn, this may progress to a single Agreement with the 3 Home Nations as to what may be a 'British' and what may be a 'Home Nation' matter and explain how BWL will operate as 'one' NGB. Members recognised that the Scottish and Welsh bodies had their own issues to attend to but **agreed in principle to drafting a suitable agreement to form the basis of discussions with all parties to commence in 2016.**

TY Joined the meeting.

6. Performance and UK Sport update (taken as item 7)

TY presented upon results, which have all been highlighted and can be currently found on BWL's web site, from the World Championships, the European Juniors and Under 23s, the Commonwealth Championships and the IPC European Championships since the last board meeting; the prospects of winning representation at Rio; the expectations of UK Sport for Tokyo investment and their principles of investment and our strategy planning framework.

TY also responded to various questions from board members, in particular the challenges of maintaining an elite programme for male lifters and the lack of available focus, investment and time in doing so and whether it diverted attention from what we were required to do to fulfil our obligations to UK Sport for Rio. TY reported that UK Sport had confidence in our strategy and were happy with progress towards Rio and Mission 2016 and that the value of any investment for Tokyo was likely to flat-line. He undertook to report back at the March meeting, by which time the outcome of UK Sport's deliberations re Tokyo should be known.

Members thanked TY for a very encouraging report of improving performances by athletes.

GT, DG and TY left the meeting.

8. Minutes and recommendations from sub-committees

8a Performance Group

PWR informed members on behalf of GT that the group had not met formally since the last board meeting, but that GT liaised regularly with TY and that athletes' representation on the group was being explored.

8b Commercial and Development Group

CE reported that the group had met and considered the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review on investing stakeholders, the imminent release of the new DCMS strategy for sport, the performance of 110% and the website's design and useage.

8c Finance and General Purposes Group

PR reported upon various discussions among members on VAT registration following a report by haysmacintyre funded by Sport England; a recommendation would follow when additional information from our auditors was to hand. PR also reported upon the transition to the new risk management framework; the draft circulated by AM was work-in-progress and would be detailed further in the new year for further deliberation at the March 2016 meeting.

9. Finance Matters and Update

9a and 9b Management Accounts for October 2015 and forward forecast and budget for 2015/16

MM referred to the papers circulated previously, the summary income and expenditure accounts for to October 2015 inclusive of various slides presented to members at the meeting. Following the satisfactory performance in October, likely to be built upon in November, we remain on target to deliver a strong performance during the final quarter of 2016 to achieve budgeted surplus by the year-end. PWR stressed the need to do so given the likelihood of the challenging bidding process to be required to secure Sport England funding for the 2017/21 cycle. Cash flow remained comfortably positive.

Members noted the position.

9c haysmacintyre VAT update

Dealt with under 8c above. Members noted the position.

9d Financial policy review

MM referred to the paper circulated previously and members noted that the review of financial procedures funded by Sport England had confirmed that our procedures were adequate and that only minor recommendations had been suggested.

10. Risk register

AM referred to the revised risk register circulated previously, reminding members that the full population of the risks remained work in progress but that generally the risk profile had stabilised or improved. Members noted the improved position and the identification of the new risk of a possible shortage of technical officials, hence the need to offer a new technical officers' course referred to elsewhere in the agenda.

11. CEO's update

AM referred to his comprehensive report circulated previously, most of which was for information only, but drawing members' attention in particular to Moore Stephens' 'final report, confirming an improved grading had been forwarded to Sport England and UK Sport. AM undertook to provide board members with a copy. He also indicated the likely board structure following the formation of the England Group and Home Nations single agreement and provided an update in international matters pertaining to future elections to various committees, the need to consider nominations carefully and the possibility of changes to eligibility for the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

AM also gave an indication of what Sport England's future strategy may look like, commented upon by PWR (having declared an interest in the matter previously). Members considered the possible implications for BWL.

The complaints log and the continuing matter with one complainant was noted, upon which DK provided a commentary.

12. Chairman's update

PWR referred to the papers circulated previously pertaining to the review of board effectiveness and skills audit. Members noted the improved perception of board effectiveness, discussed collective training needs and **it was agreed that external evaluation of effectiveness was not necessary presently, but a board training day and a proactive review of our current Articles funded if possible through Sport England's governance pot would be beneficial once Sport England's new strategy was known.** PWR undertook to investigate possibilities and revert. **It was further agreed that the current complement of 11 was optimal until further notice.**

The forward agenda and dates for 2016 meetings was noted.

14. Any Other Business

PWR thanked members for their contributions during 2015, and wished all the compliments of the season.

The meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

15. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be 9 March 2016 at a venue to be confirmed.