



Minutes of the
British Weight Lifting Board Meeting

Venue: Sport Central, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST
Date: Tuesday 27 September 2016
Start: 1.00pm.

Present: Peter Rowley (PWR), Ashley Metcalfe (AM), Malcolm Boyd (MB), Stewart Cruikshank (SC), Catherine Eastham (CE), Mark Martin (MM) Patrick Roberts (PR), Guy Taylor (GT) and Michele Verroken (MV).

In attendance: Tommy Yule (TY) and David Gent (DG), both for items 1 – 7.

1. General

1.1 Chairman's Welcome

PWR welcomed all to the meeting, thanked GT for arranging the venue, 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 David Knaggs (DK), Mike Irani (MI) and Emily Godley (EG).

2. Declarations of Interest

PWR reminded members of the need to declare their interest in any items requiring a decision. PWR informed members that whilst his term as a board member of Sport England had ended, he remained a member of their Investment Committee and had been appointed chairman of the Sports Council Trust Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sport England. GT declared an interest in TASS and MV in the Commonwealth Games Federation. No other or new declarations of interest were declared. PWR asked members to inform AM of variations in interests as they occurred so that the register may be kept up to date.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 10 June 2016 and matters arising

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 10 June 2016 circulated previously were agreed as read and approved for posting on the website. There were no matters arising not appearing elsewhere on the agenda. CE reminded members that both MI and MV had volunteered to act as equality champions.

4. Decisions taken outside the Board Meeting

Members noted the approval of the Financial Statements of the company and its wholly owned subsidiary World Class Lifting Ltd. for the year ended 31 March 2016 on 9 September 2016.

PWR reminded members of his emails of 12 July 2016 and 29 August 2016, thanked those members who had expressed an interest in the role of Lead Non-Executive Director and asked that the minutes record that MV had accepted his invitation to take up the position.

5. Minutes and recommendations from sub-committees

CE, GT and PR updated members on respective committee matters.

In particular, GT commented upon the Performance Committee's selections for Rio and team manager for the Commonwealth Games, the relevant criteria thereto, the central programme, the likelihood of 8 funded athletes (currently 6) wef 1 April 2017, qualifying standards for the Commonwealth Games 2018, regional squads and the need for a developed England pathway.

CE reported upon the Development Committee's scrutiny, challenge and subsequent support for the Sport England submission to be discussed under item 7 and membership retention/recruitment.

PR reported upon the Finance and General Purposes Committee's considerations upon the draft Financial Statements (approved subsequently by the board on 9 September 2016), management accounts, haysmacintyre's seminar on internal audit and cyber risk, revisions to the risk policy, guidance notes and register for approval under item 9, the complaints log for consideration under agenda item 11g, the forthcoming mandatory governance code and related amendments to the Article of Association.

6. Performance and UK Sport update

TY spoke to his PowerPoint presentation on the themes of Rio, Tokyo, Development, Pathway and the Commonwealth Games.

In the Olympic Games, Rebekah Tiler (selected ahead of Zoe Smith, who sustained a shoulder injury at the British Championships), was the youngest athlete in the 69kg class and equalled her personal best with a total of 227kg, 5kg more than her total which secured 2016 European Championship bronze, finishing 10th. Sonny Webster lifted 333kg to finish 14th, 13kg less than his British Championship performance which gained him selection. In the Paralympics, Ali

Jawad won silver, Zoe Newson, bronze (achieving a PB and lifting 14kg more than her bronze medal performance in London), whilst Michael Yule and Natalie Blake finished 6th in their categories. UK Sport's provisional conclusions upon these very satisfactory better-than-target outcomes are that our Tokyo submissions are accepted provisionally without the need for a panel presentation (subject to some variations by 17 October), but as a Band 4 sport, the funding is uncertain and a decision on an indicative combined budget of £2.5m for Powerlifting and for a women's team of 8 able bodied weight lifters will not be made until 7 December, which if confirmed will require a stretch target of medal to top 6 performance in Olympic Weightlifting and 1 to 2 medals in IPC Powerlifting.

TY summarised young lifters' performances at the European Youth Championships and updated members upon the Pathway Development Curriculum, the BWL Talent Pathway and the new qualification procedure for the Commonwealth Games, which with 1 lifter per country per weight category would require development of a more focused and more competitive culture on very limited funding.

Following TY's responses to various observations and questions from board members, GT asked that the board's thanks be recorded to TY, the individual lifters, coaches and support team for the progress made during the Rio funding cycle and the successful outcomes.

EG had, through TY asked the board to consider and note athletes' concerns as to the implications and frustrations with lingering IOC and IWF deliberations around historic, current and pending doping decisions in the sport. A number of initiatives to lobby various organisations were offered and considered by the board, following which **it was agreed that AM and PWR would write to EG to confirm BWL's support for performance athletes, seek to influence international bodies as far as our voting allocation would allow and that MV and PWR would offer to meet with EG to allay concerns.**

7. Sport Development, Coach Education and Sport England Review

AM summarised several scoping meetings with Sport England to establish mutual understanding of our market and audience, following which Sport England had indicated that they would solicit an application for a funding range, subject to the submission of a detailed strategy and indicative budget for the period commencing 1 April 2017. DG then took the board through the development of the draft strategy since the last meeting on 10 June based upon the very encouraging findings of the market mapping research undertaken by Sheffield Hallam University through a Sport England grant and how we would engage the core market assessed as 60k (lower than that required and recorded by APS). Following endorsement of the strategy by CE and MB, **it was agreed that management would submit an appropriate application on the basis of a core market of 60k and a bid of up to £2.9m to Sport England by 31 October 2016.**

DG then updated the board on developments in coach education and learning, progress in development of the sport and safeguarding. Members noted the Northern Division's continuing disengagement and preference not to participate in the forthcoming English regions' meeting on 10 October and the continuing difficulties in the South-West to organise and represent.

TY and DG left the meeting.

8. Finance Matters and Update

MM referred to the papers circulated previously and the summary slides in the PowerPoint presentation. Members noted that following approval on 9 September 2016, the statutory accounts had been filed at Companies House.

Members noted the adverse variance for the 5 months to 31 August 2016, attributable to lower than budgeted course revenues, unanticipated expenditure pertaining to the British Championships and pathway funding in June, but better than budget months otherwise. The revised forecasted outcome for the full year and satisfactory cash flow were noted. PWR reiterated on behalf of the board the need for budget holders to be accountable for their areas of responsibility and to take up the offer of MM and himself to provide training as necessary.

9. Risk register

PR referred members to his update under agenda item above, the risk policy, guidance notes and register circulated previously and invited comments. Members' questioned ratings pertaining to doping, cyber and information risks, following which **the risk policy, guidance notes and register were approved.**

CE commented upon the desirability of managing crisis and issues communications proactively and offered to bring a paper to board for the December meeting.

10. CEO's update

AM's comprehensive report circulated previously for information only was noted.

MV left the meeting.

11. Board matters

11a. UKS /Sport England off-line self-assurance Governance Audit

AM outlined the offline self-assurance process, requiring a Board review, including the supply of all evidence (a full compendium of BWL external, internal and operational policies and documents) that the Executive rely upon and Board approval thereof for submission to UK Sport and Sport England by 31 October. Following discussion, **it was agreed that AM would populate the template and provides all supporting evidence to the Chairman to scrutinise and sign off on behalf of the Board in time for the deadline, reporting back to members as necessary.**

11b. Changes to BWL Articles

PWR referred to the paper and attendant appendix circulated previously updating members on discussions with legal advisors as to the changes necessary to the current Articles of Association pursuant to the forthcoming mandatory governance code and general updating.

Following discussion, **the proposed changes were agreed** and in particular, **it was confirmed that independent board members should also be members of BWL and that provisions for sub-committees and subsidiary companies should be as flexible as possible. PWR was authorised to continue to liaise with Emma Mason Squire Patton Boggs and circulate a revised set of Articles to be recommended by the board at the December meeting for members' approval at an Extraordinary General Meeting on a date to be decided.**

11c. Status of Regions

Dealt with under item 7.

11d. BWL Strategy 2017-21

Dealt with under item 7.

11e. UK Sport/Sport England's Governance Code

PWR declared an interest and informed members that he had continued to be consulted and included in development of the draft code which had been approved by Sport England's board on 20 September, was likely to have been approved by UK Sport's board on 22 September and that thereafter following final sign off by the joint steering group would be disseminated in October. The Code will build upon the Charter published in May, will be principles based and applied on a tiered approach, with the degree of prescription dependent upon the duration and nature of the funding that an organisation receives. Subject to amendment to current Articles, it was anticipated that BWL would be compliant.

11f. Board Update & Appointments

PWR updated members on the response to the advertisement for an independent non-executive director and that following initial sifting, MV, AM and he would interview 3 shortlisted candidates in London on 1 November. It was hoped that a preferred candidate may be appointed by the next meeting in December.

11g. Complaint's Log

PWR referred to the complaints log circulated previously and reported that he had corresponded with a complainant disappointed at not being selected as team manager for the Commonwealth Games.

11h. Forward Agenda

The forward agenda circulated previously was noted. AM would proffer suitable dates for 2017 and seek views upon the desirability of an additional meeting specific to strategic matters in May or June 2017.

11i. AGM – 16 October 2016

PWR updated members upon arrangements for the AGM, encouraging all members to attend or provide their proxy vote.

12. Any Other Business

PR informed members that he and CE had provided feedback to PWR following members' appraisal of the chairman's performance. MV would coordinate the appraisal process in 2017 in her capacity as lead non-executive director.

13. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be 8 December 2016 at a venue in Leeds to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm.