

MATTHEW CURTAIN

CEO



Dear Members,

This edition of our newsletter is a showcase of British Weight Lifting's recent achievements, featuring highlights from both February and March's major international competitions: the European Championships in Bulgaria and the Para Powerlifting World Cup in Dubai. We're excited to share a detailed account of our athletes' performances and the significant moments from these events.

European Weightlifting Championships - Sofia, Bulgaria (12-21 February)

In February, the European Weightlifting Championships in Sofia were a showcase of resilience and competitive spirit from Team GB. Amidst tough competition, our athletes displayed unparalleled dedication and performance. A highlight was Emily Campbell securing her 4th European Championship title, underscoring her dominance in the sport. We also celebrate Sarah Davies, who won a bronze medal in the clean and jerk with a lift of 128kg, and Chris Murray, who set new British records in the snatch with lifts of 143kg and 147kg. Our team, including Jessica Gordon Brown, Jonathan Chin, Erin Barton, Cyrille Tchatchet II, Andrew Griffiths, Zoe Smith, and Katrina Feklistova, exemplified technical excellence and mental fortitude. Their inspiring performances were supported by the critical roles of our Technical Officials, Dyana Altenor and Caroline Charles.

England Age Group Championships - Maidstone (23-25 February)

The England Age Group Championships in Maidstone showcased an exceptional standard of lifting, with 31 new British records set. We thank Maidstone Council, particularly Councillor Naghi and the Maidstone Leisure Centre staff, for their support, as well as Maidstone Weightlifting Club for securing a fantastic venue. This event was not only a competitive platform for young lifters but also a pivotal moment for future talents. Our dedication to developing young athletes continues to grow with each successful event.

Cancellation of the Para Powerlifting World Cup in Manchester

WPPO and British Weight Lifting (BWL) regret to announce that the Manchester 2024 World Cup has been cancelled. The Tbilisi 2024 World Cup, initially scheduled to take place on 19-22 April, will now take place on 19-26 June (the same dates previously planned for the Manchester World Cup). The Tbilisi World Cup will be the last opportunity for athletes to improve their rankings prior to the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

Triumph at Dubai and Road to Paris

The Para Powerlifting World Cup in Dubai marked a phenomenal showing for Great Britain's para-powerlifters, with the team achieving personal bests and setting new records. Matthew Harding and Mark Swan led the charge with podium finishes and record-breaking lifts in their respective categories, while other team members, including Liam McGarry, Rebecca Bedford, Louise Sugden, Charlotte McGuinness, and Olivia Broome, also delivered standout performances, securing crucial rankings for the Paris Games. This event was not only a testament to the athletes' dedication and hard work but also to the support from UK Sport and the invaluable guidance from coaches Tom Whittaker, Ben Richens, and Connor MacDonald.

Strategic Partnerships

We are delighted to announce the renewal of our partnership with Sport & Fitness Flooring, reinforcing our commitment to providing top-notch facilities for our members and clubs. This collaboration is vital in ensuring our athletes train in the best possible environments.

We are also excited to announce a significant milestone for British Weight Lifting: our partnership with BoxMate, a product of two years of collaborative efforts. This partnership promises to revolutionise the experience for BWL clubs by introducing advanced BoxMate features tailored to the needs of our community. This collaboration is a giant leap forward in our mission to elevate the lifting experience across our network.

Organisational Developments

[The appointment of Achilleas Tsogas](#) as the new CEO of the International Weightlifting Federation marks a significant moment for the sport globally. With Mr. Tsogas's extensive experience in sports management, we are optimistic about the future direction of weightlifting on the international stage.

Ramiro Mora joins Olympic Refugee Scholarship Programme

Ramiro Mora's achievements continue to elevate the standards within British Weight Lifting. His record-setting performances across multiple weight classes exemplify excellence and dedication. Beyond his physical achievements, Mora's story is profoundly compelling due to his recent induction into the Olympic Refugee Scholarship programme.

New Beginnings

We are proud to welcome Hayley Moore as our new Finance Support Officer. Hayley's addition to the team strengthens our organisational capacity to support the growth and success of weightlifting in the UK.

Let's carry the success into the upcoming challenges, standing united in our pursuit of lifting excellence.

Matthew Curtain
CEO