

MATTHEW CURTAIN

CEO



Dear Members

I am pleased to bring you some exciting news and updates from British Weight Lifting. Our sport is reaching new heights, and I want to ensure you are well-informed about the latest developments:

Black History Month holds a special place in our hearts as we take the time to celebrate and recognise the invaluable contributions of black athletes within our weightlifting community. Throughout October we've celebrated the contributions of our black athletes, emphasising diversity and inclusion. We highlighted their achievements and initiated a mentorship program for black female athletes.

European Team Championships

On 5 October 2023, in a thrilling weightlifting showdown, Great Britain competed against Germany and Austria in Obrigheim. Great Britain finished in third place.

European Weightlifting Federation Cup

British weightlifter Erin Barton, in partnership with Turkish athlete Hardal Ferdi, achieved a memorable third-place finish at the 2023 European Weightlifting Federation Cup. Erin's exceptional lifts in both the snatch and clean & jerk categories demonstrate her dedication and talent.

Coaching Conference:

On 14 October, the Stronger Together Coaching Conference took place at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham. We welcomed not only coaches from around the country but also athletes, technical officials, and special guests from neighbouring national governing bodies. The primary goal of "Stronger Together" was to bring together a remarkable group of coaches who play a crucial role in shaping the future of our sport. By facilitating connections, the event aimed to deepen the roots of our community, allowing veteran coaches to strengthen existing bonds while newcomers could learn and contribute.

British Masters Championships and British Open

On 21-22 October, the weightlifting community gathered in Scotland for a remarkable event - the British Masters Championships and British Open 2023. This competition, held at Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow, featured two dedicated platforms for the athletes. The competition was intense, showcasing the dedication and effort of athletes from across the UK.



Weightlifting's Olympic Return

We are delighted to announce that weightlifting has secured its place in the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028. The International Olympic Committee's decisive vote in favour is a testament to the enduring significance of our sport and the dedication of our athletes.

Micky Yule's Silver Medal Triumph

In recent news, Micky Yule, Scotland's representative in Para Powerlifting at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, has received the silver medal in the heavyweight category. This recognition comes after the disqualification of Indian Para powerlifter Sudhir due to a positive doping test, leading to Micky Yule's elevation to the well-deserved silver medal position, while Liam McGarry advances to fourth place, celebrating their remarkable international achievements.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting took place on 26 October 2023, via a virtual conference facility, marking the first time it was conducted online. During the AGM, the Annual Report was presented, providing insights into the organisation's strategic focus on weightlifting and para-powerlifting. This emphasis extended to areas such as governance, sport development, partnerships, brand development, as well as marketing and communications.

Staff Updates:

We are pleased to welcome Niko Hanakam to our team as the Pathway Officer for People Development at British Weight Lifting and Beverley Kettleby as Pathway Operations Lead. Niko and Beverley's expertise and dedication will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and development of our sport.

In Memoriam: David Pirie Webster OBE

We also bid farewell to the remarkable David Pirie Webster OBE, who made significant contributions as an author, historian, sports promoter, and administrator. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and loved ones.

As we continue to progress, it is essential to express our gratitude to our sponsors and partners who have been instrumental in our journey. We especially want to thank UK Sport for their unwavering support and collaboration.

These highlights reflect the dedication, resilience, and spirit of our weightlifting community. As we look ahead, let's draw inspiration from these stories and work together to elevate the sport we love.

Thank you for your continued support and stay tuned for more exciting developments.

Strength in Unity,

Matthew Curtain
CEO