



**Minutes of the**  
**British Weight Lifting Board Meeting**

**Venue:** The Jaguar Suite, Ricoh Arena, Coventry  
**Date:** Friday, 6 July 2018  
**Start:** 1.00 pm.

**Present:** Peter Rowley (PWR), Ashley Metcalfe (AM), Malcolm Boyd (MB), Catherine Eastham (CE), Patrick Roberts (PR), Guy Taylor (GT), David Knaggs (DK).

**In attendance:** Kath Leonard (KL), Mark Martin (MM), Tom Whittaker (TW), Sarah Davies (SD) (from item 5 to item 9 only).

**1. General**

**1.1 Chairman's Welcome**

PWR welcomed all to the meeting, declared the meeting quorate, outlined the key items of the agenda which would consider operational reports in Part 1 and strategy in Part 2. He reminded members that discussions at the meeting were confidential and none of the proceedings should be disclosed to third parties without prior written approval in accordance with the directors' code of conduct that all members had signed.

**1.2 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Kelly Sotherton (KS), Mike Irani (MI), Michele Verroken (MV), Ali Jawad (AJ). TW undertook to convey members' best wishes to AJ and wish him a speedy recovery.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

PWR reminded members of the need to declare their interest in any items for discussion or requiring a decision. PWR declared his membership of Sport England's Investment Committee. No other interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2018 and matters arising**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 8 June 2018 circulated previously, were **agreed as read and approved for posting on the website**. Referring to item 12, PWR informed members that Jane Purdon had confirmed that UK Sport may wish to observe the interviews of shortlisted candidates; he had yet to hear from Phil Smith at Sport England.

Members noted that the Forward Agenda had been updated to ensure that the next Board Effectiveness Review had been moved forward to March 2019.

Members also noted that the previous website issue where a business were incorrectly claiming that BWL were a client had been resolved following legal advice and the website had been amended.

#### **4. Decisions taken outside the Board Meeting**

Referring to item 12 of the minutes of the meeting on 8 June 2018, PWR reminded members of his email of 20 June 2018 and confirmed that the draft Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee (comprising GT in the chair, CE, DK and PR) **had been approved electronically**. He and GT had met subsequently and the advertisement, job description and person specification for the role of Chair had been posted on BWL's and others' websites. He encouraged members to draw the vacancy to the attention of eligible candidates.

#### **5. Minutes and recommendations from sub-committees**

There had been no sub-committee meetings since the last board meeting.

SD joined the meeting.

#### **6. High Performance and UK Sport Update/talent development**

TW presented his report on the 2018/2019 Objectives and an update on the World Class Programme (WCP) for Para Powerlifting via PowerPoint.

AM updated the meeting on the selection of Catrin Jones for the IWF World Juniors and in the absence of SM gave an update on BWL talent pathway development.

#### **7. Sport Development**

KL presented her report via PowerPoint on Workforce and Education development, Competitions, Marketing and Communications, Partnership Management, including securing 2 new commercial sponsors, Relationship Management and Safeguarding. Members noted the very satisfactory increase in twice-weekly participation in weight lifting from 492.6k to 550k in the 12-month period as measured by Sport England's Active Lives Survey at May 2018.

PR presented the risk register for June 2018. It remained unchanged from the previous report.

Members noted the complaints log. There were no current issues.

AM presented his CEO's report via PowerPoint, updating members on progress against the operational scorecard.

#### **8. Finance Matters and Update**

MM referred to the papers circulated previously and the summary slides in the PowerPoint presentation. April and May 2018 had been better than budget and the revised forecast for the year ending 31 March 2019 indicated an improved, but still slender positive outturn.

PWR suggested that it may be beneficial to draft an investment strategy for consideration at the next Audit and Finance Committee meeting and subsequently to board.

## **9. Operational Plan**

AM presented the 2018/19 Operating Plan. Following discussion, **the plan was approved.**

SD left the meeting.

## **10. Board Matters and Strategy Discussion**

Led by designated board members, members considered 5 themes for discussion – priorities and future performance, culture, learnings, communications and clean sport. In particular, members considered and discussed:

- Performance proposals for BWL towards Tokyo 2020, EWL towards Birmingham 2022, Olympic and Commonwealth selection criteria and prospects, the new IWF weight categories, the tapering of public funding, funding challenges that diminishing public investment presented and the increasing costs of providing athletes with competitive opportunities internationally. It was felt by most members that rigorous financial management should continue, that budgets set to maintain financial sustainability should remain paramount and that if selected for qualifying events overseas, athletes may have to contribute financially towards the costs of competing, as is customary with a growing cohort of sports faced with similar challenges. A briefing and consultation for athletes and coaches will be arranged as a matter of urgency as Olympic selection policies, including the IWF World Championships scheduled for November 2018 needed immediate action.
- the learnings from the culture and attitudes review in advance of PR's meeting with Sport England on 27 July. Several members offered to accompany him if required. Meantime, it was felt that a number of in-house improvements pertaining to recruitment, selection and staff development could be improved.
- How we may communicate better with elite and recreational athletes, coaches and volunteers, and
- The management response circulated previously to CE's paper considered at the previous meeting pertaining to clean sport.

## **11. Any Other Business**

None.

## **12. Date and time of next meeting**

18 September 2018 – venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm.