

BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTERS' ASSOCIATION (TRADING AS BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 27 October 2022 held at East Stand, Leeds United FC, Elland Road, Leeds and via Virtual Conference Facility

Members Present (physically in attendance)

M Curtain	M Martin	K Leonard	T Whittaker
S Ward	Z Kettle-Metcalf	A Smeaton	B Richens
C MacDonald	E Halstead	C Deacon	P Edmondson

Members Present (virtual attendance)

J Foster	K McPhee	E Agar	K Sotherton
H Baker	M Irani	G Whitlow	R Tawse
R Stoner	R Kechacha	D Altenor	C Fiddaman
L Parker	J Bell	C Wilton	C Schroeder
H Allison	K Campbell	C McClarnon	S Sharp
S Southern	J Khoo	J Tong	

Apologies

A Kinnear	R Ashworth	N Wood	E Campbell
-----------	------------	--------	------------

Welcome

The meeting opened at 7.00pm.

Matthew Curtain, CEO of BWL, welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting. He advised that the Chair of the BWL Board was unable to attend to chair the meeting and as there was no Vice Chair, an individual needed to be nominated to preside as Chair of the meeting. M Curtain was duly elected as the Chair.

1) To receive the Annual Report in accordance with Article 130.1

M Curtain, CEO of BWL, presented the Annual Report noting that it had already been circulated in advance to the membership. Mr Curtain congratulated Mr Metcalfe who had been the responsible and accountable officer for the reporting period and thanked him for his nine years of service.

Mr Curtain referred to the strategic plan "Stronger-Together" which continued to be driven forward noting four main pillars underpinning this – governance and management, exciting sports, strong partnerships and brand, marketing and communications.

Mr Curtain highlighted the continued success of the athletes representing both weightlifting and para powerlifting in major international sporting competitions as well as a number of BWL programmes and domestic events. He advised there was still much to do in areas such as restructuring the competition portfolio, technical officials framework, "club land" structure, membership strategy and education programmes.

Finally, Mr Curtain thanked all the UK wide partners, Chair - Angus Kinnear, Board of Directors, athletes, volunteers, technical officials, fans and staff.

- 2) To receive the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Article 130.2

Mr Martin reported that there had been a considerable growth in income from £1.4m to £2.2m which demonstrated a confidence from the funding stakeholders with more investment into the performance and development programmes. He also advised of the improved position of the reserves and provided an analysis of the income and expenditure compared to the prior year highlighting that staffing and administration costs were down whilst more had been spent on project delivery and investment back into the sport.

- 3) It was noted that there were no elected directors retiring and seeking re-election and that no other nominations had been received.
- 4) It was noted that there was no other business to be transacted in accordance with Article 130.5.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.

Open Forum

The Chair advised that it was planned to hold an EGM early in 2023 to allow future AGMs to be held fully online.

BWL Board Structure – R Kechacha asked whether the BWL Board should allow for members of the Home Nations to join the BWL Board. MC responded he would raise this as the next Board meeting but noted that the Code of Sports Governance only allowed for a maximum number of 12 Board members and there were currently 10 individuals appointed. R Tawse agreed that it would be beneficial for Home Nations to observe BWL meetings and believed more communication was required between BWL and the Home Nations. Mr Whitlow and Mr Bell also supported this approach noting the Home Nations would appreciate further guidance from BWL.

BWL Academies/Raise the Bar – G Whitlow asked about the performance of the BWL Academies and the Raise the Bar programme. K McPhee advised that formal reviews of the Academies were undertaken and provided an overview of the numbers of the individuals involved in the Raise the Bar programme.

Technical Officials – K Campbell asked whether there was a formal technical official system in place. M Curtain advised that a framework had been developed pre Covid, but the implementation of this plan had not taken place. He has H Allison to update the members on current discussions. H Allison advised a recent meeting had been held to review the TO structure but there was still work to do to progress this. She advised that the IWF and other member federation had similar challenges regarding TOs and plans were currently being developed to support and recognise TOs more, review international selection policies and mentor/support/train the TO workforce. It was noted that only around 10-15% of qualified TOs volunteered to help at national BWL competitions which was a concern. Other concerns from the membership around recording TO activity, communication with TOs, involving newly qualified TOs, payments to cover volunteer expenses and the functionality of Sport 80 were raised.

2023 Competitions Calendar – It was noted that the 2023 calendar was being reviewed and JT advised she had been part of a working group looking at this. She advised that the timings of dates being released, overall schedule, locations and venues were key matters being addressed.

Staffing – It was noted that there had been a number of staffing challenges throughout the year, with a number of vacant posts and a recruitment freeze which had impacted overall delivery and customer service but that a number of new posts were currently being recruited.

Membership – R Kechacha asked if there was a strategy to drive growth in membership numbers, especially on the back of international success and the growth of crossfit. It was noted that this had been raised previously and a strategy to grow individuals and clubs still needed to be addressed. M Curtain advised that this was a priority for 2023.

M Curtain thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for the questions raised.

The meeting was closed at 8.40pm.