

Update from CEO Matthew Curtain

“We started this month celebrating the IWF Electoral Congress, which was held 25-26 June in Albania. Heather Allison and I were elected, with Heather being the first British woman to be voted into the IWF body. Heather was voted onto the Technical Committee, and I was elected as an Executive Board member. With a 66% change in the IWF Executive Board, I am confident we will refresh and rebrand our beloved sport – as a team – for the benefit of clean athletes worldwide.

July is an exciting month for weightlifting and para powerlifting and marks the start of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Preparations are in full swing, with athletes due to attend prep camps before they enter the village in the last week of July.

In the lead up, we had four BWL members act as batonbearers in the Queen’s Baton Relay. Congratulations to Emily Muskett, Holly O’Shea, Lou Sugden and Dyana Altenor for being selected to carry the torch, it was great to see you all celebrate your achievements and raise the profile of our sports.

I would like to wish all the home nation athletes’ good luck in training as we approach the Games and all the best on the platform on the day.

Following Birmingham 2022, we will launch our Raise The Bar and Couch2Kilos projects to get as many people as possible involved in strength sports. New clubs in the Birmingham area will become Talent Academies- extending the provision for weightlifting in the Midlands area.

Earlier this month we had three athletes fly out to Missouri to compete on 8 July 2022 in the Para-Pan American Championships: Lottie McGuinness, Tom Smith, and Sean Clare. After having two flights cancelled on the journey there, the athletes did a fantastic job of refocussing and gave their all on the platform, well done.

We attended the RAF Championships in Cosford on 6 July, which saw a great standard of lifting throughout the day. Our partnership with the Armed Forces has also produced The Big Scottish Lift Off, a virtual competition open to all to raise money for SSAFA- The Armed Forces Charity.”

Matthew Curtain
CEO