

Update from our incoming CEO Matthew Curtain

“I am delighted to be joining British Weight Lifting (BWL) as Chief Executive Officer.

As a dual British and Australian citizen, I have over 25 years of leadership experience. Specifically, I have worked in the sport of Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting since 1998. My most recent role was as Sport Director at International Teqball Federation but I have also worked for the Commonwealth Games Federation, Glasgow 2014 & Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Organising Committees, London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games, and was CEO of the Australian Weightlifting Federation. Moreover, until this most recent appointment, I have been on the board of BWL as a Non-Executive Director and have been Chair of England Weightlifting since 2018.

It’s an exciting time for BWL with the Commonwealth Games less than 50 days away. The recent team announcements show we have lots of talented athletes who have qualified for the Games. I would like to congratulate the athletes selected and wish them all the best in training in the lead up to the Birmingham Games.

We also announced this month that we have been successful in receiving funding through the B2022: NGB Sport Participation, Innovation and Digital Fund and will receive an investment of £350,000 to level up access to sport and physical activity across the country as a legacy to this year’s Games. BWL’s strategic vision over the next four years is to educate, inspire and create greater opportunities that appeal to a more diverse and inclusive audience resulting in greater levels of activity and a fitter, healthier and stronger nation. This funding provides us with a solid foundation to bring this vision to life via our raise the bar project which will target local sports clubs, community organisations and schools to provide opportunities for 11–16-year-olds from diverse backgrounds to learn about strength training and weightlifting and our Couch 2 Kilo’s project in association with Her Spirit, which will help to increase the activity levels of women, with a focus on inactive people.

Finally, it was fantastic to watch our athletes who represented Great Britain at the 100th European Senior Weightlifting Championships between 28 May to 5 June 2022 in Tirana, Albania. All the British athletes put on great performances, giving their all on the platform. It was incredible to finish the event with Emily Campbell successfully defending her European Championship title. We are proud to share that the GBR women’s team came third and the men’s team came eighth, making us the highest ranked Western European Nation in the competition.

I look forward to meeting BWL members and clubs over the coming months as I start to immerse myself fully in the role.”

Matthew Curtain
CEO