

## **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games: Martin, Callard, and Sawyer to coach Team GB weightlifters**

**Team GB weightlifting coaches for Tokyo 2020 will consist of Stuart Martin, Andrew Callard and Dave Sawyer.**

**This same backroom team recently helped guide Great Britain's athletes to the best combined medal table tally at the European Championships since 1948 in Moscow, Russia winning 5 gold and 4 silver medals.**

**They will be coaching Zoe Smith, Emily Campbell and Sarah Davies at the Olympic Games.**

Taking on the Team GB Weightlifting Team Leader role in Tokyo will be Stuart Martin. At the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, he was the England Weight Lifting Team Manager, achieving one of the highest medal hauls in history with nine athletes taking places on the podium in Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting.

Speaking ahead of Tokyo 2020 Martin said: "The Olympics was founded as an event for amateurs, it is an incredible feat for 3 amateur athletes to succeed in the modern world of elite sport."

"This is an exceptional group of women with clear ambitions to lead the way for future generations, they are trailblazers for the sport in the UK and rest assured we are not headed to the games to just be participants.

"If weightlifting isn't already on your list of sports to watch at the games it absolutely should be, tune in this summer and prepare to be inspired by an incredible group of strong women!"

Martin is Head of Performance for Weightlifting at BWL. A national medallist as a lifter, Martin has coached multiple National Champions and International competitors including Emily Godley on her way to Winning GB's first World Medal & European Championships for over 25 years and Zoe Smith on her way to becoming European Silver medallist in 2019.

Coaching alongside Martin is Andrew Callard who medalled at three Commonwealth Games for England as an athlete, winning gold in 1994. He represented Great Britain as an athlete at the 1992 Olympic Games and later as a coach at London 2012.

In 2019 Callard was awarded a British Empire Medal by the Queen for services to weightlifting. He won Coach of the year at the BWL Annual Achievement Awards in 2014, 2016 and 2018 and runs Europa Weightlifting Club.

"It's fantastic to be involved with British Weight Lifting. This is my third Olympics, having previously been once as a lifter and once as a coach," said Callard.

"Being at the Olympics, coaching Zoe, Sarah, and Emily to help them get to the top of their groups, is not only exciting but also a massive honour. I look forward to sharing in the teams' successes!"

Dave Sawyer is a successful national-level lifter winning multiple domestic competitions including English Senior Championship titles in 1990, 1991 and 1995.

Rising through the coaching ranks, Sawyer joined the national youth set-up in the 90s before going on to experience success with the senior team during the past two decades.

He coached Team GB at London 2012 and Rio 2016 and works with Emily Campbell and Sarah Davies on a regular basis at the Atlas Gym in Alfreton alongside Cyril Martin. In 2019 he won the Performance Coach of the Year award.

Speaking about the calibre of the squad selected Sawyer said: "It's when an ultimate sporting dream becomes a true reality, to perform on the world's greatest stage for Team GB and to become an Olympian, for Zoe a second time.

"I'm sure the girls will cherish the opportunity, perform to their very best and treasure the moment for life.

"Huge congratulations for their dedication to qualify. So proud!"

British Weightlifting would like to congratulate Stuart, Andy and Dave and wish them good luck ahead of Tokyo.