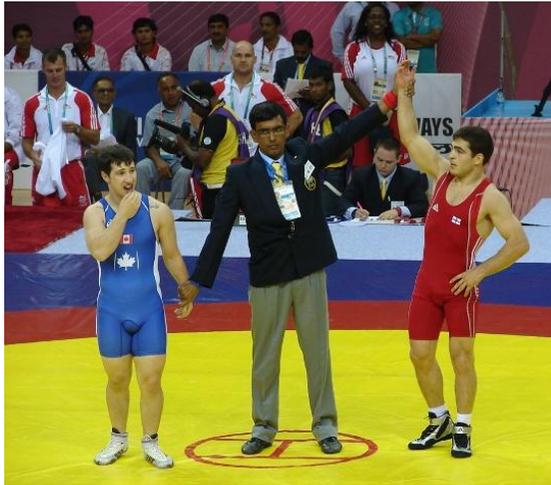


British Wrestling Association

Annual Report



Myroslav Dykun, Gold, Greco-Roman 66Kg,
XIX Commonwealth Games in Delhi, 2010

2009-10 The Year in Review

20th October 2010



Terence Bosson
Silver, Greco-Roman, 60kg
XIX Commonwealth Games



Leon Rattigan
Bronze, Freestyle, 96kg
XIX Commonwealth Games



Sasha Madyarchyk
Bronze, Freestyle, 60kg
XIX Commonwealth Games

INTRODUCTION

A message from the Chair

The British Wrestling Association (BWA) must continue its transition towards modernisation in all its forms.

BWA Board Members and Nations and Regions representatives must work together for the good of the BWA and their members and in so doing demonstrate leadership, vision, understanding and compromise.

The modernisation of our governance structures is an ongoing process led by our Chief Executive.

The modernisation of our coaching structure is at the forefront of my agenda and I am confident that from early 2011 we shall see the Level 1 UKCC (UK Coaching Certificate) endorsed qualification rolled out, followed by Level 2 later the same year.

Detailed modern coaching structures in terms of 'How to Coach' and 'What to Coach' will benefit and provide opportunities for the natural development of both athletes and coaches alike. I am confident that in the years ahead we shall see British coaches leading the way and successful international athletes on the world stage.

The third aspect we must try to get right and endorsed and understood by all is the athlete pathway.

I would like to thank all those who during the last 12 months have contributed to and supported the modernisation process

Malcolm Morley (Chair)

A message from the Chief Executive Officer



This annual report covers my time in office. It is a great privilege to be first Chief Executive of the British Wrestling Association.

I cannot pretend that it has been an easy task thus far. There have been many challenges developing our sport and many internal conflicts that, without great discipline, can distract from the main tasks at hand.

Wrestling traditions in Great Britain and Northern Ireland run deep. Whilst these traditions need to be respected, at the same time we must transform into a modernised sport.

Our sport must evolve to be respected in the eyes of the all-important funding authorities that dispense Lottery and Exchequer funding, and also build its appeal to the changing tastes of the nation in order that young wrestlers of the future can be attracted.

I thank all those that have given their support to date and look forward to working with everyone in close cooperation to deliver OUR future.

Colin Nicholson (Chief Executive)

1. INDEX

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| 1. Index..... | 3 |
| 2. A Year of Transition..... | 3 |
| 3. Creation of Committees..... | 4 |
| 4. Strengthening of Home Nations | 4 |
| 5. Vision & Mission | 4 |
| 6. Financial Review and Outcomes: 2009..... | 5 |
| 7. Development Overview | 6 |
| 8. Performance | 7 |
| 9. Work-in-Progress: High Profile projects | 9 |
| 10. Reports from the Nations and Regions | 10 |
| 11. Development Preview: 2010-2011..... | 13 |
| 12. British Wrestling Association Operations | 14 |
| 13. Communications | 14 |
| 14. Equity & Welfare, Governance, HR..... | 15 |
| 15. British Wrestling Association Structure Diagram | 16 |
| 16. Female Wrestling | 16 |
| 17. Conclusion..... | 16 |

2. A YEAR OF TRANSITION

Adoption of new Articles of Association and the creation of a new Board

At the 2008 AGM, the BWA Council unanimously adopted new Articles of Association (Constitution) whereby the old BWA Council transformed to a new BWA Board and became competency-based with open and transparent recruitment for positions on that Board. Since then, there have been 7 meetings of the new Board and those taking the new positions have been endorsed at the 2009 AGM.

Thanks should go to the old BWA Council who displayed considerable foresight and courage in making the decision for change and supporting a programme of modernisation. It should be understood that Wrestling's governance structure is now more progressive than some other sports, although we need to evolve our mindset and management culture to match the structure.

Inevitably there have been teething problems in the implementation of the new Constitution which is taking longer than envisaged. But if all continue to adopt a position of honest and constructive dialogue, setting aside personal issues, solutions can be found that will benefit the BWA as a whole.



3. CREATION OF COMMITTEES

Amongst the next steps is the need to activate responsible and active committees. There is the Nations & Regions Committee with the remit to provide two-way communication between the Executive Committee, the Board and the Affiliated Clubs. Other committees cover the main activities of the Association: a Performance Management Group; Membership and Clubs; Domestic Competitions; Coach Officials Development; Website and Publicity.

The intention of these committees is to widen the pool of talent contributing to the work of the association and to bring order and transparency to decision-making

4. STRENGTHENING OF HOME NATIONS

The Home Nations are growing in strength and organisation. During this period, Northern Ireland has “incorporated,” Welsh Wrestling has gained recognition from Sport Wales as the governing body for Wrestling in Wales and Scotland has achieved

FILA independent affiliation as associated member, now actively being sought by Wales. Care needs to be exercised here as other sports are moving in the other direction, towards the goal of primacy of GB, following the principle that all united together is a more powerful force on the world stage. Currently, England and the British Wrestling Association’s affairs are managed together, but steps are being taken to set up an England Committee to give focus to England-specific business. It is also expected to set up England sub-regions to strengthen local voices, giving them the ability to pursue local needs.

5. VISION & MISSION

Mission

To provide opportunities for the peoples of the United Kingdom to become involved in olympic-style wrestling and for those who actively participate in the sport, help enable them to realise their full potential

To strive to ensure the future of British Wrestling by achieving world class performance, increasing participation, revenue and public visibility.’

Objectives

1. To develop an infrastructure capable of absorbing sustained growth in participation
2. To increase participation in wrestling
3. To increase the number of talented athletes eligible for progression onto the National
4. Performance Programme

During the next year, a strategy must be formed to allow for other wrestling styles to grow and prosper with the support and co-operation of the British Wrestling Association.

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND OUTCOMES: 2009

British Wrestling continues to be almost entirely dependent on funding from the National Lottery and Exchequer (government funding,) dispensed via UK Sport and Sport England. Individual membership and Club affiliations are largely consumed in paying for insurance. It is a strategic priority to diversify the association's income, but difficult in the current economic climate.

The complexities of external funding need to be clearly understood by all as an apparently healthy cash position disguises the hard fact that these monies are specifically earmarked to particular outcomes. Foremost amongst this issue that generates significant bad-feeling and conflict is the £1.43m of UK Sport money. That can ONLY be spent on enhancing the Olympic medal-chances of those with potential to qualify for London 2012. UK Sport acknowledges that with this "minimum funding level" no money can be made available for working up a legacy post-2012. British Wrestling must achieve that worthy goal on its own resources. This is a tough message to those aspiring young athletes, not ready for the 2012 Olympics who need to subsist and travel to competitions.

A clear example of earmarked funding was demonstrated by the successful GB Cup where UK Sport Events money was specifically dedicated to holding a performance tournament, attracting world class competitors, with just the GB 'A' team receiving some limited support.

Some financial help is available from Home Nations Sports councils and local authority funds, but significant pro-activity is required by the Associations and individuals, e.g. athletes and parents to secure this money. The Home Nations Associations have had some success in securing these funds.

Commonwealth Games (England) Funding

To aid preparation for Team England Wrestling to compete in Delhi 2010, Sport England awarded British Wrestling a total of £125K.

Since the beginning of 2008, 20 athletes have benefited from that funding insomuch that they have been given the opportunity to train at the Wrestling Academy, attend training camps at home and abroad and participate in international competition in the run up to Delhi.

From those 20 athletes 12 were selected to represent Team England at the CWG 2010, with the outcome of 1xGold, 1xSilver and 2xBronze medals. The first Gold medal for wrestling since 1986.



7. DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Membership

The introduction of annual-rolling membership has made it difficult to assess the strength of membership during 2010. However, there is no doubt that there are many regular wrestlers across Great Britain and Northern Ireland who are not members of the Association. The varying attitude of Clubs to encouraging their members to take up membership of the British Wrestling Association can be seen, although there is currently limited visibility of local participation at the national level. All those wrestling regularly (for more than six weeks) should take out either Full BWA membership or Recreational Membership.

| Year | 2008 | 2009 | 20010 (to end-Aug) |
|--------------------|------|------|--------------------|
| Individual Members | 800 | 806 | 679 |
| Affiliated Clubs | 36 | 47 | 45 |

A breakdown on age shows that 53% of membership is over18 and 47% is under18.

British Wrestling Association is expected to grow from (a) More wrestlers competing, (b) greater uptake of Recreational Membership and (c) more of both once the UKCC coaching award is completed and more coaches can be qualified to open more clubs

Included in these numbers are the licensed coaches, referees, competition officials and examiners:

| Year | 2008 | 2009 | 20010 (to end-Aug) |
|----------|------|------|--------------------|
| Coaches | 84 | 75 | 97 |
| Referees | 20 | 24 | 22 |

Clubs

The overall number of clubs remains stable. The number of elements required to come together for a new club to form are formidable. Foremost amongst these is the need for a Level 2 Qualified coach which puts a constraint on growth whilst the coaching structure is revised to meet UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) standards.

Support to Development through paid staff

In England it is intended to recruit two part-time Sport Development Officers (one North, one South) and this should have a significant impact on supporting current clubs, identifying funding opportunities and identifying and developing potential growth areas.

In Scotland a National Performance and Development Manager was appointed in 2010, one who's responsibilities is to support the development of Scottish Wrestling throughout Scotland, via support for the Schools & Clubs. Higher and Further Education establishments, local coaching sessions, Talent Identification, Coach development and any other initiatives and areas of development as appropriate.

8. PERFORMANCE



The Performance Programme has faced many significant challenges due to the unprecedented reduction in funding, currently running at 50% of the anticipated amount. A strategy was developed to downsize the programme and focus just on those athletes who had the potential to perform in London 2012, resulting in a small number of athletes leaving the programme. The coaching, support, training and competition structure were also reviewed and reduced.

This approach was scrutinised in an independent review financed by UK Sport and a revised Performance Plan was endorsed by the Board in September 2010. A new Performance Management Group is now in place to oversee the management of the programme. This group has Neil Tunnicliffe as its chairman, a former CEO of British Rugby League, who has extensive knowledge of developing successful performance programmes

Unfortunately, the programme had to halt the development of regional programmes, reduce the coaching staff to one full time coach, and access support services on a contractual basis to ensure cost effectiveness. Consequently, the National Coach has been confirmed until December 2012, a Strength and Conditioning lead coach has been identified and recruited, and nutrition expertise has been identified.

A variety of Training camps have been introduced into the annual programme, predominantly in Russia, to ensure the athletes are consistently exposed to a variety of quality training partners, coaches and environments.

A new on-line system has been developed to incorporate individual athlete details, plans, injury records, schedules and objectives. The system is accessible via the internet, password-protected for each athlete and stores video footage of each athlete's matches and performance statistics.

Athlete development has continued over the 2009-2010 period. Leon Rattigan led the way in the March 2009 European Championships where he achieved a 7th place and World Class Performance Programme athletes consistently achieved podium finishes at major international tournaments throughout the 2009 season. Even these successes were however significantly overshadowed by the September 2009 World Championships in Denmark when the team achieved their best finish by achieving 17th place out of the 51 countries competing. Individually, Britain attained two 5th place finishes with an 11th and 12th place finish to round off a very successful tournament. In April 2010 Yana Stadnik made a significant breakthrough at the European Championships taking a silver medal in the 48kg female weight class. This is the first medal achieved by an athlete competing for GB since Noel Loban won Silver at the European Championships held in Manchester in the eighties

The programme now seems to be making good progress in terms of performance of the athletes currently in the programme, underlined by the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games outcome of 1xGold, 1xSilver and 2x Bronze medals. But the void in experience to our younger athletes is extending and this will have to be a priority, although immensely difficult to fund given the ring-fencing of UK Sport money.

Talent ID

The programme has developed a new performance pathway which is currently being implemented. The new talent squad for 14-19 year olds has been formed. However, the challenge remains to develop the newly created performance pathway to ensure a clear and effective route to World Class performance and reduce the void between the now established 'performance' level athletes and young 'talent' level athletes.

National Talent Squad (NTS)

The NTS was formed in October 2009 and started with the selection of 22 athletes from all the Home Nations. As the year progressed the numbers reduced to 18 members with the next selection period commencing in October 2010.



The NTS has seen National Development Coaches Volodymyr Gladkow (Scotland) and Anatolii Kharytoniuk (England) coaching the NTS on a regular basis with the assistance of Steven Mckeown, Development Coach.

The female athletes attended tournaments in Finland, Sweden and Austria with one member attending the Youth Olympic Qualification Tournament in Poznan, Poland.

The male athletes attended tournaments in France, Estonia and Switzerland with 2 team members participating in the Youth Olympic Qualification Tournament.

The NTS achieved 1 silver and 4 bronze international medals across the year.

Athletes from England were all supported by SportsAid with individual funding between £500 to £1000, dependant on age, experience and talent. In the 2010/11 season SportsAid will also fund athletes from the other Home Nations on the NTS.

Anti-Doping

The British Wrestling Association has a zero-tolerance view of anti-doping and adopts, in full, the policies of the UK Anti-Doping Organisation (UKAD), fully supporting the efforts of UK Anti-Doping in the fight against doping in sport. During the period of this review there have been two cases, one in domestic competition and one within the Performance Squad. These have been managed in full by the UK Anti-Doping Organisation and those involved have incurred mandatory suspensions. Within British Wrestling the UKAD "100% me" programme has been promoted to current sportsmen and women – ensuring they have all the information they need to make sensible, informed decisions about competing drug-free. The programme is also designed to minimise the risk of inadvertent doping, thereby taking away any excuses an athlete might have for providing a positive sample

9. WORK-IN-PROGRESS: HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS

Coach Education

This area is seen as critical to the future of British Wrestling. The current quest for UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) accreditation will ensure that British Wrestling's coaches are of adequate standard and able to provide tuition of adequate standard to develop Britain's wrestling talent. Correctly qualified coaches will then be able to sign-off participant of the FILA Master Degree thus giving coaches and aspiring young athletes access to a structured and certificated coaching and awards system similar to those in Judo and other sports.



Back in May 2009 there was an audit of coach education, followed by a proposal put together by Penny Crisfield (Apollinaire) who is now leads the delivery of the project. From applications, eight tutors were selected who undertook a three day course in Dec '09 completing "Task one towards the Certificate in Tutoring in Sport." Four of the eight tutors have undertaken training in learning programme design and development.

During August 2010 successful pilot course was run with eight trainee level 1 coaches and reviewed in a meeting on 25 Aug, mapping it against UKCC standards and submission of completed paperwork to UKCC together with questions before their assessment committee will take place in October 2010. Following assessor training for tutors and a second pilot course, UKCC endorsement expected in January 2011, after which courses will be rolled out. At that stage, planning for Level 2 endorsement will take place, but this is expected to be dramatically shorter, building on existing foundations.

British Wrestling Website

The British Wrestling website has now been going for one year. It has greatly assisted in the dissemination of information across the association, providing a repository of key information, news and results. There is much more that could be done, but going to the next stage would have a higher dependency on clubs, regions and the membership to feed timely information to the web-master.

FILA weight classes for open tournaments

Following promotion of the change by the Nations & Regions Committee, the Board endorsed that FILA weight classes should be used for FILA Cadet (16&17) and FILA Junior (18-20) age groups at national tournaments. Linked to this implementation is the introduction of a British Open FILA Cadet Championship. The introduction of FILA weight classes will make it easier to establish who is the national champion at a particular weight, although practical difficulties are likely to be encountered as a result of limited numbers of competitors in some weight classes.

Clubmark

In May 2010, Aspull, Bolton, Sharples Clubs and nine Heartlift affiliates achieved Clubmark certification, presented with

certificates by GreaterSport County Sport Partnership. This indicates that Clubmark is within the reach of wrestling clubs and other clubs are encouraged to work towards certification

GB Cup

The GB Cup was supported by UK Sport, Sheffield City Council, British Wrestling Association and Wrestlers/Officials from 20 countries. It was held at Ponds Forge International Centre on the 17th July 2010. There was a significant increase in the number of wrestlers competing compared to 2008, with the event providing home advantage to 33 UK wrestlers who achieved 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 6 Bronze medals.

It also provided valuable professional development for 5 GB Referees and numerous volunteers ahead of the 2012 Olympics.

10. REPORTS FROM THE NATIONS AND REGIONS

Northern Region:

Schools development has now led to work in 30 schools for wrestling in the Bolton, Salford and Wigan area. An inter-schools competition for those areas will be held over the next term. This will also allow the feeder system to continue into existing clubs to keep participation high

These sites are a mixture of primary, secondary, college, special schools and EBD schools. It is felt that this is great for the progress of wrestling and there is hope to build on this for 2011.

In the area of talent development, the Bolton Academy has been formed. This initiative has led to coaches from the Bolton area working together and with Bolton Council. The Bolton Academy is ideal for talent development, allowing 3 class divisions to train

beginner, intermediate and advanced. It also allows an element of mentoring whereby the more advanced will mentor the younger or beginner categories.

The Bolton Academy is also hosting the British Juniors in the North and the Bolton Council have agreed to offer support to this event.

Midlands Region:

There are a total of 4 registered clubs in the region There has been 1 new club so far this year and discussions ongoing to open a club at a major sporting university in the area. As at August 2010 there are 93 members, (compared to end-'09 105 members and '08 only 87). There are 10 registered coaches (including 1 who is part way through the new Level 1 UKCC qualification). The Region also has 4 referees, 2 of which are FILA qualified, and 1 more awaiting the next referees course. After this course the Region will have a referee for most clubs. The Region currently has 1 female wrestler on the NTS

The Region hopes that it will continue to grow but knows it will be slow process.

Southern Region:

The Southern Region experienced a turbulent year but remains focused on its objectives - to increase wrestler numbers, both recreational and competitive and to promote wrestling excellence.

The need for greater club collaboration is recognised and several training programs for coaches, referee's and officials have been implemented, some of which have proven successful and others requiring the benefit of time to establish their effectiveness at community and club level.

Inspired by the great work of other Regions, a schools programme has been started that has reached over 700 students so far this year to whom Olympic Wrestling has been introduced and there is a provisional agreement with one Olympic borough to host an inter-schools tournament. It is and has been a long and drawn out process and, although the numbers are low, they are increasing. Some of the Southern Region's clubs are rapidly increasing in numbers and are of great benefit to their local communities and wider wrestling association, whilst some longer-established clubs have closed, or have relocated, due to shortage of participants and/or cost increases.

The Region has been in decline for many years but now there is a battle to keep the legacy of wrestling in Britain's capital city. The main challenge in the Southern Region is unifying clubs and working with other regions and with the BWA. For a long time many members of the Southern Region have felt ignored and unsupported by the BWA and sadly it has created an air of mistrust which makes unifying all that more difficult. It is understood there have been historical differences of opinion and some issues may remain unresolved but unless all are prepared to accept that change, (in the best interests of the sport of wrestling,) is the only constant, then these issues may never reach closure.

The Southern Region now has several international coaches who have taught wrestling in Europe, Eastern Europe and the United States and the sincere hope is that it is possible to retain and attract more coaches and wrestlers of this standard. It is also hoped to increase referee and official numbers whilst endeavouring to support more actively in national and regional events.

The Southern Region is grateful for the advice and support that all the Regions have extended and for the continued support of the BWA and appreciate that although the task ahead is a big

undertaking, and may appear impossible, working together, it is possible to make it happen.

Wales:

There has been good progress so far. Development is coming up as well. Welsh Wrestling passes its thanks to British Wrestling for their support. The membership is 89 (end-Aug 2010), up on 38 at end of 2009. Wales expects to double numbers again in 2011 and is in the final stages of establishing a Welsh Wrestling Association.

A new Cardiff Club has been established at the Welsh National Sports Centre and it is hoped to develop further new clubs as new coaching courses become available.

Scotland:

2010 has been a very busy year for those involved in developing our sport. Delhi is only a matter of days away and we all hope for success.

Scottish Wrestling, with the strong support of our partner Sports Scotland, now has a full time performance manager alongside our first class administrator.

The main priority for our association this year was to support our coach develop the Scottish team in their goal to compete in Delhi

The team has had a very challenging year in attending camps and competitions. There has been many learning opportunities for all our wrestlers and there has been some notable success as well.

It should be encouraging for all that Scotland will send an emerging strong female team to compete in Delhi. A real success for talent transfer led by the Scottish Wrestling Association.

We established our development team led by Colin McLaren and supported by our national coach. There remains much work to be done in the build up to Glasgow 2014 and post-Delhi this will start in earnest.

There is a good pool of young wrestlers that hopefully will continue in our sport. We will need the support of our established clubs and build on the work done by our performance manager to open new clubs across Scotland.

With the roll out of the new UKCC coaching structure, we will hopefully see the set up of a further 5 clubs in our country.

Our young wrestlers are well represented at British level in the NTS Squad.

We should not be complacent but this is great time to be involved in Scottish Wrestling. The opportunities for our wrestlers to reach their dreams are just around the corner.

Northern Ireland:

Today the membership of the Northern Ireland Wrestling Association (NIWA) is based around our 7 affiliated clubs:

- Causeway Giants, Ballymoney;
- Cobra Martial Arts, Londonderry;
- Waterside Sharks Takedown Club, Londonderry.
- Knockagh Wrestling Club, Carrickfergus;
- Larne Panthers Wrestling Club, Larne;
- Redhog Wrestling, Lisburn
- Redhog Wrestling, Belfast

In 2009, these clubs catered for the needs of 287 participants: -

- Senior members (34 male, 2 female) (Fig 1);
- Junior members (190 male, 50 female) (Fig 2); and
- Recreational senior members (7 male, 4 female) (Fig 1)

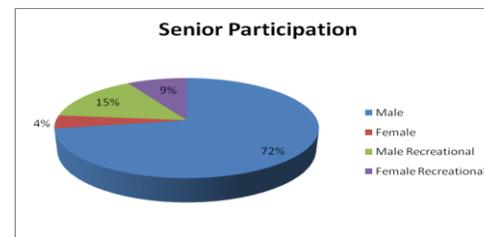


Fig 1

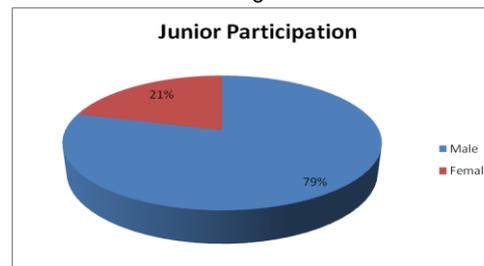


Fig 2

Records show that for 2009 of these 287 individuals, only 156 sought membership of the NIWA.

Accurate figures for the number of participants for the year 2010 are unavailable but the number of persons who have taken out NIWA membership stands at 103.

Included in this number are the licensed coaches, referees, competition officials and examiners:

| Coaches | | Referees & Competition Officials | |
|--|----|----------------------------------|---|
| <i>Preliminary Club Coach -Level 1</i> | 5 | <i>Referees</i> | 7 |
| <i>Club Coach - Level 2</i> | 11 | <i>Recorders</i> | 3 |

Throughout the summer of 2010 the NIWA worked in partnership with Derry City Council and recruited an “Active Communities Coach” to act as a lead on projects that will increase individual membership levels through the use of school and club initiatives in the Londonderry area. The successful candidate was Ron McGowan and his position is a shared post with the sport of judo.

The NIWA will encourage the new Active Communities Coach to be inventive and develop a sustainable pathway from clubs and schools through to regional development squads and on to Northern Ireland squads. Currently, a number of technical difficulties have to be overcome before we will witness the desired affect but the NIWA is optimistic that the full potential of this opportunity can be realized

Northern Ireland Talent Development

Under the terms of the Investing in Performance Sport Programme (IIPS) 2009 – 2013, Sport NI and the NIWA coordinated efforts and developed a selection process that identified a national Talent ID Coach.

Interviews were conducted during the month of September 2010 and John O’Rawe was selected for the position. John O’Rawe will become the NIWA’s first employee and will commence work after the Commonwealth Games with the focus of his attention on the 14 – 21 years age group and strengthening links with both the National Talent Squad (NTS) and the National Development Squad (NDS).

Ideally, the new coach should work with a NI Coach who would retain responsible for the running of senior NI Squad training sessions and contribute to the selection and coaching of NI representative teams in addition to assisting, designing and monitoring the competition programmes of senior NI Squad members.

However, until such times as a new Northern Ireland coach is selected, John O’Rawe will retain the relevant posts and manage both functions.

Northern Ireland currently has no athletes on the NTS or the NDS however recent competition results have demonstrated that our wrestlers can meet the requirements and the NIWA is confident that pool of young talent is strong enough to make an impression in the near future.

11. DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW: 2010-2011

Key areas for progress over the next 18 months are: -

Consistent implementation of British Wrestling Recreational Membership: This has been implemented in pockets during 2010. The membership is a potential source of revenue for the Nations & Regions as for each £5 subscription, £4 is returned to the region.

Revised British Wrestling White Award Implementation: The first iteration of the award was launched in September 2009. Various revisions are being introduced in the light of experience as well as structuring the Award to be within the remit of a UKCC Level 1 coach

UKCC coaching structure implementation: UKCC endorsed coaching levels 1 & 2, starting with Level 1, moving on to level 2

FILA Master Degrees: Dependent on UKCC endorsed coaching levels to facilitate local coaching and sign-off

Increased numbers of Referees: Each club having a minimum of one qualified referee on their staff and adoption of a policy similar to that of FILA with regard to participating clubs providing referees

at domestic tournaments such that clubs taking 5 or more wrestlers provide a minimum of 1 referee

Provision of Officials at competitions: Adoption of a policy similar to that of FILA with regard to participating clubs providing officials at domestic tournaments such that clubs provide at least one official (defined as pairing master or assistant pairing master, timekeeper or video operator)

Clubmark certification: Following the implementation of a national playing programme in 2010 and the issue of 12 Clubmark certificates to wrestling organisations, other clubs are encouraged to work towards Clubmark certification

Tag-Wrestling: Development of a tag-wrestling programme to make wrestling attractive to younger age-groups. A simplified version of the sport is required for the target age groups enabling physical and technical development whilst ensuring the sport is easy to understand and attractive

Other Wrestling styles: Creation of a strategy laying out how the British Wrestling Association should act, as accredited National Governing Body, in the best interests of all wrestling styles in Great Britain and Northern Ireland

12. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

Financial Management and Administration

The vast majority of financial administration for the British Wrestling Association is managed by the BWA Administrator, overseen by the new post of Non-Executive Director, Finance. A set of Bank Accounts aligned to funding pots has been established to ensure

correct use of funds. The vast majority of transactions are electronic, providing visibility/traceability. The Finance manual that has been in force since 2003 has been extensively re-written to the satisfaction of external auditors.

Funding and Partners

The large majority of funding comes from UK Sport, Sport England, TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) and Commonwealth England. There are many other sources of funds and support that need to be sought out, such as Sport Unlimited; Running Sports; Sportsmatch UK; SportsAid; Street Games; Sportscoach UK; Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation; Sporting Equals; County Sports Partnerships; Skills Active; Youth Sport Trust. British Wrestling is grateful to these partners.

13. COMMUNICATIONS

Media

There has been an increase in coverage of wrestling in the wider since the appointment of Non-Exec Director PR & Communications. The profile of Summer Olympic Sports continues to grow in the run-up to London 2012. Scotland's performance programme is being followed in a long-running partnership with BBC Scotland following Commonwealth hopefuls for Glasgow 2014.

Prominent items of coverage during the period covered by this report were numerous articles on Press Association wire; Jatinder Rakhra interview in Chris Evan's Locker Room (Radio 2); BBC Blog article about Paul Strigeon on web, referencing freestyle wrestling; Leon Rattigan on local BBC in Bristol; Chairman interviewed on Simon Mayo show (Radio 2) to explain Greco-Roman wrestling, video footage on BBC sport of the 2010 GB Cup

There has been regular items in the media about wrestling in Northern Ireland, with local paper coverage in Londonderry, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Lisburn, Lurgan, Carrickfergus and Belfast regularly carrying freestyle wrestling articles. Sport NI and the Belfast Telegraph have also begun to feature the sport and the Knockagh Wrestling Camp was covered in depth by UTV. In December 2009 BBC (SportsRound) came to the Causeway Giants for the purpose of creating a short film to promote female wrestling across the country.

Website

The website has performed with near 100% reliability. Readership has been relatively stable between 200 and 300 visits per day. A small maintenance charge is paid to Nemisys, the website builder and provider to host the site. Nemisys are a specialist provider involved with sports. There is untapped potential, dependent on resource availability to source content and post stories.

The website has become the centre of on-line membership renewal and competition registration. In spite of initial teething problems and the recurring issue that some members do not have access to bank accounts/credit cards, the system is working well and delivering great benefits in terms of information about the membership and savings in scarce admin resource.

14. EQUITY & WELFARE, GOVERNANCE, HR

Equality, Welfare and Child Protection

Working towards a new equality and revised Child Protection Policy to finalise the Advanced Standard by the end 2010.

Governance

The British Wrestling Association has been under continuous scrutiny from UK Sport/Sport England's joint audit process that ensures the association is a reputable candidate to be in receipt of public funds. The process has been time consuming and exacting, but has helped drive through some of the change necessary to operate an effective business in today's environment. Some of the policies developed in response to the audit process have proved useful to the Northern Ireland Wrestling Association and the Wales Wrestling Association in their work towards official recognition.

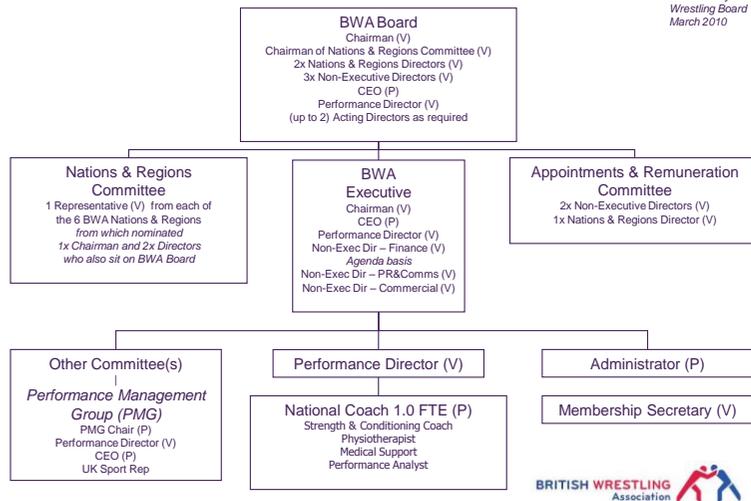
Complaints and Disagreements

During the period there has been a series of complaints, two of which have required legal input. These have consumed a significant amount of management time and occasionally some funds. The Association will try, wherever possible, to resolve disputes without recourse to lawyers to retain funds within the sport for wrestling.

15. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE DIAGRAM

British Wrestling Association Structure

Endorsed by British Wrestling Board March 2010



16. FEMALE WRESTLING

Female Wrestling at the performance level is currently doing very well. Yana Stadnik has delivered medals that are better results than anything achieved in GB Wrestling throughout the last twenty years. In the Commonwealth Games teams females form 70% of the Scotland selections and 40% for Wales. Amongst the membership, females form 16% overall.

17. CONCLUSION

British Wrestling is in the infancy of its new organisation. Although there are new structures, many of the individuals of influence are the same characters as prior to modernisation and it takes time to change but change is indeed happening. With limited staff and most of those involved being highly engaged, but also very busy volunteers, it is difficult to move forward more quickly than is currently being achieved.



A big round of thanks should go to all those who give up so much of their personal time to support British Wrestling.