5 Medals for England

BRITISH WRESTLING

Annual Report: 2013-14 The Year in Review

October 2014

First Ever Wrestling Medal for Wales

and

Two Medals for Scotland

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1. CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to use this opportunity to encourage our membership to pause for a moment and enjoy the peace of a post Commonwealth Games period and relative calm of the mid Olympic cycle. Too often we are hard on ourselves, trying to be all things to all people and forgetting that 99.9% of this organisation is made up of volunteers giving freely of their time.

Use the moment to remind ourselves that as an organisation we have been moving at a whirlwind pace; staging major events, fighting fires and dealing with the past (sometimes reviewing decisions that are eight years old); whilst change is constantly on the Agenda and being thrust upon us by other stakeholders.

Indeed, if we examine our own personal contributions then we can only conclude there is much to celebrate about British Wrestling. Those that were present at the Olympics or Commonwealth Games in whenever capacity will bear testimony that the sport is alive and well; making best use of social media to bring it to the attention of a new audience who thought our athletes were something entirely different and failed to recognise the dedication required to become proficient at the sport. To the leaders, administrators, officials, support teams, coaches and athletes we owe you a tremendous debt of gratitude; the next generation of wrestlers has already been inspired by your professional delivery.

When I say "British Wrestling" I mean every person that completed an online application form; we are too small to view the organisation in terms of "them" and "us" mentality and I often hear the BWA referred to in the third person. "Who are the BWA?" - We are the collective sum of thousands of ordinary interactions between coaches and teams; parents and athletes; club treasurers and funders; committees and councils or the Executive and Sport England.

I have been involved in wrestling for about 35 years and today I see an organisation which is structurally fit for purpose (audit after audit from Sport England provides confirmation) although we continue to learn valuable lessons particularly around the selection of key positions; only last week at a Sport NI meeting I heard senior representatives from the sports of hockey and badminton debating problems that plague their corporate governance, matters which we resolved years ago.

Nevertheless, with the foundations in place there is more work to be done and it is now time to get on to the front foot e.g. we have a huge capacity for growth, do we actually believe that our numbers consists of just over 1,200 persons in total (equivalent to the capacity of the family stand at Torquay United FC)? If it were true then the ability to identify and prepare 8 Commonwealth medallists in truly a phenomenon.

I believe this is a gross under representation and does British Wrestling a disservice in the eyes of our statutory partners and friends. So therein lays a challenge and the responsibility to address it rests with us all; I feel it should be a priority as we approach 2015 but rapid progress can only be made if everyone else sees things the same way.

British Wrestling is a democratic organisation and each top end committees will be set the task of contributing to an overarching document which sets the strategic direction for years to come. Efforts will be coordinated by the CE but the membership will own the document and if the process is correct then we will believe in it. Performance is no longer the main driver and as the health of the nation declines for the first time in a long time we are hearing about club development, increasing participation and pathways for young people; subjects which sit at the heart of every club.

The door is open for innovation and creativity; ideas can flow throughout the organisation very quickly and we should seize the moment, funding is in place and we will not be shy about asking for more as our statistics improve, others have already done it.

Piece by piece, Skype by Skype (and occasionally face to face), we have built a strong central core; the work will continue and opportunities will arise in the immediate future for others to contribute as interim positions are filled, committee members rotate and new Directors on the current Board roll their sleeves up, we will embrace the grind!

The watch words for 2015 will be transparency and trust e.g. a summary of Board minutes will continue to be published on the web site and Directors will be more visible at tournaments. As we establish and publish a set of values important to British Wrestling, I have no doubt that these words will form the central pillar of the document.

Undoubtedly, this resonates with the entire organisation but these matters require the two way flow of accurate and timely information (top to bottom/bottom to top) and as we move ever closer towards de-centralisation with stronger National and Regional Squads based in additional centres of excellence in Stirling, Cardiff and Londonderry then communication is vital.

There should be no closed doors within British Wrestling and I look forward to the day when the Academy in Salford is once more a welcoming, vibrant and busy location. Undoubtedly, we have another challenge on our hands to retain and modernize the building but it is the focal point of our joint efforts and the shop window to our sport, the Board of British Wrestling will rally around to ensure that this asset is one to be proud of and reflects a unified and determined organisation moving forward.

I would like say a very sincere thank you to Yvonne Ball, Colin Nicholson and Malcolm Morley (OBE); they work above and beyond the call of duty and I have witnessed at first hand just how demanding their jobs are in reality. Finally, to the parents and carers of all our athletes, thank you for every car journey on a wet wintry night, every pound invested in equipment and tournaments; every sacrifice you have made throughout the year, the sport simply could not survive without you.

Yours in Wrestling

Barry Pollin
Interim Chair - British Wrestling

The Wrestling Competition venue flag that flew over the Scottish Exhibition Conference Centre (SECC,) at the XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2014. The flag is now in Northern Ireland to take its place at the new Wrestling/Climbing/ Judo Academy at St Columb's Park, Londonderry, due to open in March 2015

2. MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This annual report covers 2013-2014, a period during which there has been steady perogress, mixed with moments of brilliance and set-backs.

Olga Butkevych starred at the 2014 European Championships with a Bronze medal (whilst Leon and Yana Rattigan were recovering from injuries. Performance reached a peak at the Commonwealth games in Glasgow with 8 medals across the Home Nations, the best result in twenty years. It is credit to each Home Nation Association that their respective Sports Councils were pleased with the results of their investments and this bode well for the Gold Coast in 2018. Further tribute shold be given to those officiating at Glasgow 2014 for the great job they did in contributing to a successful Wrestling Competition.

British Wrestling membership has grown during the period which is tribute to the new foundations in place, (UKCC Coaching Programme; Athlete Awards; Talent Pathway) and the BWA is now in a position to grow further. The BWA would like to work with all Home Nation Associations, Clubs, Coaches and all to achieve this growth.

Governance continues to take up a considerable amount of management time and it is hoped that the foundations referred to above lead to a period of stability in the area of governance as well. Notable progress has been made in the ratification of a single constitution for the three England Regions, meaning that representatives from the regions will take their places on committees on an equal basis.

It would assist in the delivery of any programme involving volunteers if British Wrestling was to appoint a HR Director who has the necessary skills and expertise in this sphere. This possibility needs to be investigated.

It was great news for Wrestling that Malcolm Morley was awarded the OBE for his services to the sport of Wrestling in H.M. The Queen's 2014 Birthday Honour's list.

Colin Nicholson
Chief Executive – British Wrestling

3. GOVERNANCE TRANSITION

The Board will have met four times since the last AGM.

The interim England Committee requires to secure its Terms of Reference but progress has been made during the year with a single constitution across the England Regions now successfully ratified by all three England Regions.

The UK Sport/Sport England self-assurance process is a tough review of governance. It continues to be a challenging exercise, though beneficial, for an organisation the size of British Wrestling, to keep its policies "up-to-the-mark." There was an on-site audit (usual to take place once per four-year funding cycle) and British Wrestling achieved a creditable Green-Amber grade (second from top).

As referred to by the Chair in his opening report, British Wrestling's Articles of Association are ahead of some other National Governing Bodies of sport.

4. COMMITTEE WORK

The Coaching and Officials Committee has achieved much through the delivery of the UKCC Coaching Programme and 23 Coaches are qualified at UKCC Level 1 and 41 at UKCC Level 2. The dynamic listing of UKCC Qualified Coaches is available on the British Wresting Website (link).

Other committees are endeavouring to meet regularly, but with only a small staff of (dedicated) volunteers this presents a big challenge.

5. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

As part of its response to being temporarily removed from the Olympics in 2013, Wrestling's International Federation rebranded to United World Wrestling (link). All are encouraged not to abbreviate "United World Wrestling" to the acronym form "UWW" and if a shortening is required, to use "World Wrestling" after a prior use of the full version.

If the name is to be shortened, it should be referred to as "World Wrestling."

British Wrestling announced the change on its website (link) and via Twitter on 7th September 2014

The President of United World Wrestling, Nenad Lalovic, has dedicated himself to regaining Wrestling's place as a core Olympic Sport, building on its current position as a sport for Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

6. BRITISH WRESTLING 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 Performance Programme

7. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND OUTCOMES: 2013/14

British Wrestling continues to be very short of money. It is an indication of the achievements over the past 4 years that Sport England was prepared to raise its funding for British Wrestling by approximately 150% for this current cycle, compared to the last.

The relationship with Sport England continues to be key. Their funding of British Wrestling constitutes 81% of income with membership and club affiliation contributing 6.3%.

However, it is important for members to note that Sport England money is ring-fenced to the set of "investment outcomes" agreed with Sport England.

8. DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Membership

There continue to be many regular wrestlers who are not members of the Association. This means they are wrestling without insurance. However, as coaches (who have gone through the UKCC coaching programme) and Club Secretaries gain an understanding of the importance of membership, numbers are rising and there has been a significant rise in the Recreational category of membership, for individuals who are training regularly, but not going to competitions.

With the aim of encouraging membership, most BWA-endorsed competitions now have registration on-line whereby to enter, participants have first to be current members.

All those wrestling regularly (for more than six weeks) should take out either full BWA Membership or Recreational Membership.

Year	20010 (end-Aug)	2011 (end-Aug)	2012 (end-Jul)	2013 (end-Aug)	2014 (end-Sept)
Individual Members	679	661	701	773	1208
Affiliated Clubs	45	57	43	46	51

- A breakdown on age shows that 41% of membership is over18 and 59% is under18.
- There were 536 Recreational Members at the end of September 2014.

Also included in the overall membership figures numbers are the licensed coaches, referees, competition officials and examiners: -

Year	2009	2011 (end-Aug)	2012 (end-Jul)	2013 (end-Sept)	2014** (end-Sept)
Coaches	75	76	58*	86	23 UKCC L1 39 UKCC L2
Referees	24	20	18*	12	14

** Numbers impacted by those that have not renewed their rolling memberships*

*** Change to monitor numbers by UKCC certification*

Equality data has been gathered from Board Directors and staff in line with the new Equality Policy

Clubs
The number of elements required to come together for a new club to form are formidable but not insurmountable, with a total of 51 in the UK.

9. PERFORMANCE

On 2nd April 2014 Olga Butkevych (GBR) pinned her first and last opponents in the 2014 European Championships to take Bronze.
In the repechage, it took Olga just 18 seconds to triumph. Olga overcame wrestlers from Roumania and Belarus. Olga had taken time out from Wrestling since her 2012 World Championship Bronze (59kg, Sept 2012, Canada) to earn a living but returned on form. Olga finished 2014 at Number 15 in the UWW 60kg World Rankings.

With Wrestling fortunate to be a Commonwealth Sport, Olga and an English Wrestling team received limited, but nonetheless vital funding from the National Lottery via Sport England and Commonwealth Games England to train for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. These Games were the main focus for the year for the Home Nations. The Home Nations achieved a creditable 8 medals.

Home Nation Teams (link) were entered as follows

Home Nation	Athletes	Medals
England	13	5
Scotland	14	2
Wales	5	1
Northern Ireland	2	

Home Nation Role of Honour:

England		
Silver	48kg	Yana Rattigan
Bronze	55kg 74kg 97kg 125kg	Louisa Porogovska Michael Grundy Leon Rattigan Chinu
Scotland		
Bronze	61kg 65kg	Viorel Etko Alex Gladkov
Wales		
Bronze	57kg	Craig Pilling

During the year it was confirmed that Wrestling would be on the sport programme for the next Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, Australia, 2018.

Talent Pathway

During the last 12 months the 'Talent Pathway' has been completed. This compliments the new UKCC L1 and 2 Coaching Courses. Copies of the 'Talent Pathway' have been made available to all Nations, Regions and Clubs.

The Talent Pathway is athlete centred and creates a pathway where the athlete is, to a very large extent, master of their own destiny. It also gives direction to coaches on their interaction with their athletes to help them reach their full potential and at the same time improve their own coaching skills.

The first England Regional Coaches were appointed in November 2013 with all Regional Caches and Coach Assistants appointed by October 2014.

(See also: 10. Work-in-progress: High Profile Projects)

GB Talent Squad

With no UK Sport funding currently available to Wrestling, funding for a GB Talent Squad is limited. Sport England funds an England Talent Squad and other Home Nation Talent Squads come together with the England Talent Squad to form the GB Talent Squad.

The England National Coach, Anatolii Kharytoniuk, leads the coaching of the England Talent Squad and the GB Talent Squad when the squads combine.

The GB Talent Squad now has 30 members and some of these have competed in international competitions.

A total of 5 GB Talent Squad athletes have been supported by SportsAid with individual funding between £500 to £1000, dependent on age, experience and talent.

10. WORK-IN-PROGRESS: HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS

New Coaching Structure

Courses are now successfully running for UKCC Level 1 and 2 Wrestling Coaching Qualifications. Qualification routes have been endorsed for School PE Teachers to teach Wrestling. By gaining UKCC qualifications the routes have been opened up for BWA qualified coaches to teach in schools.

In October 2014, 23 Coaches are qualified at UKCC Level 1 and 41 at UKCC Level 2. The dynamic listing of UKCC Qualified Coaches is available on the British Wresting Website (link).

It is envisaged that in the future, some of our more talented coaches will be given the opportunity to participate in what will be a new United World Wrestling Coach Educator Courses, of which British Wrestling has been able to make a significant contribution to the course material.

New Talent Pathway

The Talent Pathway is based on six distinct principles:

- Structured athlete development
- The technical programme, which complements the structured development of athletes and coaches
- The physical testing protocols, which complement the structured physical development of wrestlers
- The mental skills programme which deals with the skills required for wrestling
- Lifestyle advice
- Structured Coach development with UKCC Levels 1 and 2

The implementation of the Talent Pathway is well under way and it will be underpinned by an agreed administrative system which documents every athlete's progress whilst they are part of the National Talent Squad or an elite Senior Squad. Athletes and parents of young athletes will be encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and to co-operate with the administrative process, including prompt response to appropriate emails and to endeavour to implement coaches advice as it affects training or competition.

If all those involved in the implementation of the Talent Pathway work together in an atmosphere of co-operation, hard work and determination to succeed there is no reason why British Wrestling cannot in the future, have a squad of full-time athletes and support staff in receipt of UK Sport funding. Whilst this is very much a future ambition, it is one which we should work towards and not shy away from the task in hand.

British Wrestling will review the Talent Pathway on an annual basis.

New Athlete Award Structure

The BWA has in place a technical award scheme aligned to the development of an athlete from beginner to world-class performance:

- The White and Yellow awards help to develop the fundamentals for beginners
- The Orange award is targeted at those wishing to specialise in wrestling and wish to be considered for Regional Training Squads
- The Green award is targeted at those aspiring to be part of a Home Nation Development Squad
- The Blue and Brown awards are there for progression within the Development Squads, through to, in England, the English National Senior Squad and beyond

The new coaching structure will operate alongside and complement the new athlete Talent Pathway and athlete award system.

Referee/Officials Pathway

One of British Wrestling's next targets should be to work upon a Referee/Officials Pathway where the aim should be:

1. To assist every club to have at least one referee and one other official available to assist at domestic competition.
2. To increase our representation at international level.

The final bout of the Commonwealth Games was refereed by Dave Sudron. At the end of the bout he lay his arm bands and whistle at the centre of the mat as it was his last bout as an International Referee. Dave was given a cheer and round of applause, a tribute to the end of his International Refereeing.

Club Development Project (in England)

In 2012-13, British Wrestling worked with a leading independent sports and leisure consultancy Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) helped to support clubs in putting together formal Development Plans. The project's overall aim was to improve many aspects of British Wrestling's core network of clubs in England.

In 2013-14, this work was built upon through projects with Svend Elkjaer of the Sports Marketing Network, and Paul Morrell from Sheffield College, each headlined by pairs of workshops (held in London and The Academy) with transport funded for clubs attending from long distances.

Paul Morrell, (that great combination of a keen sportsman and technical guru,) from Sheffield College, led technical classes on how Clubs could generate an important web-presence at no financial cost, (whilst differentiating between Twitter, Facebook and websites). He also developed a membership database for clubs to "know their members" and support communication with their membership.

Svend Elkjaer worked through the need for clubs to be truly welcoming to new members and the importance of integrating with their local communities, i.e. the clubs to offer far more to their surrounding locality than just wrestling classes. By making clubs **Vibrant** and **Visible**, clubs can be made **Viable**! Svend also led workshops on how to run an effective "Club Open Day" and many clubs took part in a National Open Day on 14th June 2014 (link).

British Wrestling Website

The British Wrestling website continues to be important in presenting news and competition regulations and results, as well as structuring the large amount of necessary governance information such as policies.

Anyone wishing to contribute their time and energy to enhance the website should contact the British Wrestling Administrator.

On the 30th September 2013, the BWA launched a Twitter feed @GBRWrestlingNGB. Members are encouraged to follow! Since its launch, there have been over 360 tweets.

11. COACHES AND OFFICIALS

Coaching structure
See above: [10. Work-in-progress: High Profile Projects]

Increased numbers of Referees:
Each club should have a minimum of one qualified referee on their staff. As of October 2014, only 17% of clubs have a Referee

It is noted that where a club has a Referee, there is an increased respect for referees and the difficult job they do by that club's athletes at competitions. Before the start of each domestic competition and the Commonwealth Games there were briefings for Referees on the latest rules (there being four World Wrestling rule updates since the major change at the beginning of 2014). Clubs with Referees have an advantage as they have knowledge of the latest rules.

As of October 2014, only 17% of clubs have a Referee

As the UKCC Coaching Programme gets fully into gear, the Coach and Officials Development Committee can turn its attention to a more structure development path for Referees.

Provision of Officials at competitions: There is an aspiration that clubs should provide officials at domestic tournaments such that clubs provide at least one official (defined as pairing master or assistant pairing master, timekeeper or video operator) per five athletes. As an interim, before clubs have the resources, it was agreed that each Region would provide 2x Referees per competition.

12. REPORTS FROM THE NATIONS AND REGIONS

Scotland

The Scottish Wrestling Association has been reflecting on a successful year underlined by the achievement of 2 medals in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games as committed to Sportscotland.

The SWA is currently in a transitional period reviewing "in no specific order:"

(1) The outcomes of the 2014 Commonwealth Games
(2) The current Wrestling Team Scotland.
(3) The current Sportscotland funding cycle (ending 31st March 2015).
(4) The current Scottish Institute of Sport network support.
(5) Future direction of the SWA Performance Programme.
(6) An agreement with Stirling University that brings University Academics and Sport (Wrestling) together- a 1st in Scotland.
(7) Training and Competition needs going forwards for wrestling Team Scotland.
(8) BWA (SWA) pathways for Scottish Athletes and Great Britain Squad training – something that has become clearer after the "NO" vote result Scottish referendum.
(9) SWA coaches taking wrestling taster sessions at Primary Schools and Academies.
(10) Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018.
(11) SWA overall strategic plan for the years 2015 to 2019.
(12) Sportscotland Scottish Governing Boards Investment
(13) SWA AGM
(14) SWA draft of Articles of Association of a Limited Company circulated for consultation to SWA membership and other interested bodies

Northern Ireland Wrestling Association:

The Northern Ireland Wrestling Association Ltd. (NIWA) remains a company limited by guarantee which became incorporated on 23 March 2010 and consists of the following wrestling clubs:

Evolve Wrestling (Limavady) Waterside Sharks TC (Londonderry) Erne Wrestling Club (Enniskillen);	Causeway Wrestling Club (Ballymoney) Redhog Wrestling Club (Belfast)

The organisation is managed by volunteers and exists to:

- Promote, grow and develop the sport of freestyle wrestling and associated styles within Northern Ireland.
- Organise high quality competitions, training and social events amongst the members of the NIWA.
- Assist in the establishment of any other association or the formation and development of any club to the benefit of the sport.

By the end of 2013 the NIWA consisted of 187 members of which 160 were under the age of 18 years (86%). An audit by the organisation's accountants determined that the Derry City Council's schools programme had made a significant impact and concluded:

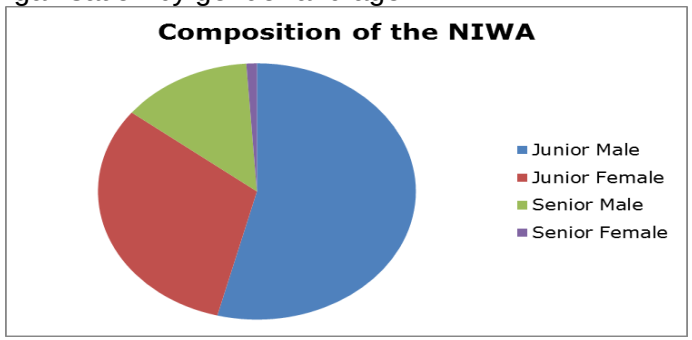
> *"Undoubtedly the actual number in the adult participation categories are underrepresented due to reluctance to push and collect membership fees from volunteers"* (Green, 2013)

The percentages of the different segments in 2013 are as follows:

Group	Number Registered	Size of Group (% of total organisation)
Junior Males (U18 yrs)	101	54%
Junior Females (U18 yrs)	59	32%
Senior Males (18 yrs+)	25	13%
Senior Females (18 yrs+)	2	1%

Figure 1: NIWA Membership Statistics

The following table provides a graphic illustration of the composition of the organisation by gender and age:



NIWA Membership Composition

The pie chart highlights some of the biggest problems facing the NIWA:

- With a high percentage of members under the age of 18 years the organisation how does the organisation cope with Generation Y and retain their interest?
- Existing coaches will come under increasing pressure as the individual needs of the younger age group grows
- The percentage of senior female members is critically low and requires immediate attention
- There is a shortage of senior role models who train as performance athletes and still compete in tournaments

Nevertheless, 2013/14 can be regarded as a successful year with the NIWA receiving financial support from Sport NI under the Performance Focus 2013/17 programme for the funding of national squads and the retention of a part time Talent Development coach.

In addition, the year was dominated by tournaments and events, the most important of which were the NI Open, Belfast (April); Ulster Novice Champs, Londonderry (July); World Police and Fire Games, Belfast (August) and British Junior Champs, Limavady (October).

NI Athlete Prepares for Contest at the WPFG 2013, Belfast

In August 2013 approximately 7,000 competitors and family members from over 67 countries arrived in Belfast to participate in the World Police and Fire Games (WPFG). The event is the third largest international multi-sport event in the world and was the largest sporting event to ever take place in Northern Ireland.

The WPFG is a biennial event for serving and retired members of the emergency services and in 2013 Belfast catered for 56 different sports across 41 venues throughout Northern Ireland.
The stated aim of the WPFG management team was to deliver the "friendliest Games ever" and 3,600 local volunteers were recruited to achieve just that.

Both Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling styles were included in the overall programme and the NIWA enlisted the support of 17 specialist volunteers from across the United Kingdom to manage the tournaments in the Shankill Leisure Centre.

Volunteers at the WPFG 2013, Belfast

During a four days period over 120 wrestlers competed in the events and our members played an active role in coordinating and the delivering the award winning event. This was the first and only time that a Greco-Roman tournament was every held in Northern Ireland.

In a similar vein the British Junior Champs were held in Northern Ireland for the first time ever and local wrestlers claimed 7 x Gold; 5 x Silver and 5 x Bronze.

These two events exposed our athletes to a higher level of competition, for example, provisions were made for our wrestlers to train with the Russian and Peruvian police teams and a rich network of contacts was developed.

Other successes at national level included 4x Gold at the Welsh Open (August,) and 2x Gold at the Derbyshire Open (October) with 4x Gold international medals being picked up at the Maltese Open (November).

Progress was noted with regard to coaching and 5x UKCC Level 2 coaches received their certificates with UKCC Level 1 courses and Pairing Master/Referee courses being held in Belfast in the run up to the World Police and Fire Games.

Finally, members of the Northern Ireland were able to access specialist services and the Sports Institute NI opened their doors to athletes preparing for the XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow.

Conclusion
Whilst 2013/14 was probably the NIWA's busiest year to date the organisation received a lot of support from others particularly the Mary Peter's Trust, the North West Talent Project, the University of Ulster and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

In addition, Derry City Council continued to invest in the NIWA Wrestling Academy and, with a huge degree of certainty, the doors will be open in March 2015, in time to welcome our colleagues from Roger Williams University, Rhode Island, USA for an international training camp and tournament.

Barry Pollin
Director - Chairman
The Northern Ireland Wrestling Association Limited
(A copy of the full NIWA report is available from Barry Pollin)

Welsh Wrestling Association

The Welsh Wrestling Association has been working hard, this last 12 months, towards the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, with Wales making history at the Games winning their first ever wrestling medal, with Craig Pilling's bronze. Craig Pilling was invited to visit 10 Downing Street and was congratulated personally by the prime minister for all his hard work and dedication in his chosen sport of wrestling.

We would like to congratulate the full welsh team selected to represent wales at the games on their performance Craig Pilling, Damion Arzu, Tommy Hawthorn, Oli Cole, Sarah Payne and Team manager Alan Jones and National Coach Arash Shojaei.

After making history for Wales at the Games, Craig Pilling and team-mate Damion Arzu where both head-hunted by S4c to do a re-enactment for Tudor times to do a wrestling display in Tretower Court and Castle, which will be shown on S4c tv in the near future.

There are a total of 4 registered clubs in Wales which are located in 3 of the main regions in Wales. The Association as a main focus for next year will be looking at promoting wrestling in Wales and increasing membership throughout all of the current clubs, as it is important that all wrestlers and clubs are registered with the national governing body.

Next year we are looking at running more coaching courses to help support clubs in creating a strong coaching team which in turn will increase membership in Wales.

The Association has hosted the Welsh Closed National Championships in Sport Wales National Centre Cardiff; British Closed Senior, Junior and Cadet Championships held in Welshpool in Mid-Wales which is an important event in British wrestling calendar as it allows British wrestlers to establish there ranking in Great Britain as without this event you are unable to be ranked in Great Britain, which when seeking funding for elite wrestlers this is one of the first question you are asked by the Home Nations sports council.

The Association ran 2 International Training Camps in Sport Wales National Centre Cardiff, led by Alan Jones, Head of Performance for Welsh Wrestling and Arash Shojaei, National Coach for Wales. Alan's vast experience made sure that the camp ran successfully

with great support from Wales, Northern Ireland, Malta and some wrestling clubs from England. The Association would like to thank all those who took part in the camps and worked with the welsh wrestlers.

This year Welsh Wrestling took our first junior team to the World Sports festival in Vienna where the Welsh team and British wrestlers who accompanied the welsh team, did Wales and Great Britain proud returning home with 2 silvers and a bronze medal.

The Welsh Centre of Excellence is running on a regular basis, working toward preparing wrestlers for National and International Competitions. Well done to all welsh wrestlers taking part in National and International events representing Wales and Great Britain throughout the last 12 months.

We would like to thank the Committee of the Association who give up so much of their time to make sure that wrestling continues to build in Wales. Special thanks must go to Sport Wales, Commonwealth Games Council for Wales and the Welsh Sports Association for all their help and support throughout the year. Without their help and support wrestling wouldn't strive forward in Wales. A big thank you to all the wrestlers for made the effort and dedication to work with the welsh wrestlers. Well done and thank you to all Welsh wrestlers, coaches and volunteers who believe in the future of Welsh Wrestling.

Sue Jones
Chair Welsh Wrestling Association

The Northern Region:

The Northern Region consists of ten registered clubs:

Aspull	Manchester Y-Club	Wigan & Leigh
Barton	Range Tigers	York
Bolton	Sharples	
Bradford	Stockton	

There have been 2 major Competitions within the Region, consisting of Aspull International Competition and Stockton hosting the British Novices. These have been well structured Competitions with maximum effort by their Clubs and their presentations were a credit to their organisers and their volunteers. Inter-club competitions have been running for our younger wrestlers and are a success with the local youngsters and coaches.

The Region was well represented at all major Competitions:

British Seniors Medals: 9 Gold, 1 Silver and 5 Bronze
British Schoolboys/girls and Juniors Championships
Medals: 14 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 Bronze.
English Senior Championship
Medals: 5 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.
English Schoolboys/girls and Juniors Championship
Medals: 17 Gold, 11 Silver and 4 Bronze.

Northern Region and National Open Day - 14th June 2014
A Seminar was run in conjunction with BWA Club Development in the North and South of England. 'Open Day' which was presented by Sven Elkjaer, from Sports Marketing Network, a recognised leader in developing sports participation. Many of our clubs within the region made good use of the seminar and organised an 'Open Day' in conjunction with other Clubs within England and organised an excellent day. There was a lot of effort put in by clubs to make the day a success.

Northern Region and Talent Pathway
The England Talent Pathway has been structured and approved by Sport England. The Region is committed to develop our athletes.

In developing Wrestling, UKCC accredited Coaching Programme have been successfully run and many Coaches from our Region have acquired UKCC Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications and the process is still being run by the BWA.

Jesse Bradbury

A clear vision of the coaches and athlete's expected progress via Regional Squads to the England Development Squads has been laid down. The first step for our Region was to appoint a new Regional Coach, Jesse Bradbury and Michael Grundy has more recently been appointed Regional Coach Assistant.

Our Region congratulates them both and wishes them every success for the future.

As Jesse and Michael take our Region forward to the next generation, Tony Morris steps down as the Regional Coach. The Region wishes to give Tony a 'Big Thank you' for the 25 dedicated years that he gave to the Region as Centre of Excellence Coach.

Michael Grundy

Tony Morris scoops 'Unsung hero' Award
On Friday, 26th. September 2014 Tony was award 'Unsung Hero Award' at the Bolton Council Sport and Active Living Awards. He has devoted 50 years to wrestling in Bolton, which included 36 years as a volunteer coach at Bolton Olympic Wrestling Club.

Tony also coached over 25 years as Northern Region Coach and 17 years as a British National Coach. Tony has dedicated a lifetime of coaching to all age groups and possesses the leadership skills that have helped countless people to have a positive outlook on life. Tony has also provided peer support to many young coaches and the award is a wonderful recognition for his voluntary work.
The award is a wonderful recognition for all his voluntary work.

Northern Region and XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2014

The Northern Region were well represented at the Commonwealth Games:

Silver Medal:	
	Yana Rattigan
Bronze Medals	
	Louisa Porogovska, Michael Grundy, Leon Rattigan
Other athlete representing England	
	Olga Butkevych, Sarah Grundy, Sophie Edwards, George Ramm, Oleksandr Madyarchyk, Philip Roberts
Assistant Team Leader:	
	Eddy Kavanagh

Congratulations to all our athletes in making Glasgow 2014 a memorable occasion.

Craig Piling makes history

Another Regional Wrestler, Craig Pilling from Bolton Wrestling Club, made history at the Commonwealth Games when he won a Bronze Medal at 57 kilo category for Team Wales. This was the first wrestling medal ever to be won by Wales at a Commonwealth Games.

Tommy Hawthorn from Bradford, also accompanied Craig, at 74 kilo for Team Wales.

Technical Officials

Northern Region Technical Officials played an important role to the Games success:

Ellen Morris, Freda Sudron, Paul Kay, Tony Melling, Tony Morris, Dave Sudron and Ian Wiggett

The final bout of the Commonwealth Games was refereed by Dave Sudron, Northern Regions Vice-Chair, in his last bout as an International Referee*. (Also, see photo, Page 10)*

A very eventful year!

Ellen Morris
Chairperson of the Northern Region Wrestling Association

The Midlands Region

Midlands Regional Committee
Following the Midlands Region AGM in December 2013, attended by the New Chair Cary Depel as an observer, where the Midlands voted in the New England Single Constitution, the Region has worked towards growth in both participation and Coaches which will hopefully lead towards new Clubs.

Regional Squad
With the support of Sport England, the Midlands, like their sister regions in the North and South, started 2014 with new Regional Coaches and Regional Squads allowing the Region to follow the England Talent Pathway. Trevor Hoskins and Dean Brown were tasked with setting up Regional squads. So far there have been 6 squads, and the last squad is was held at GMAC the home of Birmingham Wrestling club on 14th Sep, with 20+ athletes and a visit from the Midlands Commonwealth Wrestlers Chinu and Omar to tell the aspiring wrestlers their road to success.

Two Athletes from the squad, Lewis Brown and Shaun Thorpe, achieved their Yellow Award - believed to be the first in the UK and were put forward for the NTS during one of the entry windows. British Wrestling has chosen Lilleshall National Sports Centre, near Telford, as the venue for a NTS training camp to be attended by young wrestlers from all over the UK.

Membership
From a membership figure of 135 at the end of January the current membership numbers now stand at 210 which is a substantial growth, we are hoping to grow the Region further.

Midlands Region and Commonwealth Games
Two competitors from the Midlands Region represented England at the XX Commonwealth Games in Glasgow:

Chinu, from Wolverhampton, fought his way to a Bronze Medal in the 125k category. Chinu was invited onto "Tonight at the Games," a late night round-up show on BBC 1 with Claire Balding. His triumph also became the front page image on the international federation website.

Omar Tafail, from Birmingham, represented England in the 57k category.

The Midlands also supplied a number of volunteers and referees. Referee **Richard Phillips** was joined in Glasgow by his brother **Tony Phillips** on the scoreboard. **Tornik Hakobyan** was part of Athlete Control, the same role he had at the 2012 Olympics. The England Team itself was also supported by regional members, **Shaun Morley** as Team Leader, with two Assistants one of whom was **Trevor Hoskins**. The Team and Athletes also owe their thanks to **Yvonne Ball** for all the work in the background that allowed them to get on with the work at hand.

Competitions
In addition to the usual Nottingham and Derbyshire club competitions, the Region has also hosted both the English and British Seniors as Commonwealth Games qualifying events. The British Juniors in October is also planned for Leicester.

Coaching
Most clubs in the Midlands Region have at least one UKCC coach, some clubs have multiple coaches. By the end of the year there will be a UKCC Level 2 course in Wolverhampton and this should ensure that all the clubs in the Region have a qualified UKCC Level 2 coach in place by early next year, 2015.

Trevor Hoskins
Chair, Midlands Region

The Southern Region

This year the Southern Region has gone through several changes. The Executive Committee and, most importantly, the wrestlers, seem to be adapting well to change.

The Southern Region AGM took place in June 2014 and a new Committee elected. Straight away, the Committee established effective ways of communication, enabling the Region to operate more effectively.

In April 2014, the Region was privileged to host the English Junior Championships. The event, held at St Mary's University, Twickenham, was fantastic and it was great to see wrestlers from all of Great Britain attend our championships. Steve Cooke has worked extremely hard to establish links with St Mary's University and we are looking to run more wrestling events at the university in the future.
Implementation of the England Talent Pathway in the Southern Region is progressing well, with the appointment of Eric Ciake as Regional Coach and Jatinder Rakhra as Regional Coach Assistant. Eric has sat down with the Committee and produced a training and competition plan for the remainder of the year. Our Regional Development Squad training sessions are now taking place more frequently and we have a greater number of athletes who are on the National Talent Squad.

The Southern Region is working hard to develop every aspect of the sport and, most importantly is working with the other Nations and Regions to develop the sport of wrestling for Great Britain.

Jatinder Rakhra
Chair, Southern Region

13. DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW: 2014-2015

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

Level 2 UKCC coaches to be qualified at all Clubs
See above

Talent Pathway implementation
See above

Athlete Award implementation
See above

Increased numbers of Referees: Promote the necessity for each club to have a minimum of one qualified referee on their staff with the adoption of a policy similar to that of FILA with regard to participating clubs providing referees at domestic tournaments such that clubs taking 5 of more wrestlers provide a minimum of 1 referee

Provision of Officials at competitions: Adoption of a policy similar to that of United World Wrestling 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). As an interim, before clubs have the resources, it would be necessary for each Region to provide 2xReferees per competition. Each club should provide one official per five athletes.

Academy: Salford City Council's current urban regeneration project around the Academy provides a unique opportunity for liaison with revitalised Community Groups to integrate the Academy into the life of their community. The timing is also right for an application to the Sport England Improvement Fund, and plans for refurbishment of the Academy will be influenced by local community needs.

14. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

Staff and Output

British Wrestling's small membership and just three salaried staff create a limit to the amount of activity that can be managed at any one time. The staff work to strict priorities and trust that members will be patient as the staff endeavour to manage the various issues that inevitably occur as professionally as possible.

Funding and Partners

With the focus of UK Sport to funding individual athletes destined for Podium positions, Sport England becomes the prime funding partner. Other Home Nations continue to enjoy good relationships with their sports councils.

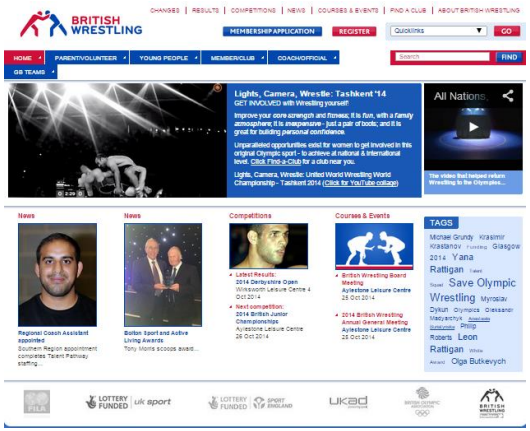
There are many other sources of funds and support that need to be sought out, such as Sport Unlimited; Running Sports; Sportsmatch UK; SportsAid; Street Games; Sportscoach UK; Women's Sport and Fitness Foundation; Sporting Equals; County Sports Partnerships; Skills Active; Youth Sport Trust.

British Wrestling is grateful to these partners. However, there are so many that British Wrestling needs to provide a handy guide to clubs and parents.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

Website

The website has performed well with near 100% reliability across the year. Usage peaked between 27th July – 2nd August 2014, the time of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games with 4,360 sessions.



There were 56,780 visits between 1st October 2013 and 30 September 2014 (marginally up from 54,800, for approximately the same period a year previous,) probably reflecting a Commonwealth Games year.

There remains untapped potential, dependent on resource availability to source content and post stories.

The On-line membership renewal and competition registration continue to perform well (apart from a short period when the official address was changed.). The system is now used consistently for competition registration.

16. EQUITY & WELFARE, GOVERNANCE, HR

Equality, Welfare and Child Protection
British Wrestling has achieved the Equality Foundation standard.

Governance
The British Wrestling Association continues to be 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. These procedures are useful in ensuring that British Wrestling is managed in a professional way.

There was a routine, once per cycle on-site Sport England audit in November 2013 at which British Wrestling achieved the second highest level (out of a possible four,) Amber-Green.

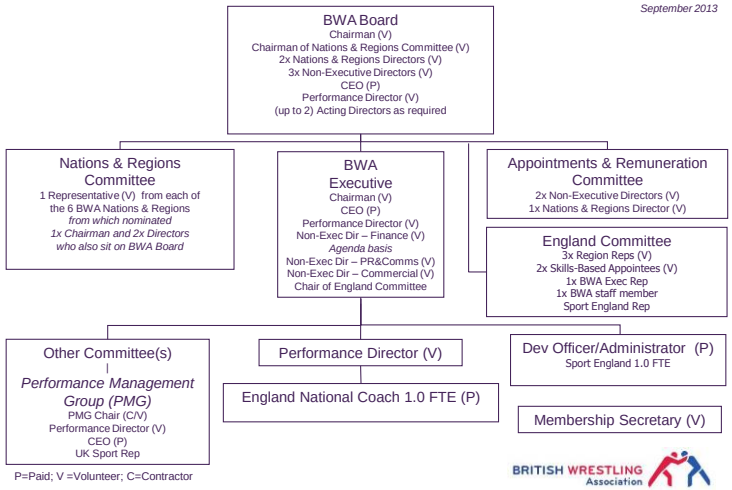
When recruiting to Board level positions the Board seeks and implements advice to ensure its marketing and other recruitment activity targets a diverse range of candidates. Steady progress is made in improving Board diversity including through target setting and disclosure of progress in annual reports. The target is to have 25% female representation by 2017 and currently there is one female Board Member, Sue Jones, Chair of the Welsh Wrestling Association.

Cary Depel joined as Chair in October 2013 and resigned in July 2014. British Wrestling will shortly begin the process of seeking a new Chair. In the meantime, Barry Pollin has been ratified as interim-Chair. In consequence of Barry's interim position, Trevor Hoskins becomes interim-Chair of the Nations & Regions Committee and Sue Jones, interim Board Nominee 1 in Trevor's place. Meanwhile, Jatinder Rakhra, Chair of the Southern Region, joins the British Wrestling Board as Nations & Regions Nominee 2.

C***omplaints and Disagreements***
British Wrestling has a standing Judicial and Appeal Panels made up of members of the Association, but with independent Chairs. The new complaints policy, implemented October 2012, was marginally updated in 2014 to cater for occasions when disputes are settled prior to a Tribunal, but after central costs have been incurred. The pro-bono legal support for these and other activities, received by British Wrestling from a number of sources, is hugely appreciated.

The Judicial Code/Complaint process was invoked once during the 2013-14 period.

17. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE DIAGRAM



18. CONCLUSION

British Wrestling is hugely dependent on volunteer staff. It is difficult to move forward more quickly than is currently being achieved whilst depending so heavily on these volunteers' goodwill.

The effort by all to achieve the best Commonwealth Games results in twenty years is hugely appreciated.

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

British Wrestling
October 2014