Annual Report: 2014-15 The Year in Review

October 2015

LOTTERY FUNDED

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1. CHAIR'S REPORT

As I write, I've been in post for almost exactly one month. I was delighted to have been appointed after a rigorous recruitment process. Although not having been associated with wrestling before, I have a relentless enthusiasm for Sport at all levels. The level of dedication to achieve and maintain elite status constantly amazes me, but also participation in Sport as a vehicle for fitness, good health and social and mental well-being must never be under-estimated. Sitting behind and alongside wrestlers at all stages of their development is a whole host of people who willingly volunteer their time and efforts to coach, officiate, organise and support. These invaluable volunteers give the sport its structure and strength.

I do know something about the governance of Sport having been involved with Triathlon England and British Triathlon for many years, and also embraced an international dimension for some of that time. It's clear that British Wrestling has been doing much of note (cf the Coaching and Talent Pathway development) but there needs to be growth in order to sustain such developments. My initial priority will be to reform the Board following an evaluation and modernisation of the sport's rules and regulations for the management of its business and affairs. The Board and management will need then to describe the strategic intent of British Wrestling as it (along with all sports) approaches the bidding process for funding after the Strategic Sports Review currently being undertaken by the Government. None of this should distract people who love wrestling for its own sake, but it should take us down a path which will at least satisfy and, I hope, impress the major stakeholders who provide the resources we crave.

Jem Lawson

2. MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This annual report covers September 2014-2015, during which time the Association has been under the leadership an interim-Chair, there has been an audit by Sport England and an 11th ranking at the 2015 World Championships, achieved by Yana Rattigan in Las Vegas.

Some attention has been diverted from development activities by the audit, its resulting recommendations and their implementation, but the primary governance goal of recruiting and appointing a new Chair has been achieved in time for ratification by the voting members of the 2015 Annual General Meeting. The audit recommendations will lead to improved governance of the BWA and put the Association on track for sustained growth in the future.

Following a successful Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, participation targets in England were achieved through the efforts of many who should be congratulated. Focus now needs to be given again to this key measure of growth to achieve Sport England's targets for the sport for 2015-2016 and by the other Home Nations for their Sports Councils.

The UKCC Coaching Programme continued its steady progress and the emerging talent of the National Talent Squad continues to develop.

My thanks to all for their efforts over the past year and my best wishes to the new Chair and the Association as a whole for the period going forward.

Colin Nicholson

3. GOVERNANCE TRANSITION

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

Sport England's audit reported that the Board/Executive structure laid down in the BWA's 2008 Articles of Association need updating in accordance with Sport England's evolving standards, whereby a Board should have a non-executive oversight role. The BWA accepted all the Sport England recommendations.

Over the coming months, the Board structure will be revised and a new Executive Management Team formed. This represents significant progress as the new structures will strengthen the BWA's ability to drive and support growth into the future.

4. COMMITTEE WORK

The Coaching and Officials Committee has achieved much through the delivery of the UKCC Coaching Programme and 107 Coaches have now qualified through the programme. A dynamic listing of current UKCC Qualified Coaches is available on the British Wresting Website (link).

In addition to a review of the Board structure, there will be a review of the work streams required to deliver British Wrestling's objectives and committees will be formed around those work streams.

5. UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

UNITED WORLD WRESTLING

United World Wrestling continues to push forward with its agenda for change, with new weight categories and rules. It is hoped that their plans for new competition wear will be announced shortly.

The BWA's relationship with UWW continues to be strong.

There has been BWA-UWW interaction on the UKCC Coaching programme which already contains of many of the elements that United World Wrestling is now implementing in its new global approach to wrestling coaching.

Two BWA coaches, Eric Ciake and Trevor Hoskins have been part of a dedicated UWW coaching team, delivering United World Wrestling Level 1 coaching courses at locations around the world. Countries visited so far have been Tanzania, Malawi and Cambodia.

United World Wrestling has previously shown a keen interest in GBR's Talent Pathway which led to a 1 hour presentation by Joanna Madyarchyk to the Men's and Women's Freestyle Coaching Course in Rio de Janeiro back in November 2014, (link).

United World Wrestling representatives had found out about the GBR UKCC Coaching Course and the Talent Pathway and followed up for further information with a delegate visit to the BWA, two Skype-meetings and finally a briefing during the September 2014 World Championships.

It is good news for GBR to gain this visibility with United World Wrestling, great experience for those asked by United World Wrestling to take part and, lastly, but by no means the least important, United World Wrestling and Olympic Solidarity funds all coaching projects and courses.

The President of United World Wrestling, Nenad Lalovic, continues to work towards wrestling regaining its 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

As part of a strategic review, British Wrestling will be seeking to modernise the mission and vision statements and objectives to clarify purpose and direction of the Association.

7. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND OUTCOMES: 2014/15

British Wrestling continues to be very short of money. The prime drain on resources is the British Wrestling Academy in Salford. During the year there was a significant achievement with the retention (on appeal) of discretionary rate relief for the Academy from Salford City Council for which the BWA is most grateful. This relief reduces the rate payment required from approximately £18k to £3k.

Going forward, it has become clear that the Academy can no longer be regarded as a free resource for wrestling activities, with all users needing to pay a mat fee or other means of subscription to support running costs of their presence, e.g. heating, lighting and etc.

Renewed efforts will be made to bring in other, (non-wrestling) activities to increase the positive impact of the Academy on the local community and to raise much needed funds towards running costs.

The relationship with Sport England continues to be key. Their funding of British Wrestling constitutes 88% of income with membership and club affiliation contributing 11%. The other Home Nations are also in receipt of funding from their respective Sports Councils

However, it is important for all to understand that Sport England money is ring-fenced to a set of "investment outcomes" agreed with Sport England.

8. DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Membership

The size and popularity of wrestling in the UK is measured by the Sports Councils in terms of membership of the Association. However, there continue to be many regular wrestlers who are not members of the Association. Not only does this skew the understanding of the Sports Councils, but it also means that they are wrestling without the insurance cover provided by the BWA through Endsleigh Insurance, (the single biggest expenditure item from membership and club affiliation fees). However, coaches (who have gone through the UKCC coaching programme) and Club Secretaries are gaining an understanding of the importance of membership and numbers are rising. There has been a significant rise in the Recreational category of membership, for individuals who are training regularly, but not going to competitions. Recreational membership enables participation in the Athlete Award programmes.

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

All those wrestling regularly (after an initial six-week taster period) should take out either full BWA Membership or Recreational Membership.

Member and Club Affiliation numbers

Year	2010 (end-Aug)	2011 (end-Aug)	2012 (end-Jul)	2013 (end-Aug)	2014 (end-Sept)	2015 (end-Sep)
Individual Members	679	661	701	773	1208	1136
Affiliated Clubs	45	57	43	46	51	45

At the end of August 2015, a breakdown shows that: -

- 47% of membership is over18 and 53% is under18
- There were 534 Recreational Members

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)	2015** (end-Sep)
Coaches	75	76	58*	86	23 UKCC L1 39 UKCC L2	29 53
Referees	24	20	18*	12	14	16

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

*** Change to monitor numbers by UKCC certification*

Clubs

The number of elements required to come together for a new club to form are formidable but not insurmountable, with a total of 45 that have paid up affiliation in the UK.

9. PERFORMANCE

At the senior level, the most significant competitions of the year were the European and World Championships.

The Europeans were held in June as part of the inaugural European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan. British Wrestling was represented by Yana Rattigan and Chinu.

Both Yana and Chinu encountered stiff opposition in their first matches and did not progress.

At the World Championships in Las Vegas, Yana Rattigan was GBR's sole representative.

Yana's ranking in the competition was 11 out of the 35 entrants, a creditable rank, but outside the Olympic qualification criteria which demand a top 6 ranking at the Worlds to book a place to Rio.

Yana's achievement is all the more impressive as she was competing largely unfunded. Yana's progression to Rio 2016 is highly dependent on securing adequate funding for training and attendance at qualification tournaments.

Across the BWA there has been much interest in participation in the Rio 2016 Olympic qualifiers, but the cost of participation to the individual is significant as there is no central funding available. (UK Sport's funding principles are to support only athletes who have a strong likelihood of a podium placing in either Rio 2016 or Tokyo 2020).

At its 2015 General Assembly in September, the Commonwealth Games Federation agreed a new sports programme in which Wrestling becomes one of the 16 core sports.

National Talent Squad

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

The National Talent Squad competed successfully at the Helsinki Open in Nov 2014 to win 2x Gold; 2x Silver; 3x Bronze.
(link to news item)

30 members of the National Talent Squad are attending both domestic and international competitions appropriate to their stage of development, e.g. World and European Juniors, European Cadets and tournaments in Austria, Estonia, France, Latvia and Spain.

The National Talent Squad has met regularly at The Academy with representation from England, Northern Ireland and Scotland and had training camps in Lilleshall, Spain and Estonia. Coaching has largely been led by Anatolii Kharytoniuk, England National Coach supported by Regional and National Coaches.

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

Sport England has recently announced that it plans to make further awards to talented individuals via SportsAid and further details of this new initiative will be available in due course.

There are opportunities for private/commercial sponsorship that need to be investigated

Talent Pathway

The 'Talent Pathway,' completed in 2014 complements the new UKCC L1 and L2 Coaching Courses. Copies of the 'Talent Pathway' have been made available to all Nations, Regions and Clubs and can be purchased by athletes wishing to educate themselves (and their parents!) by applying to the Administrator.

The Talent Pathway is athlete centred and creates a pathway where the athlete is, to a very large extent, in charge of his or her own destiny. It is competency and not competition based, e.g. developing athletes are sometimes given a task at a competition such as to attempt a technique that they have been practising. The Talent Pathway also gives structure to coaches on their interactions with their athletes help the athletes to reach their full potential whilst at the same time, improving their own coaching skills.

Much work still requires to be done to embed the Talent Pathway into the routine ways of working across the Home Nations and BWA.

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

10. WORK-IN-PROGRESS: HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS

New Coaching Structure

Courses are now successfully running for UKCC Level 1 and 2 Wrestling Coaching Qualifications. Following a Northern Ireland-based UKCC L1 course that qualified some candidates for UKCC L2, the first UKCC L2 course to take place in Northern Ireland is now in progress.

Qualification routes have been endorsed for School PE Teachers to teach Wrestling via Association for Physical Education (AfPE). By gaining UKCC qualifications the routes have been opened up for BWA qualified coaches to teach in schools. To be the lead coach for wrestling in schools a minimum UKCC L2 is required. One method of achieving this would be for PE teachers to go on UKCC Wrestling Level 2 courses and develop Youth Leaders to deliver basic tuition in Primary Schools.

In March 2015, the Board agreed that in recognition of their excellent coaching of countless athletes across the years and outstanding services to wrestling, the following should be granted the title of Honorary Coach: Dave Finlay; Alan Jones; Tony Morris; James Hawthorn; Dave Sudron; James Ault; Christos StJohn; Masoud Honarfar

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 development to ensure they become the best they can be. This requires understanding of the need for co-operation with the coaching and administrative processes.

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 (*Status: implemented nationwide*)
- The Orange award is targeted at those wishing to specialise in wrestling and who wish to be considered for Regional and National Training Squads (*Status: implemented nationwide*)
- The Green award is targeted at those aspiring to be part of a Home Nation Development Squad (*Status: currently being finalised*)
- The Blue and Brown awards are there for progression within the Development Squads, through to, in England, the English National Senior Squad and beyond (*Status: Blue to be rolled out during 2016*)

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.

Club Development England

There was a Youth Sport Trust (YST)/Sport England supported "Schools Combat Hub" project that centred on a number of secondary schools.

The aim was for the secondary schools to link up with local clubs, form their own club on site and develop sports leaders who would, in turn, deliver fundamental wrestling (and other combat sports) skills to surrounding primary schools. Work was initiated at Highfield School Matlock; Bishop Barrington School, Bishop Auckland; Accrington Academy, Accrington.

Two of the critical success factors are to have a wrestling club in the vicinity of the school (or to start a club within the school) and a qualified coach with time available. This combination is a challenge for wrestling with its 45 clubs across the UK and means that wrestling is unable to be part of some of the other emerging combat hub schools.

The combat hubs initiative continues to be supported by YST but the latest schools to sign-up are unfortunately not near existing wrestling clubs or coaches.

National Council for School Sports has informed the BWA that the 2016 World School Games, to be held in Istanbul will, for the first time, host wrestling. Eddy Kavanagh has attended two meetings as a BWA representative.

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.

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

The BWA continues to use Twitter @GBRWrestlingNGB. Members are encouraged to follow! There have been over 400+ tweets since launch.

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.

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.

In a phased approach to officials' development, as the UKCC Coaching Programme becomes business as usual, attention must be turned to a more structured development path for Referees.

With a small base of participation, finding those interested in becoming senior Referees continues to be a challenge.

Provision of Officials at competitions: The aspiration continues to be 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

Northern Ireland

Events of 2014 were dominated by preparations and participation in the XX Commonwealth Games, Glasgow (29/31 July) at which the NIWA was represented by Hugh McCloskey (97kg Placed 5th) and Norik Koczarian (65kg Placed 12th) and coached by John O'Rawe.

To achieve the best possible outcome the NIWA worked tirelessly to build a comprehensive domestic competition programme, provided additional training sessions, developed a comprehensive strength and conditioning programme, sourced suitable additional training partners and identified international training camps.

All of this was set against a backdrop of encouraging our younger athletes to remain focussed on their own aims and objectives, motivating volunteers and striving to introduce a culture in line with thinking and expectations of our main funders, Sport NI.

The NIWA organisation continues to be directed by the NIWA Strategic Plan 2013/17 which outlines a methodical approach to the continued development of the organisation.

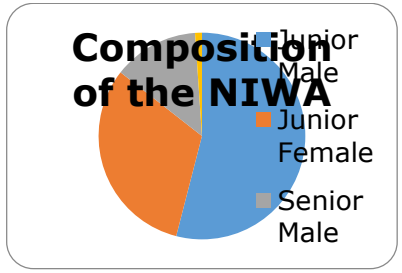
The NIWA remains a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 23 March 2010 (Company Number 602590) and consists of the following clubs:

> Evolve Wrestling (Limavady); Waterside Sharks TC (Londonderry); Erne Wrestling Club (Enniskillen) and Redhog Wrestling Club (Belfast)

By the end of 2014 the NIWA consisted of 190 members of whom 158 were under the age of 18 years. A previous 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"

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



NIWA Membership Composition

The NI Talent Squad continues to target club wrestlers of around 14-19 year olds and those with exceptional talent are invited to attend National Talent Squad (NTS) training at the BWA Academy in Salford. During 2014 invitations were extended to Chloe Wilson, Andrew Purssell, Jason Kerr, Justin Haughey and Ben Pollin who retained their place at NTS level.

On 12 December 2014 Mohammadali Haghighatdoust was appointed by the Board as the Northern Ireland coach to the NITS and senior squad.

In November 2014, four athletes from NIWA represented the NTS at the Helsinki Open, Finland with Bronze Medals achieved by Sarah McDaid and Chloe Wilson

In December 2014, (for the 3rd year running,) the NIWA took a development team to an international training camp and tournament in Malta. The team consisted of seven athletes and a coach:

Gold medal – Hugh McCloskey
Silver Medal – Aimee McElhatton and Gavin Warrington
Bronze Medal – Jason Kerr, Andrew Purssell and Mark Connor

The NIWA recognises that there is a real opportunity to rapidly expand the pool of elite athletes through the process of talent transfer. In reality, it is underway with many judoka competing in our sport and whilst NIWA wrestlers feature in the NI Judo Federation (NIJF) cadet squad.

In addition, Waterside Sharks TC continues to maintain a judo section with athletes affiliating to the Northern Ireland Judo Federation (NIJF). Members of this club regularly cross train and juniors successfully competing in both arenas, thus, providing an ideal opportunity to talent spot and transfer.

Five members of the NIWA are qualified to coach and instruct in judo and two are senior Examiners, members of this group are also qualified judo referees, qualified tournament organizers and Level 3 UKCC tutors.

The Foyle Arena, Londonderry opened in April 2015 with significant facilities for wrestling, to a specification submitted by the NIWA, as well as climbing and judo. The Foyle Arena's first competitive event was wrestling, when 65 wrestlers converged there for the Celtic Cup.

Individuals from as far afield as Malta, Wales, England and Costa Rica combined together to form a Celtic team with local athletes, led by Alan Jones of Wales, after a training camp based at the arena. The Celtic Cup was won by Roger Williams University, USA there as part of their tour of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Celtic Cup 2015
Olympic Wrestling

Wales

It has been a hard year due to lack of funding after the Games in Glasgow , but athletes still had to travel to many places on a self-funded basis. Training has been going well in Cardiff, now with two

nights a week. Monday night is for Elite wrestling with Junior and Senior beginners on Wednesdays.

We have organised three competitions: the Welsh Closed, Welsh Open, and The British Junior Open. All competitions ran successfully.

Development has now started with three new clubs targeted towards raising memberships. The next stage for the Welsh Wrestling Association is to run a UKCC coaching course to gain new coaches, just awaiting date and times of venue availability and courses.

We have now started to use the services of Mr Oliver Cole as our fitness coach, also the services of a strength & conditioning coach Mr S Withers to raise the standard of our National Team.

The next step is to develop School Boys, Girls and Cadets wrestling through Schools Development then feed back to the nearest wrestling clubs through Mr S Withers who has a good track record with Judo.

We have now formed sub-committees to help with our development and professional running of the Association. A training camp has been organised to work alongside the 2015 British Senior Open, a week's camp for any wrestler who wants to take part. This camp will be run by Alan Jones interim-National Coach. Two trips have been organised for November and December 2015, the first one will be in Toulouse in France; the second will be in Malta to finish off the year. The Welsh National squad will finish in November with a break until January 2016.

Scotland

No report for this period

Northern Region

The Northern Region consists of ten registered clubs: Aspull, Aspull Warriors, Barton, Bolton, Manchester 'Y,' Nelson, Sharples, Stockton, Wigan & Leigh and York. The region welcomes the two new registered clubs, Aspull Warriors and Nelson. On a sadder note Bradford Club has closed after many years as a Wrestling Club and we must thank Jimmy Hawthorn for his dedication to his club. Range Tigers has also closed as Peter Rothwell had to move to Bristol due to work commitment, but hopes to move back to the North, when he can find new work near Liverpool.

There have been 3 major Competitions held this year within the Region, consisting of Aspull Competition, the English Junior and Senior Championships, hosted by the Bolton Development Group (Bolton OWC and Sharples Wrestling Clubs), and Wigan & Leigh Competition.

The English Juniors had 235 Competitors, 54 weight categories and 280 bouts. Whilst Aspull Competition drew many competitors, Wigan & Leigh Competition only attracted 98 entries. These have been well structured Competitions with maximum effort by their Clubs and their presentations were a credit to their organisers and their volunteers. The Region was well represented at all major Competitions.

Regional Membership:
Sport England set 'Target Figures' each year for membership figures, failure to reach our target effects our Sports Grant. This year at the beginning of March we were well below our target, and all Regions had put in place procedures and efforts to attain the figures. We attained this with the final push at the end of March. Let us hope that we maintain these figures for March 2016.

Regional membership numbers

	2015				
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
BWA		1	1	1	1
North	**310**	**332**	**418**	**399**	**384**
Full	205	227	230	231	216
Rec	105	105	188	168	168
Midlands	**192**	**193**	**200**	**209**	**204**
Full	110	111	92	100	97
Rec	82	82	108	109	107
South	**264**	**257**	**251**	**226**	**217**
Full	144	137	131	122	113
Rec	120	120	120	104	104

Northern Region Squads:

Jesse Bradbury

Jesse Bradbury and Michael Grundy have coached our Regional Squad 5 times this year, with a further 3 sessions planned October to December. With an average of 22 wrestlers attending.

Michael Grundy

Jesse reports that their 'Session Goals' are based on:

'Great focus on stance, movement and level change, including many sport specific drills and exercises to develop athlete's positioning. Only two techniques shown on each session to ensure we do not overload and it gives the coaches time to check for understanding. Fun varied sport games specific to needs in wrestling. Build rapport in session with all athletes new and existing team members'

Our Regional coaching is built upon our 'Talent Pathway' and 8 wrestlers (3 female and 5 male) have progressed to the National Talent Squad.

The Northern Region has 6 UKCC Level 1 coaches and 23 UKCC Level 2 coaches.

Honorary Coaches

At the March 2015 BWA Board Meeting, three of our Regional coaches, Jimmy Hawthorn, Tony Morris and David Sudron, were given the title 'Honorary Coach', in recognition of their dedicated to the sport of wrestling, their time and experience spent coaching wrestling over the years.

BWA Chairs

The Northern Region wish to thank Barry Pollin, in his term of interim Chair to BWA, for his dedication shown over the last year. The Region wish to congratulate Jem Lawson on his appointment and look forward to working with him.

And finally, the Northern Region wish Malcolm Morley a full and speedy recovery from his serious illness in March.

Midlands Region

The Midlands region has seen very little change in the last year. There have been the usual Club competitions plus two National one Junior and one Senior

Membership has remained constant over the year and there are 8 clubs registered for 2015.

The Midlands is currently hosting UKCC courses for both Level 1 (Birmingham) and Level 2 (Derby).

The Regional squad has met on a monthly basis throughout the year, alternating between Birmingham and Derby. Although the attendance is small there is a core group and the squad is helping with the Awards for clubs that are resisting the England Talent Pathway. The squad now has 3 members on the NTS/England development squad.

Southern Region

2015 has been a year for the Southern Region to establish itself both locally and nationally, the current executive committee have been working together for a year.

The executive members can see a more positive attitude from the clubs towards the regional committee and most importantly regional squads.

We now have new wrestling clubs that have been registered within our regional with fantastic wrestling coaches, unfortunately we have also lost some clubs in the region that have not affiliated with BWA for 2015. This is something that the executive committee will be working to improve on; as retention is key to growth.

The region has hosted a level 1 & 2 UKCC coaching course, which has increased our coaching work force. The clubs and executive board have work very closely with Sport London to secure coach bursaries for those individuals who are eligible to apply. We successfully ran a referee course and an anti-bullying workshop which was a fun packed day for both wrestlers and coaches.

Communication has been the best it has been in 2015 between the NGB, the region, executive board, coaches and most importantly the wrestlers. We have increased membership in the region and a special thanks is owed to Legion Wrestling Club for their fantastic wrestling programme they have in place, which attracts a lot of recreational members to our sport.

Positive feedback has been received from the clubs who have implemented the awards system, grading's have taken place both in clubs and at regional training sessions. Regional squads are being held more frequently and most importantly other clubs in the region are coming forward to host our regional sessions.

We have an increased number of Southern region athletes who are part of the National Talent Squad, they have competed internationally in Finland, Latvia, and Estonia.

The region is very proud of our senior athletes Chloe Spiteri, who has single handily funded all her international trips this year to compete in UWW events in, France, Poland, Greece, Spain, Italy and Canada. This year she has won three international medals for Great Britain at UWW competitions.

We are also very proud of Adil Iftakhar who represented Great Britain at UWW under 23 European Championships, again this was another self-funded trip. He has also had the opportunity to train at two international camps one in Paris after the grand prix and at the UWW Centre in Sofia Bulgaria.

Mohammad Shafi our honorary secretary has done a fantastic job in getting wrestling included in the Edexel GCSE PE curriculum and the region had its first official GCSE PE wrestling assessment.

The executive board are very proud of the way our region is progressing, it is always important to remember that we are all volunteers in wrestling and we all want the sport of wrestling to grow within our nation.

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

13. DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW: 2015-2016

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

- Governance and Restructuring
- Level 2 UKCC coaches to be qualified at all Clubs
- Talent Pathway implementation
- Athlete Award implementation
- Increased numbers of Referees
- Provision of Officials at competition

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

The focus of UK Sport is the funding of athletes with a high likelihood of a Podium position in Rio 2016 or Tokyo 2020. British Wrestling does not have any athletes deemed to meet these criteria. Thus Sport England becomes the prime funding partner of the BWA. Other Home Nations continue to work on maintaining good relationships with their home sports councils. Welsh Wrestling has achieved priority funding status for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia.

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

In England, one of the accessible areas of funding is Sportivate projects, designed to bring more people into sport and managed by County Sports Partnerships

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. Peak usage (573 users) was around 9th March 2015, with the likely aim of accessing the England Senior and Junior results.

There were 62,824 users 1Oct14-30Sep15, (56,780 2014-15)

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. The system is now used consistently for competition registration. There are some concerns about the percentage of fees taken by the database providers (IMG) but it needs to be noted that the provision of the database is free (with comparable systems costing £60k to purchase and then maintenance costs) with payment proportionate to usage which aligns with the circumstances of British Wrestling.

16. EQUITY & WELFARE, GOVERNANCE, HR

Equality, Welfare and Child Protection

British Wrestling has achieved the Equality Foundation standard. However, based on progress with the 2014-15 Safeguarding Action Plan, the Child Protection in Sport Unit classified the BWA as Amber, working towards Green by November 2015. The focus on governance and recruitment of a new Chair had prevented the required Board Training.

There are now three Regional Safeguarding Officers in place, Lesley Kay (North); Sharen Thorpe (Midlands); Shamol Miah (South)

Governance

The BWA welcomes Jem Lawson as its new Chair. Jem joins British Wrestling from a long and successful period with Triathlon England and British Triathlon, latterly as Chair of Triathlon England from 2007-2014. He is also an active competitor (representing GB as an age grouper in European and World Championships, most recently in 2015) as well as a coach and national official. Jem holds various other appointments on public bodies, including as a magistrate.

British Wrestling would like to thank Barry Pollin for standing in as interim-Chair for a period longer than initially anticipated. Thanks also to Trevor Hoskins (stood in as interim-Chair of the Nations & Regions Committee) and Sue Jones, (interim Board Nominee 1 in Trevor's place) and Jim Toland (Northern Ireland's Nations & Regions Representative.

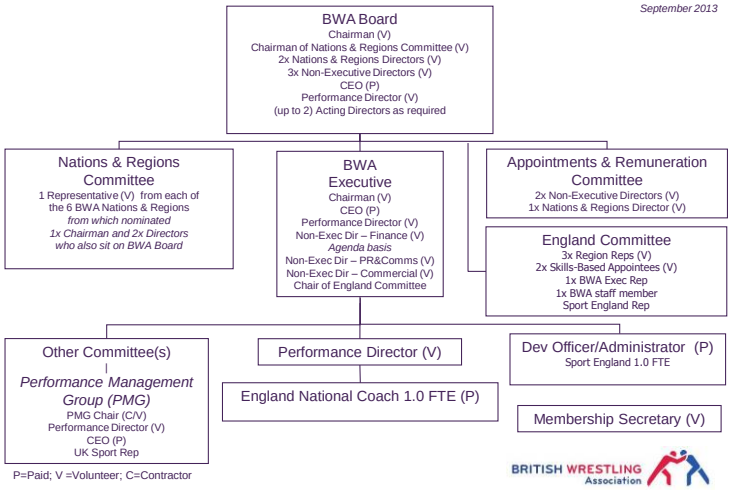
The BWA and its new Chair will move to improve governance structures, recruiting to fill the three independent non-executive director vacancies, establishing an executive management team with a revised committee structure and revising the Articles of Association which have not been updated since 2008.

The BWA would also like to thank Malcolm Morley OBE for all his hard work and leadership of the BWA. Malcolm was taken ill whilst on one of his frequent visits to the Salford Academy from Chesterfield, and is now recovering.

Complaints and Disagreements

The Judicial Code/Complaint process was invoked twice during the 2014-15 period.

17. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE DIAGRAM



Subject to the upcoming governance changes

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 volunteers' goodwill.

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 2015