

Chair

Jem Lawson

Date of issue as draft

21 November 2016

Participants
Voting Members:

B Pollin (NI); I Wiggett (WLS); R McFarlane (SCO);
E Morris (Eng-Nth); T Hoskins (Eng-Mid); M Shafi (Eng-Sth)

Members:

C Nicholson; L Seggl;

Apologies:

J Rakhra; E Riley; S Jordan; D Bauch

Secretary

Colin Nicholson

Meeting date

8:00pm 11th November 2016

Location

Smithills Sports Centre
Smithills Dean Road
Bolton
BL1 6JS

Subject

2016 British Wrestling Association
Annual General Meeting

Reference

The Annual General Meeting was quorate with six voting members in the room
[2008 Articles 8.1 ...three of the Voting Members duly represented shall form a quorum]

1. Apologies
Apologies were received from J Rakhra; E Riley; S Jordan; D Bauch
2. Ratification/Retirement/Re-election of Appointment of Officers
The Voting Members ratified, unanimously, the 3rd March 2016 Board appointments of the following Independent Non-Executive Directors:
 - Daniela Bauch (Finance Portfolio)
 - Elizabeth Riley (Business & Legal Portfolio)
 - Shaherah Jordan (Marketing & Communications Portfolio)
3. Minutes of Previous A.G.M. (23rd October 2015) and matters arising
 - Minutes to show attendees. It appears that they already did: **J Lawson; B Pollin; T Hoskins; J Rakhra; E Morris; C Nicholson; A Melling; L Seggl; S McDaid** [**Bold** denotes voting members]
 - CN to follow up on outstanding actions
 - **Action: CN** to respond to EM with further detail on loss-making course income/costs
 - **Action: CN** to respond to LS with further detail on make-up of travel/competition items
 - BWA asset register updated for 2015-16 annual audit - done
 - Discussion on how to give an advanced indication to athletes of whether/how much they needed to pay for specific tournaments, e.g. Europeans and whole amount or % of costs. The recurring challenge that the BWA should be selecting the best athletes regardless of their ability to pay. One of the solutions to go some way to solving a difficult problem is to have as much transparency as possible
 - The 2015 AGM Minutes, available on the website ([link](#)) were approved.
4. Chair's Report - The Chair referred the AGM to his report in the Annual Report, see item 9 below and the following items:-
 - The expertise of the new Board, the importance placed on Sport Governance by the Government and the new 'Code for sports governance,' a joint enterprise from UK Sport and Sport England with which the BWA must comply by 1st April 2017. The SWA, working with sportscotland, have a different approach.
 - The new Mission and Objectives and Strategic Intent agreed in March 2016

- The emerging new Articles that have seen a number of iterations: Liz Riley has a working group and a deadline of 1st April, the new sports' cycle by which to complete. It was pointed out that an EGM would be required, which has a notification period and that the wider membership required to be consulted which would take further time. The level of majority required to vote in the new Articles was discussed, the answer being 75% or 5 Voting Members in the case of the BWA ([link to Companies Act 2006 Section 283](#))
- Talent Pathway re-boot and that the BWA would be looking for skilled Performance Director independent (from outside) leadership of the pathway
- The Academy is back in use after huge efforts by Yvonne and many others (for which thanks) with an opening day that included all sorts of wrestling/non-wrestling activity. The challenge now is to establish regular and paid-for use such that the Academy becomes an asset, not a drain.
- There were questions on
 - Achieving a manager for the Academy
 - Using the Academy as the "Brass Plate" address for the Association
 - Security/keys/camera to ensure correct (and paying) useage

5. Treasurer's Report

- Daniela Bauch had given her apologies but had prepared a report:-
 - The annual audit of the BWA was carried out by Slade & Cooper Ltd and the audit overall proceeded with no major issues being identified
 - The 2015/2016 profit and loss statement shows a slight surplus of £6,204 for the BWA as compared to a loss of £(17,834) in the prior year. (BWA a non-profit organisation)
 - The Association continues to be significantly dependent on Sport England funding and is looking to secure funding for the next four years. The Association is looking at alternative sources of funding but this is challenging for a small sport. The Academy needs to become self-sustaining
 - As per guidance by the UK Government, the Association has set up a pension scheme for employees, which allows for automatic enrolment of members
 - A new SAGE financial package is now in place which should aid management reporting and it is expected to hvave a new/clearer set of headings for reports
 - In an effort to ensure the sustainability of the BWA, the Board has implemented a working group focusing specifically on identifying ways to maintain the current income sources and exploring new opportunities to secure funding and generate income.
- **Action: CN** to circulate DB's report to those present
- The BWA Accounts 2015/6 ([link](#)) were signed by JL and unanimously endorsed by the Voting Members
- The Voting Members voted to re-appoint the auditors

6. Performance Report

- A report had been prepared which CN overviewed.
 - GB had representation at 16 out of the past 31 Olympic Games of the modern era so having no wrestler at the Rio 2016 was not an exception with the Commonwealth Games being a realistic and worthwhile goal
 - Across the year there has been a lot of positive activity with athletes going to competitions, some with training camps prior, and coming back with medals
 - George Ramm has had a good year with many successful appearances in the Austrian and German Bundesliga. George achieved 5th place in the July Madrid Senior tournament, attended by many Rio hopefuls leading to him ranking 20th in the UWW Senior World rankings at 61kg. George then went on to win GBR's 1st ever European Junior Championships Bronze medal on 21st June 2016. In September 2016 George attended the NTS session and gave some inspiring advice to the squad and in November, George was confirmed as a Commonwealth Games Ambassador for Team England.
 - 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. Thanks to all those who have given freely of their time to bring the NTS to where it is today.

Action: CN to circulate the Performance Report to those present

7. Nations & Regions Committee Report
 - There is a requirement to sort out the current overlap between the N&R Committee and the Board which will be accomplished by the new Articles currently in draft
 - The N&R Committee is in the best position to communicate to the membership what work and support the Board and committees do on the membership's behalf
 - With so many names of individuals re-occurring across committees, there is an opportunity to reduce numbers of committees and raise the value of the N&R. It had done good work on the definition of competition types during 2015-16
 - BP's 1st term of office was up for renewal and BP said that he did not intend to stand for the 2nd and that he would be writing to N&R members on how best to effect a smooth transition
 - The Chair thanked BP for his huge contribution across so many areas of the sport, including as interim-Chair of the BWA (at which time TH had interim-chaired the N&R Committee)

8. Annual Report
 - The Annual Report, available on the website ([link](#)) was approved.

9. Other Business – No other formal business was registered by date for formal agenda distribution

Formal part of meeting closed

Following the meeting - Chance for Comments, concerns, issues, & etc.

The following topics were raised by LS:

- Communications: The Chair said that he was asking for a presentation on Communications within the organisation at the next (3rd Dec) Board
- British Wrestling Calendar: The requirement for an updated calendar, as early as possible, was agreed by all to be a central requirement for the organisation and its membership. Clubs were encouraged to put their dates to Yvonne by her deadline of 15th December. (Progress since AGM: The majority are now available and will be posted by 1st December.)
- Competition Management: It would be helpful for the BWA to clarify what assistance it is able to give clubs to run competitions as the task can seem overwhelming to a club that has not done it before

The overall meeting closed at approx. 9:20pm