

**Chairman; Chief Executive**

Malcolm Morley; Colin Nicholson

**Participants**

Peter Jones; Shaun Morley; Mansoor Eslami; John Keogh; Bal Matharu; Michael Cavanagh; Roy Wood; Sandy McNeil; Ellen Morris; Tony Morris; Barry Pollin; Gerry Malone; Gregor McNeil; Trevor Hoskins; Alan Harper

**Apologies:**

Bill Cooper; Yvonne Ball

**Meeting date**

30<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**Subject**

2009 Annual General Meeting

**Date**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009

**Secretary**

Colin Nicholson

**Location**

The British Wrestling Academy

**Reference**

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
OF THE BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION LTD  
TO BE HELD AT THE WRESTLING ACADEMY, SALFORD  
ON FRIDAY 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT 8:00p.m.

1. Apologies:  
Bill Cooper; Yvonne Ball
2. Minutes of Previous A.G.M (5th September 2008)  
Agreed to be a correct record of events
3. Matters Arising  
None
4. Chair's Report – Malcolm Morley  
The report was available and was taken as read and MM asked for any questions.
  - In response to questions from MC, MM said that Tutors/Assessors are required from 2 out of the 4 Nations and that 8/9 people had applied, (none from N. Ireland). MM offered to help N. Ireland with temporary funding whilst support from Sport NI was sought. MC suggested an aspiration for 2010 should be a Tutor for every Region.
  - There was a brief discussion on the importance of good communication behaviour on the part of senders and recipients across the Association such that recipients should understand the important nature of some e-mails.
  - CN underlined the importance of BWA officers visiting the sports councils of the Nations.
5. Treasurer's Report – Gregor McNeil  
Performance Director's Report available
  - GMcN described the 2008 results as essentially break even, (actual: £77 loss). The UK Sport reduction from £2.7m to £721k was significant to the World Class Programme and the non-funded BWA "pot" is tight. It underlined the importance of recruiting a Commerce & Revenue Non-Exec Director. In response to a question from MC about use of reserves, GMcN said that he did not wish to reduce the reserves from their current level. BP asked where savings would come from and was told that most reductions had already taken place, e.g. Medical, EIS, WCP staffing. MM suggested that there might be merchandising opportunities.

- SMCN praised the set of accounts as being the first legible set he had seen. EM asked for how long the Financial Results had been available (26<sup>th</sup> Aug). The process of making the quarterly results available to The Board was discussed. EM also asked if there were any opportunities for The BWA to be given more money? SM said that UK Sport would be holding a funding review in December and that following Wrestling's historic improvement at the international level, the Association was in a better position to be allocated more money
- CN reported that Wrestling was one of the few sports with accounting systems in place already to account against Sport England interventions and the meeting congratulated Yvonne for this and for her efforts and skill in keeping on top of the finances
- The meeting agreed the 2008 accounts and agreed to reappoint the auditors

6. Performance Director's Report – Shaun Morley

Performance Director's Report available

- It became obvious last year that UKS would have a funding shortfall as it failed to attract private sponsorship. Actual figures became available In Jan09: £712k over 4 years, a 75% reduction. Immediate changes implemented: Staff reductions, athlete review, support/EIS reduced, regional programme halted. However, there were some positives: the effectiveness of the BWA structures improved
- Nov08 was a turning point in the Programme's performance with Leon Rattigan's Gold in the French World Class tournament, with British Team finishing 4<sup>th</sup> – the first time in SM's memory. This snowballed to the World Championships with 2x5<sup>th</sup>'s an 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Leon nearly in semi-final. and the team finishing 17<sup>th</sup> out of 51 countries
- MC stated Scotland's support for The National Talent Squad and JK asked SM for the list of selected athletes. However, there was concern about the appointment process for the assistant coach (SM:appointed for the sake of continuity) and CN said it might have been better to have an open interview process for both coaching posts, although not all agreed. **Action: SM** to review the position after 6-9mths and take his recommendation to the Board and N&R Committee
- MC asked SM to relate size of Performance Squad: 5 on UKS funding, 10-12 (M+F) train on daily basis
- MC asked for more information about the "Significant National Event." SM stated this was a reference to the GB Cup for which a business case had been submitted to UKSport's World Class Events Programme
- MC asked about the BWA's policy on access to coaches, facilities and resources in the context of 2010 Commonwealth Games. SM wished to take a coordinated approach, even on selection criteria. MC responded that Scotland selection criteria had been in place for some time.
- MC asked about the Performance Programme Review. SM said that UKS had agreed to seek an experienced facilitator for it, and that it should be complete by mid Dec. The decision on renewal of National Coach's contract would be informed by the review and based upon Shaun's recommendation. The review would involve the athletes who had recently taken part in an independent UKS survey.
- CN thanked Scotland for supporting Volodymyr Gladcow's work with the National Talent Squad and congratulated Scotland for their success with securing his visa.,

7. Report from Nations & Regions Committee – Gerry Malone

Nations & Regions' Report available

- The decision at the 2008 AGM has not been without its problems, particularly the difficulty of arriving at 3 directors

- GM paid tribute to all members of the N&R Committee over a protracted period as the committee had succeeded in not personalising the issue
- GM welcomed Barry Pollin and Mansoor Eslami who came out at the last meeting, but because of potential legal issues, did not go into detail
- GM hoped the N&R Committee could now start the real business of what members want. The 25<sup>th</sup> Oct Board Meeting had felt particularly positive and constructive with talk about wrestlers. GM hoped that issues could be depersonalised and make wrestling positive
- RW felt there were a lot of issues unresolved, some of which he listed. He said he was taking his solicitor's advice and that either himself, or BWA would end-up paying a significant amount of money
  - GM said that The Executive would deal with the ramifications
  - MC felt it extraordinary that three letters from committee members to the Chairman could have been written independently, but spoke for all when he said that everyone was concerned that legal action was contemplated and wished the parties luck. MC wished the amount the BWA had spent on legal fees to date to be recorded: (1<sup>st</sup> letter primarily re validity of casting vote £610; 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter agreed with N&R Chair £1219. CN gave the last figure only in the meeting)
  - BM suggested that it was time to move forward, not back to the same issues
  - ME said the first meeting had many issues but in the interests of wrestling it is best not to drag out the time spent on the matter as it does not help to turn back to the old issues in a world where funding has been capped
  - GM understood RW's deep sense of frustration, but feared that the matter would run & run. He asked that everyone reflect on where the next steps would take the Association. He felt that The Board is entitled to look at whether to go to the expense of a solicitor, or not
  - SMcN suggested an informal meeting between RW and the Executive and looking at what options for some form of mediation are available
  - GMcN asked RW what would satisfy him and RW said a seat on The Board
- There was discussion about the timeline of Shaun Morley's period as Performance director. The sequence was explained by SMcN.
  - SM initially part-time paid PD
  - With more funding available, SM resigned in order to make way for a full-time paid PD. But SM formally asked to continue as acting-PD until role filled
  - Successful appointee never took up position because funding cut
  - Under new constitution, PD role becomes Board member
  - SM asked Board to clarify his position
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 09 Board Meeting confirmed, unanimously, SM in his current post as PD for the full duration of the Olympic cycle, i.e. until Mar 2013

## 8. Ratification of Appointment of Officers

1.	M Morley	Chairman	Unanimously ratified by N&R voting members
2.	G McNeil	Non-Exec Director (Finance)	Unanimously ratified by N&R voting members
3.	P Jones	Non-Exec Director (PR & Communications)	Unanimously ratified by N&R voting members
4.	B Pollin	Nations & Regions Nominee 1	Unanimously ratified by N&R voting members
5.	M Eslami	Nations & Regions Nominee 2	Unanimously ratified by N&R voting members

## 9. AoB (for Comments, concerns, issues, & etc. but nothing requiring a vote)

- The Annual General Meeting congratulated the World Class Programme for their performance at the Sept 09 World Championships in Herning, Denmark

The Meeting Closed at 10:25