

Chair

Jem Lawson

Date of issue as draft
Participants
Voting Members:

I Wiggett (WLS); V Jornea (SCO);
E Morris (Eng-Nth); T Hoskins (Eng-Mid);

Members:

Directors: J Lawson (Chair)
D Bauch (iNED Finance);
C Nicholson (Secretary and CE)
Members: B Pollin (Administrator & Academy Mgr); B Irwin;
S Baker; M Baker; R Cardwell, R Phillips; A Morris
(by phone: W Baker)

Secretary

Colin Nicholson

Apologies:

None

Meeting date

6:00pm 10th November 2017

Location

Vivacity Bushfield Leisure Centre
10 Bushfield
Peterborough
PE2 5RQ

Subject

2018 British Wrestling Association
Annual General Meeting

Reference

The Annual General Meeting was quorate with FOUR Voting Members in the room [2017 Articles 5.9 ... a general meeting is duly constituted and quorate if, at the commencement of the meeting, there are three Voting Members present]

1. Apologies - none
2. Ratification/Retirement/Re-election of Appointment of Officers - none
3. Minutes of Previous A.G.M. (Saturday 4th November 2017 [link](#)) The minutes were agreed as a true representation and signed by Jem Lawson
4. Matters Arising:
 - a. UKCC Courses: The meeting requested a review of costs. There was a moratorium followed by the courses running at a surplus in 2018-19.
 - b. Re-appointment of Auditors: There was an action to review the field with a view to appointing alternative auditors for the 2018-19 year. However, Jem Lawson/Daniela Bauch/Eddie Asong believed that it would be best to stay with Slade & Cooper for one more year
 - c. Annual Report/Numbers of clubs: Efforts are being made by Trevor Hoskins/Andreas Michaelas to grow the number of clubs. However, enforcement of UKCC L2 and Club Safeguarding Officer rules holds back affiliations. Trevor Hoskins had done some initial work on a new Partnership Club status, with potential for growth of additional clubs, where wrestling is practised routinely, illustrated in London/South (table below). The idea would be that the Affiliation fee could be reduced as Partnership Clubs would have their own insurance already. Barry Pollin suggested a variation on the idea, structuring clubs around a Gold/Silver/Bronze levels of affiliation

Action: Remit the affiliation structure to a Board Workstream

Routinely Affiliate		Partnership Potential	
Brondesbury	West London	Carlson Gracie	MMA Den

Cornish Legion Lewisham London Fight Zone Slough		Diesel Gym LDG London Fight Factory London Shoot Fighters Marathon	Roger Gracie Academy Shinbudo Tokei
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5. Chair's Report: Discussion:
 - a. Production of events is short of what we aspire to and is what the members see (as well as Referee's shirts/Branding/website). Suggestions such as: Branded competition kit; improved medal presentation ceremonies; pop-up banners; barriers; keeping major competitions in one place for a number of years enabling improvement year-on-year
 - b. Belief that the BWA is currently in good standing with Sport England but this depends on meeting Sport England objectives
 - c. The Sport England objective "Making the BWA more financially sustainable" would have the benefit of generating more unringfenced "free" funds to be spent at the BWA's discretion, e.g. on a GBR Squad.

6. Finance Report, including
 - a. BWA Audited Accounts 2016-17: The meeting accepted the 2016-17 accounts
 - b. Update on BWA 2017-18 accounts: CN apologised for the delay in getting an audited set of accounts. A number of issues remain outstanding, the main one being establishing the correct opening figures. With regards to finances, figures are moving in the right direction but some things remain to be fixed. Turnover was boosted again by a UWW Course.
 - c. Re-Appointment of Auditors: The meeting voted to re-appoint the auditors, Slade & Cooper for a further year

7. Talent Pathway Lead and GBR (Senior) Squad Reports
 - a. Ellen Morris commended the formation of the GBR (Senior) Squad as a good idea. However, Ellen raised concerns about the method of appointment of the GBR (Senior) Squad Team Leader, in particular, was the role advertised and was the BWA being transparent and being fair to the members.
Action: CN to enact the undertaking, given at the meeting, by JL that future roles will be advertised.

8. Annual Report: Taken as read

9. Special Resolution: Proposed Ellen Morris; Seconded Ian Wiggett
Resolve that: under the provisions of Article 3.11, the Northern Ireland Wrestling Association (NIWA) be [suspended/expelled] as a voting member of the BWA on the grounds that (a) the NIWA has suspended operations (3.11(a)), and (b) the NIWA is compromising the interests of the BWA (3.11(d)) in that the BWA is unable to exercise proper jurisdiction over the clubs and individual members in Northern Ireland.
 - a. William Baker joined the meeting by telephone
 - b. JL said the Board is empowered to suspend a Nation, but his recommendation was to expel which was a matter for the Voting Members
 - c. IW brought up the matter of succession arrangements e.g. club/individual members affiliate to the BWA until another group to lead wrestling in Northern Ireland comes forward. That group would have to clear a number of hurdles laid out in the BWA Articles, e.g. having a strategy and committing to inclusivity. There was also the complication of a new body gaining recognition by Sport NI.
 - d. Notwithstanding the NIWA, there is a vacancy on the BWA Board for a Home Nations Director for NI, that Board member working towards the objectives of the BWA rather than being a spokesperson for NI
 - e. Bruce Irwin said that a committee representing the clubs had been formed 2yrs ago and had been setting up the necessary policies since then (setting up new policies as could not take up the policies of the NIWA without knowledge). This committee was ready to ask NI clubs how they wanted to move forward.

- f. JL advocated that NIWA be expelled for a clean break. Neither the clubs nor the NIWA had called for an EGM to sort the matter locally.
 - g. William Baker, by telephone, was concerned that the NIWA be expelled altogether, as this may have implications. William was also concerned about NIWA assets and owings. William felt the BWA should have taken some responsibility, directing the NIWA
 - h. JL said that the sport is devolved. The BWA coordinates, brings together wrestlers/nations. Each country has its responsibilities
 - i. Ian Wiggett gave his position as a BWA Director
 - i. Re: Who represents clubs: The NIWA is not currently representing the clubs
 - ii. Re: Assets: Clubs should have a say as it is a matter for the shareholders
 - j. Bruce Irwin asked his group within the meeting whether suspension or expulsion made sense. He concluded that expulsion was OK. However he asked the BWA to recognise the committee and asked whether any other bodies had stepped forward.
 - k. There being no questions from Voting Members the Resolution was put to a vote. The vote in favour of the Resolution was unanimously in favour and the NIWA was expelled.
10. Other Business – No other formal business was registered by date for formal agenda distribution

Meeting Closes