

# British Wrestling Association Annual Report



Olga Butkevych signs into Team GB wall of fame

2011-12  
The Year in Review

August 2012



## INTRODUCTION

### *A message from the Chair*

The first issue I wish to address is the 2012 London Olympics. You will all be aware that as host nation to the Olympic Games, the British Wrestling Association (BWA) was awarded 3 host nation places by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the condition if that we automatically qualified then the three host nation places would be reduced accordingly.

It was always going to be a step too far by London 2012 to expect any of our male athletes to qualify automatically as the gap between their international experience and accomplishments and automatic qualification could not be bridged in the time available.

The position relative to a small number of our female athletes was different but hampered by issues of gaining British citizenship.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) are invested with the authority to endorse or deny the BWA their host nation places and accordingly an agreement was drawn up between the BOA and the BWA which set the guidelines for acceptance of the host nation places. The conditions were tough but, in my view, achievable. The BOA's stance was always that any athlete put forward should be capable of a 'credible performance.'

Unfortunately, our male athletes missed compliance with the agreement, in some cases by the narrowest of margins. Nevertheless, all the athletes put forward were capable of giving a credible performance at the Games.

When it came to ratification of our host nation places the BOA refused to accept two of those places.

British Wrestling appealed the decision. The FILA President wrote a letter of support that our named athletes were capable of a credible performance but our appeal was turned down.

One of our athletes namely, Olga Butkevych, was accepted by the BOA to take up a host nation place. It is however worth noting that in the BOA panel voting, two of the panel members were against her acceptance in spite of her record of medalling in many international competitions and achieving a bronze medal in the European Championships in 2011. This in turn prompts the question of why credible performance does not mean the same in all sports.

The BOA in the Minutes of their Meeting regarding acceptance of BWA's host nation places were also critical of the BWA's achievements in respect of legacy, when they had no knowledge of reports that had been submitted to UK Sport and Sport England on this subject and had made no previous criticism of a legacy plan submitted to them seven months previous on this very subject. Indeed their refusal to grant British Wrestling all three host nation places denied the BWA of the most significant part of our legacy.

From my point of view, I have always been concerned that some athletes and prominent members of our Association were of the opinion that the IOC host nation places granted were secure and not subject to any further regulation. This is endorsed by the number of selection challenges the BWA faced from other athletes who did not fulfil any, or very little, of the criteria as laid down in the qualification regulations. It is a matter of absolute certainty that GBR will have to qualify automatically for the foreseeable future in all Olympic Games.

Olga's performance in the Games was somewhat disappointing but she did her best under difficult and not always ideal circumstances.

The BWA gave every assistance to other nations participating in the Games. We supplied practice facilities to Japan, Canada and the USA. In addition the BWA through our Administrator, Yvonne Ball, organised a small training camp and competition for young athletes from Canada, USA, Austria and our own National Talent Squad at the Wrestling Academy prior to the Games. Those same young athletes were then taken to London where they spent several days there sightseeing and attending some of the wrestling sessions. Our NTS members also took the opportunity to visit the inspirational Team GB House where they met amongst others Dame Kelly Holmes and Victoria Pendleton.

The work involved in these ventures was substantial but rewarding from the point of view that it gave young members of the wrestling fraternity the chance to interact with other nations and witness the Games first hand something which maybe a once in a lifetime experience. We have received a number of messages of thanks for our efforts and co-operation in these regards and invitations of future assistance from all nations involved. Our thanks to Yvonne, who did the BWA proud.

Shaun Morley, who was, our Performance Director in the lead up to and including the Games has now resigned his position. I thank him for all the work he has done and the sacrifices made during that period and wish him every success for the future.

The contract between the BWA and our National Coach, Nikolai Kornieiev, is coming to an end and he is currently serving notice. My thanks to Nikolai for his part in the development of the World Class Programme and for securing the many contacts for GB in

other parts of the world which has and will continue to help the development of our athletes. We wish him well for the future.

When I accepted the position of Chair of the BWA in 2008 I made the commitment to reform and develop our coaching structure in co-operation with Sportscoach UK and 1st4sport. Whilst there is still work to be done this has largely been realised and we now have accreditation for UKCC level 1 and 2. This together with a new Talent Pathway (which will be piloted shortly) and the rolling out of the athlete/coach technical awards will provide a legacy for the future which we can and should feel justifiably proud. These programmes are designed to give athletes and coaches alike choices as to their personal goals and ambitions without significant interference from governing bodies or other individuals.

I am not going to comment on the many other developments as these are adequately covered by our Chief Executive in his Annual Report.

My thanks to all members of the Nations and Regions and the BWA Board for their contribution throughout the year and in particular to Colin Nicholson our Chief Executive for all his hard work and accomplishments.

May I end by saying that the only way forward is to take a realistic view of the many issues that we face, be positive instead of negative, learn from the past, but remember history can never be changed.

***Malcolm Morley (Chair)***

### ***A message from the Chief Executive***

There has been progress since last year's AGM. However, progress will be viewed through the prism of London 2012 where Wrestling fielded its first athlete since 2004, and the first ever Team GB female wrestler since the introduction of female wrestling to the Olympics, also in 2004.

As stated in last year's Annual Report, "wrestlers seeking a Team GB place outside of the qualification tournaments process must achieve stringent criteria laid down by the BOA." Unfortunately, these criteria remained just beyond the reach of members of the Performance Programme. Nevertheless, many wrestlers outside of the programme showed a steadfastness and self-belief in their own ability to gain a wild-card place, which resulted in busy British Wrestling Selection Appeal Tribunals.

Olga Butkevych was the most accomplished wrestler available to British Wrestling. Her 11<sup>th</sup> place is testimony to the huge challenge presented by Olympic-level competition. The organisation of future performance programmes is paramount and athletes will need to work with tireless dedication (as is evidenced in other sports) to achieve direct qualification to Rio 2016. UK Sport funding will only be available to those able to make a compelling case for their Rio potential.

Away from the Olympics, the major step forward of the year was UKCC endorsement of the Level 1 and Level 2 Coaching Certificates. The whole project team should be congratulated for their dedication and impressive achievement.

***Colin Nicholson (Chief Executive)***

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## 2. GOVERNANCE TRANSITION

Working with the new Articles of Association and the new Board, the Board will have met four times since the last AGM.

In October 2011, following the new Articles of Association, new volunteer Directors were recruited in the areas of Finance, Commercial & Marketing and Commercial Development. These new Directors have spent significant time dedicated to their new roles.

An interim England Committee has been set up to ensure that adequate focus is given to England activities.

The UK Sport/Sport England self-assurance is a tough review process of arrangements. Following the self-assurance on-line review in September 2011, British Wrestling was given green status, which is regarded as impressive, given the limited resources of the organisation.

## 3. CREATION OF COMMITTEES

The intention of committees is to widen the pool of talent contributing to the work of the association and to bring order and transparency to decision-making.

Regular meetings by all committees is a huge challenge for the small number of volunteers and it is hoped that during the coming year this can be achieved.



#### **4. GRAPPLING**

There has been increased interest in Grappling within the British Army and British Wrestling is supporting discussions

#### **5. 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

#### **6. FINANCIAL REVIEW AND OUTCOMES: 2011/12**

Due to increasing costs in relation to the Academy (e.g. heat and light) and the likelihood of significant reduction in funding from UK Sport, we need to look at other sources of income to balance this increase. If we do not find some other sources of income, then the only other way is to increase the membership fees but this must be the last resort due to the current economic climate.

The financial outlook going forward is highly dependent on the level of partnership funding from UK Sport and Sport England.

#### **7. DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW**

##### ***Membership***

There continue to be many regular wrestlers across Great Britain and Northern Ireland who are not members of the Association. This means they are wrestling without insurance.

The situation has improved somewhat from 2011 as Clubs begin to take up the Recreational membership option for wrestlers who do not compete. This prevents wrestlers from languishing on club



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

Year	2009	2010 (to end-Aug)	2011 (to end-Aug)	2012 (to end-Jul)
Individual Members	806	679	661	701
Affiliated Clubs	47	45	57	43

A breakdown on age shows that 47% of membership is over18 and 53% is under18.

There were 149 Recreational Members at the end of July 2012.

Also included in these numbers are the licensed coaches, referees, competition officials and examiners:

Year	2009	2010 (to end-Aug)	2011 (to end-Aug)	2012 (to end-Jul)
Coaches	75	97	76	58*
Referees	24	22	20	18*

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

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 five new clubs created over the year

## **8. PERFORMANCE**

The World Class Performance Programme has worked through the Olympic cycle despite the many and significant challenges due to the unprecedented reduction in funding, ultimately 50% of the Beijing cycle (with at one stage a 75% reduction). Funding for the programme from Exchequer and Lottery via UK Sport eventually amounted to £1.4m, with only Weightlifting (£1.3m) and Table Tennis (£1.2m) receiving less.

Following her choice to naturalise in Britain, **Olga Butkevych** became the first ever Team GB female wrestler since the introduction of female wrestling to the Olympics in 2004. Indeed, she was the first Team GB competitor since Athens 2004. **Olga Butkevych** achieved an 11<sup>th</sup> place out of 19 Olympic entrants to the 55kg class in one bout that went to three rounds: 1-1; 2-0; 1-2. Olga lost the advantage in the last few seconds of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bouts. In June 2012, during the run-up to the Olympics, she had achieved Bronze in the prestigious Polish Open. Prior to that she had achieved Silver in the London Test Event.

**Yana Stadnik** did not achieve naturalisation in time for the Olympics and for the same reason was unable to take part in the 2011 World or 2012 European Championships. However, she did win Gold at the Nordhagen Classic in Calgary, Canada in January 2012, at the same time earning the award for Most Outstanding Visiting Wrestler.

**Leon Rattigan**'s most notable result of the year was 7/21 in the 2nd World Olympic Qualifier in Helsinki. Unfortunately, Leon missed out by a single place or perhaps more accurately by one point, the top-6 criteria agreed with the British Olympic Association as representing credible performance and Leon was unable to take up a Host Nation Place. The British Olympic Association had the exclusive authority to exercise discretion and allow Leon a place in Team GB, but chose not to do so.

**Oleksandr Madyarchyk** achieved 18/47 at the 2011 World Championships. Unfortunately, this was just two places outside the top-16 criteria agreed with the British Olympic Association as representing credible performance and Oleksandr was unable to take up a Host Nation Place. The British Olympic Association had

the exclusive authority to exercise discretion and allow Oleksandr a place in Team GB, but chose not to do so.

**Philip Roberts** achieved 12/19 at the European Olympic Qualifier Sofia, Bulgaria and 16/26 at the 1<sup>st</sup> World Olympic Qualifier in Taiyuan China. Unfortunately, these results were outside the top-6 criteria agreed with the British Olympic Association as representing credible performance and Philip was unable to take up a Host Nation Place. The British Olympic Association had the exclusive authority to exercise discretion and allow Oleksandr a place in Team GB, but chose not to do so.

Other members of the World Class Performance Programme achieved creditable results across the year.

During the year the World Class Performance Programme was the subject of sustained criticism in the press, in part due to briefings from within the British Wrestling membership, the negative impact of which needs to be evaluated.

Foreign training camps continued to be used (within funding constraints) to ensure that the athletes were consistently exposed to a variety of quality training partners, coaches and environments.

### ***Talent Pathway***

A new Talent Pathway continues to be developed to ensure a clear and effective route to World Class performance and reduce the void between the now established 'performance' level athletes and young 'talent' level athletes. Athlete profiles are being developed, with input from successful wrestling nations, to show clearly what is expected of athletes at various stages of their development.

In England there is expected to be an England Development Squad and Senior Squad. Applications will be submitted for

additional funding from Commonwealth Games England and Sport England in the run-up to the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

### ***National Talent Squad (NTS)***

The NTS now has 22 members and some of these have competed in international competitions.

The NTS has seen National Development Coaches Vladimir Gladkow (Scotland) and Anatolii Kharytoniuk (England) coaching the NTS on a regular basis with the assistance of Steven Mckeown, Development Coach.

A total of 18 NTS athletes have been supported by SportsAid with individual funding between £500 to £1000, dependent on age, experience and talent.

During the Olympics, NTS members attended a training camp and competition with young wrestlers from the USA, Canada and Austria. They visited the Olympic Football (US 'v' Canada) and Team GB House just outside the Olympic Park, where they met Dame Kelly Holmes and Victoria Pendleton.



## **9. OTHER OLYMPIC ACTIVITIES**

### ***Torch Relay***



Eleven former and current wrestlers took part as torchbearers. They came from all aspects of wrestling and many parts of the UK, including in Northern Ireland.

Brian Aspen, Shaun Morley, Trevor Hoskins, Dave Sudron, Ranvir Sandhu,

Leon Rattigan, Lisa Cardwell, Thomas Denham, Daniel Panczyszyn, Roy Wood and Ben Johnson all carried the torch.

The wrestlers made the most of their “Moment to Shine” as they bore the torch on its way to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

### ***Olympic Refereeing***

Dave Sudron gained the distinction in January 2012 of becoming a FILA Olympic Level Referee. He took part in the London 2012 Olympics.

He has now been refereeing for more than 25 years



Volunteers and Technical Officers at the Wrestling Competition



British Wrestling members signed up for “National Technical Officer” (NTO) and other roles, supporting delivery of a smooth

running competition with duties such as making sure the correct athlete is at the correct mat at the correct time. Amongst those involved were Mansoor Eslami; Chris St John; Tony Melling; Trevor Hoskins; Ian Bevan; Eddy Kavanagh; Tony Morris; Numan Yayici; Tornik Hakobyan; Ellen Morris; Phil Meade; Muladi Badebengi; Emily Crawford; Arun Kumar; Colin Gell; Chloe Spiteri; Iulia Rusu.

## **10. WORK-IN-PROGRESS: HIGH PROFILE PROJECTS**

### ***New Coaching Structure***

A comprehensive, up-to-date and consistent coaching structure is seen as critical to the long term success of British Wrestling. UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) standards gave British Wrestling coaching the chance of a new start with accreditation ensuring that British Wrestling’s coaches are of adequate standard and able to provide consistent tuition to develop Britain’s wrestling talent.

Accreditation was achieved for Level 1 coaching courses in May 2011 and for Level 2 courses in April 2012 with the first hard-earned certificates being issued to worthy recipients at the English Juniors in May 2012.

### ***New Talent Pathway Structure***

See above: **8.Performance**

### ***New Athlete Award Structure***

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

***Together, the three structures will provide opportunities for the natural development of athletes and coaches.***

### ***Club Development Project (in England)***

British Wrestling's new club development and support project is now fully operational.

Its overall aim is to improve many aspects of British Wrestling's core network of clubs in England and thus capitalise on the sport's increased profile as an Olympic discipline. A key element is to ensure these clubs are ready to accommodate increased interest and a wave of potential new participants likely to be generated from London 2012.

British Wrestling has commissioned leading independent sports and leisure consultancy Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KKP) to deliver the project. The consultancy will use its extensive sports development expertise to assist clubs to identify factors that will contribute to success and work with them on tailored improvement plans.



### ***British Wrestling Website***

The British Wrestling website has greatly assisted in the dissemination of information across the association, providing a repository of key information, news and results.

New legislation about cookies will require a slight re-design to the site at a slight cost.

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

### ***FILA weight classes for open tournaments***

Following promotion of the change by the Nations & Regions Committee, the Board endorsed that FILA weight classes should be used for FILA Cadet (16&17) and FILA Junior (18-20) age groups at national tournaments. The introduction of FILA weight

classes makes it easier to establish who is the national champion at a particular weight, although there are practical difficulties such as limited numbers of competitors in some weight classes resulting in walk-overs. The Competitions Committee will now be carrying out an in-depth review of two year's operation of FILA weight classes experience following the 2012 British Juniors.

## 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 Referees, there is an increased respect for referees and the difficult job they do by that club's athletes at competitions.

**Provision of Officials at competitions:** Participating 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 2xReferees per competition. As from January 2013, it will be necessary for clubs to provide one official per five athletes.

## 12. REPORTS FROM THE NATIONS AND REGIONS

### *Northern Ireland Wrestling Association:*

#### *Structure*

The sport of freestyle wrestling in Northern Ireland is managed by The Northern Ireland Wrestling Association Ltd. (NIWA), a company limited by guarantee which became incorporated on 23 March 2010 and regularly receives financial support from Sport NI under the "Investment In Performance Sport" (IIPS) programme.

Local strategy and direction is set by the NIWA Board of Directors consisting of six members and day to day business is conducted by the NIWA Executive consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. With the exception of the NI Talent ID Coach (a part time post staffed since October 2010) the entire organisation is, and always has been, run by volunteers.

The Governance and Management of the NIWA has been the subject of two reviews by Sport NI and our overall assurance rating remained at Satisfactory, hence the NIWA feels that it is a "safe pair of hands" with a growing reputation for probity.

Currently, the NIWA consists of 174 registered wrestlers which can be broken down into the following elements:

Elements Participating in Wrestling	Number
Young People (Under18)	121
Adults (Under 50)	38
Older People (Over 50)	15
Containing:	
Women and Girls	20
People with Disabilities	12
People from an Ethnic Group	30

#### *Clubs*

The organisation comprises of six registered clubs all of whom are also training in smaller satellite locations to gather athletes into their pool. Details are as follows:

Name	Main Location	Other Locations	Participation	No. of Members
Causeway Giants	Ballybogey	Ballymoney and Ballycastle	Senior/Junior	46
Knockagh Raiders	Greenisland	Rathcoole	Senior/Junior	23
Larne Panthers	Larne	Newtownabbey	Senior/Junior	13
North West Spartans	Galliagh, L'derry	Springtown, L'derry	Junior	26
Redhog Wrestling	Poleglass	Belfast	Senior/Junior	38
Waterside Sharks	Maydown	Waterside, L'derry	Senior/Junior	28

The NI Senior Squad (over 21) consists of 7 wrestlers (1 of whom is female) and the NI Talent Squad consists of 11 wrestlers (3 of whom are females)

#### *Officials*

2 x BWA Accredited Level 1 Coaches and 16 x BWA Accredited Level 2 Coaches

UKCC Level 1 Coaches – 1

UKCC Level 2 Coaches (pending the final assessment of the pilot project - 3 of which are current BWA Level 2's ) – 5\*

7 x Qualified Referees and 2 x experienced Tournament Organisers



\*When the UKCC Level 2 pilot is finally “put to bed” this summer the NIWA will have 18 x Level 2 coaches and 2 x Level 1 coaches on its books.

Recent developments within the NIWA include:

- Lifted both senior and junior British titles.
- Placed two athletes for the National Talent Squad.
- Produced six current junior British Champions
- Prepared one athlete for the European Cadet Champions in Poland.
- Prepared wrestlers for important international tournaments in Kosovo, Macedonia, Switzerland and Norway.
- Attended training camps in Ukraine, Kosovo and the USA.
- Received international teams from Switzerland and USA.
- Organised quality events and championships.
- Modernised and incorporated the business and increased membership and clubs

The NIWA is confident that our partners trust the organisation and this is evidenced by:

- Derry City Council's desire to include wrestling as one of the three core sports at the heart of its £10.3 million investment in the North West Region Sports Campus (NWRSC).
- The stated intention of Mountaineering Ireland and the NI Judo Federation to collaborate to the mutual benefit of all on issues involving governance, talent ID and transfer and performance within the NWRSC framework.

Nevertheless, the NIWA remains realistic about where it sits in relation to others and although a recent self-assessment process has brought into sharp focus just how much has still to be accomplished we still believe that freestyle wrestling in Northern Ireland can grow, for example:

#### *(a) Performance*

It is evident that our younger wrestlers (typically between the ages of 12 -18 years) are on a par with any other home nation and the NIWA is capable of creating athletes best described as High Performance Talent (the first rung on the international competition ladder).

We have also captured some exceptional senior athletes namely Mohammadali (a product of the Iranian system) and Lisa Cardwell (a talent transfer from judo) however it is clear that the future is about developing our own system and the organisation requires support from Sport NI to achieve that.

The current pathway sign posts our young people to British Squads but the real graft is done at home and post the London Olympics it is reasonable to expect that every other home nation will "circle the wagons" and start to re-build from their national centres.



In addition, the NIWA Senior Squad requires regular access to a high quality coach since these conditions currently exist in Cardiff, Glasgow and Salford. The importance of this has to be stressed since NI Senior Squad cannot afford to lose ground and in reality there are only a few athletes who can close the loop and become well balanced and educated coaches within the next reporting cycle.

#### *(b) Club Development*

The NIWA is focusing its efforts on club development in three ways:

- i) Creation of a network of clubs within schools
- ii) Strengthening existing clubs and the addition of more - all with Clubmark accreditation
- iii) Creation of "performance clubs" that is strong well organised parent clubs with smaller satellite groups – feeding into the base.

### **Welsh Wrestling Association**

There are a total of 3 registered clubs in Wales, with the prospects of more clubs to start in the near future, which in turn will increase membership. The Welsh Wrestling Association has been through a tough 12 months but is now starting to move in the right direction. The WWA would like to thank Sport Wales and the Welsh Sports Association for all their help and support throughout the year.

The WWA have been working very closely with the sports development programme in Wales with the 5 x 60 officer in schools to promote wrestling, through Mini Olympic Days which have been held in school clusters with 6000 children been given the opportunity to do a 30 minute taster session of freestyle wrestling. It is hoped to follow on with a schools development programme in selected targeted areas to promote junior wrestling in Wales.

The Welsh Centre of Excellence is now back up and running on a regular basis working toward preparing wrestlers for Glasgow 2014. Well done to all Welsh wrestlers taking part in National and International events representing Wales and Great Britain. Congratulations has to go to Non Evans the President of the Welsh Wrestling Association on gaining her MBE in 2011 and, at the 2012 Welsh Sports Roll of Honours, Non was selected to go into the Hall of Fame of outstanding Welsh Athletes, also at the same event Alan Jones Head of Performance for the Welsh Wrestling Association won the Unsung Hero's Award for Wales where over 70 sports nominated their unsung hero. This is all good for wrestling in Wales. Also the WWA were very privileged and proud to have Non Evans commentating for wrestling at the London Olympic Games.

### **13. DEVELOPMENT PREVIEW: 2012-2013**

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

#### **UKCC coaching structure implementation:**

See above

#### **Talent Pathway implementation**

See above

#### **Athlete Award implementation**

See above

**Further implementation of British Wrestling Recreational Membership:** This has grown in popularity during 2010/11. The membership is a potential source of revenue for Clubs as for each £5 subscription, £4 is returned to the club.

#### **Roll-out of the Revised British Wrestling White Award**

The first iteration of the award was launched in September 2009. The award is now within the remit of a UKCC Level 1 coach.

**FILA Master Degrees:** Dependent on UKCC endorsed coaching levels to facilitate local coaching and sign-off

**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 or more wrestlers provide a minimum of 1 referee

**Provision of Officials at competitions:** Adoption of a policy similar to that of FILA 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. As from January 2013, it will be necessary for clubs to provide one official per five athletes.

## 14. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS

### ***Financial Management and Administration***

The vast majority of financial administration for the British Wrestling Association is managed by the BWA Administrator, overseen by the Non-Executive Finance Director. A set of Bank Accounts aligned to ring-fenced funding pots is in place to ensure correct use of funds. The vast majority of transactions are electronic, providing visibility/traceability.

### ***Funding and Partners***

The large majority of funding comes from UK Sport, Sport England, TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme) and Commonwealth England. 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.

## 15. COMMUNICATIONS

### ***Media***

With interest in the Olympics there were some successful press days at the Academy.

During the Olympics Wrestling was featured on Absolute Radio, BBC Radio London and BBC Radio 4's Saturday PM programme.

Some elements of media coverage were more negative than would have been necessary had there not been briefing of journalists by some members of the association who disapproved of the performance strategy.

### ***Website***

The website has performed with near 100% reliability across the year. There have been 112,000 visits between 1 September 2011 and 22 August 2012 (up from the 85,000 visits reported in last year's Annual Report). Peak interest was around the London Test Event in December 2011. The main site also saw an increase in visitors of approx. 105% during the Olympic period.

A small maintenance charge is paid to Nemisys, the website builder and provider to host the site. Nemisys are a specialist provider involved with sports.

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

The On-line membership renewal and competition registration continue to perform well with the number of reported issues reducing. The system is now working well and delivering great benefits in terms of information about the membership and savings in scarce admin resource.

## 16. EQUITY & WELFARE, GOVERNANCE, HR

### **Equality, Welfare and Child Protection**

Following successful achievement of the advanced standard in Child Protection in December 2011, British Wrestling is expecting to work towards the next level in Equality Standards during 2013.

### **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.

### **Complaints and Disagreements**

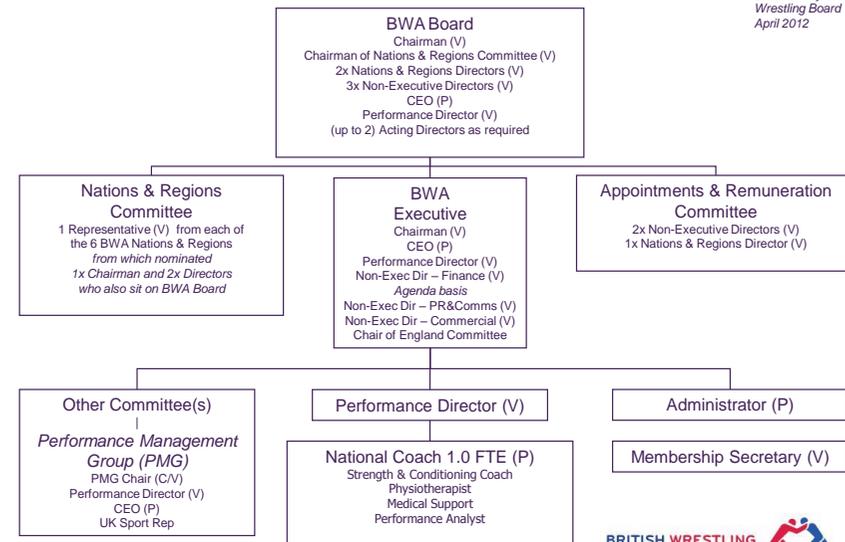
The level of complaints has reduced as compared with the previous period. However, any complaints consume a significant amount of scarce management resource and all efforts should be made to resolve disputes informally. A new complaints policy the British Wrestling "Judicial Code" is in the final stages of drafting with comments being sought from Board Directors and lawyers.

Whilst the number of complaints were down, the number of selection challenges was increased, a feature of a Home Olympics where individuals believe they have a chance of competing a result of Host Nation Places. Those that volunteered to sit on Appeal Tribunals should be thanked for their time and thoughtful input.

## 17. BRITISH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION STRUCTURE DIAGRAM

### British Wrestling Association Structure

*Endorsed by British Wrestling Board April 2012*



P=Permanent; V=Volunteer; C=Contractor



## **18. CONCLUSION**

With limited staff (and most of those involved being highly engaged but also very busy, volunteers,) it is difficult to move forward more quickly than is currently being achieved.

Much has been achieved during the last period, especially in the area of coaching course development. Whilst the Olympics could have delivered greater success and profile for wrestling, nevertheless, British Wrestling (and Olga) achieved an 11<sup>th</sup> place with Britain's first wrestling Olympic representation since 2004.

Focus over the last period has been on achieving representation at London 2012. Efforts now need to be invested in planning the most effective strategy, in cooperation with Wrestling's funding partners, for the next four-year cycle which includes the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and Rio 2016.

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  
August 2012