

# Dear Friends,

The weightlifting competitions of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games undoubtedly brought great success to the sport of weightlifting. Not negligible was thereby the fact that weightlifting is a very strong sport in China. Lifters of the host country captured 8 out of the available 15 gold medals and in terms of television viewing weightlifting ranked second after athletics.

The success gave an enormous impulse to our sport after 2008 all over the world. 2012 was coming and we knew that Great Britain too was determined to stage memorable Olympic Games. The IWF was ready to give them all the help that was possible. We were at the same time aware that

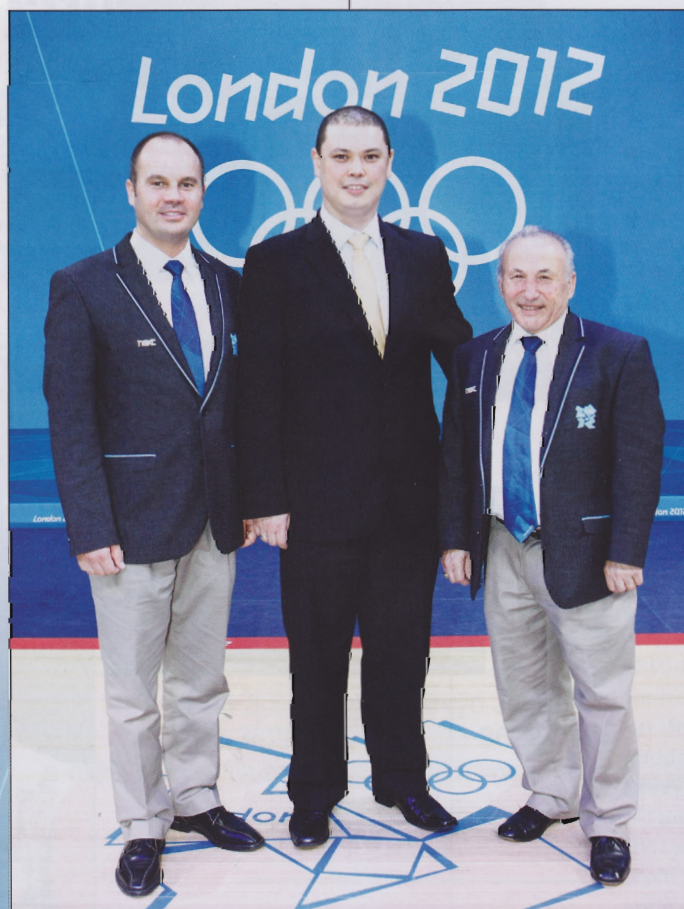


weightlifting was on a mediocre level in Britain and the success of the Games could not be based on the home country's performance as was the case for China. Even though the qualification guaranteed the participation of the world's best competitors, we concluded that London would need to excel in something else, and

that could be in staging spectacular competitions, creating an atmosphere that might fascinate and captivate the British audience. The public should be watching in awe and leave the venue with the exhilarating sensation that weightlifting is a tremendously spectacular, understandable and exciting sport.

All these objectives have been achieved.

It gave us special pleasure that we developed a fantastic relationship with the London 2012 Organising Committee, in particular with its Chairman Sebastian Coe and his colleagues, with special mention to Debbie Jevans, Sports Director. They eventually accepted to have Matthew Curtain as the Weightlifting Manager. Matthew was a highly qualified organizer with the experience of several major competitions in his career – from Australia. It was not an easy issue since it was general British & LOCOG policy to appoint someone "from the household" to the job. We never wished to hurt any feelings or anyone's pride but we were convinced that the priority should be on guaranteeing the success of the weightlifting events. Matthew Curtain had the necessary skills and know-how acquired in a series of big events, whereas British weightlifting



IWF Technical Delegates Sam Coffa and Attila Ádámfi flanking Matthew Curtain, Weightlifting Manager of London 2012

# Editorial





London 2012 Chairman Sebastian Coe with the IWF President

We all did our best but London 2012 would not have been the smashing success it was without the British public. The way they appreciated sports in general and weightlifting in particular was just amazing and beyond all imagination. Nearly six and half thousand spectators – whether for a group B or a group A – packed the venue in the ExCeL day after day. Not only was the hall full to the brim but the spectators

In terms of results: 33 Olympic records and 11 world records speak for themselves. Of course, the suspicion is always there that such results must be due to doping. Well: in London 169 samples were taken by the IOC in weightlifting and none of the competing athletes, including those setting the 44 Olympic and world records, were positive. That alone is an absolute success. Weightlifting has reinforced its position as a



Weightlifting's "Games Makers"

lacked the evidence of either the trained manpower or the sporting achievements. We could recommend Matthew with a clear conscience. Once again we are grateful to LOCOG for accepting our proposal. Matthew then built around himself and trained an outstanding British staff which became fully devoted to the task ahead. We have worked for many Olympic Games together with the local organising staff but never before had there been such a tight link between the Technical Delegates, the IWF

Secretariat and the Competition Manager, as in London's case. Let us also be proud of both our Technical Delegates: Sam Coffa, IWF Vice President and Chairman of the Technical Committee and Attila Ádámfi, IWF Competition Director who, in their right, proved to be excellent partners. Hand in hand, together with the IWF staff, the President, the General Secretary, an excellent Team worked for the weightlifting events – with a visible and rewarding success.

enthusiastically supported all competitors, notwithstanding their nationality or their level of performance. The weakest of lifters lifting the smallest of weights received incredible encouragement from the crowd that pushed them to exceeding their own limits. All in all, the preparations, the organisation, the logistics, the atmosphere, the show – everything was perfect and London proved our concept right: weightlifting itself scored a huge victory at London 2012.

core sport at the Games. The wonders of the London 2012 Olympic Games have vested us with a solid foundation to build our immediate future on – both theoretically and practically. We shall do our utmost to maintain this intensity, this temperature and preserve weightlifting's prestige as a winning sport of the Olympic Games.

**Dr. Tamás Aján**  
President

**Ma Wenguang**  
General Secretary