

PROJECT ORAL HISTORIAN / HERITAGE OFFICER

Information Pack

CAPUTRE AND PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF WELSH WEIGHTLIFTING



Wales Weightlifting Federation CIC
(ADMIN@WEIGHTLIFTING.WALES)

PROJECT ORAL HISTORIAN / HERITAGE OFFICER

Strength & Legacy: Capturing the Living History of Weightlifting Wales (1950s-2010/2011)

Salary: £20,000 per annum (**0.4 FTE / £50,000 FTE**)

Contract: Fixed term for two years

Location: Flexible/home-based with travel across Wales

Travel: Project-related travel expenses reimbursed in accordance with Weightlifting Wales financial policy and procedures.

Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund

About Weightlifting Wales

Weightlifting Wales (WW) is the recognised National Governing Body for Olympic Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting in Wales.

Our 2026-2030 strategy, Lifting a Nation, sets out our ambition to use strength to bring people and communities together, develop the sport from grassroots through to international level, and build a well-governed and sustainable organisation.

WW works with affiliated clubs, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and partners throughout Wales.

Our sport has a proud history. However, much of its earlier heritage has never been formally captured. Important stories, photographs, competition records, medals, programmes and personal memories remain with former athletes, coaches, officials and their families and are at increasing risk of being lost.

About Strength & Legacy

Strength & Legacy: Capturing the Living History of Weightlifting Wales (1950s-2010/2011) is a two-year project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The project will capture, preserve and share the history of Weightlifting in Wales, with a particular focus on the period from the 1950s through to 2010/2011.

At the heart of the project will be the people who built the sport.

Former athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, families and clubs will be invited to share their memories and personal collections, allowing us to record not only sporting achievements but the stories and communities behind them.

The project will include:

- 60-100 oral history interviews across Wales.
- Interviews in Welsh and English where appropriate.
- Research into athletes, clubs, competitions and key periods in the sport's development.
- Digitisation of photographs, programmes, documents, medals and other memorabilia.
- Development of a lasting digital archive.
- Community exhibitions, events and outreach activity.
- Opportunities for volunteers to support research, interviews, digitisation and community engagement.
- Reconnecting former members of the Weightlifting community with today's athletes, clubs and members.

The aim is to make this heritage accessible not only to the Weightlifting community, but to the wider public and future generations. These activities reflect the approved project's focus on oral histories, digitisation and making Welsh Weightlifting's heritage accessible.

The Role

The Project Oral Historian / Heritage Officer will be central to the project and will lead its day-to-day delivery.

This isn't simply a desk-based historical research role.

We are looking for someone who enjoys working with people and can build relationships with former athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and families across Wales. Many contributors will have stories and materials that have never previously been formally recorded.

The successful applicant will identify and engage contributors, undertake research, conduct and record interviews, coordinate the collection and digitisation of material and help shape how the history is ultimately shared.

They will work closely with WW's Chief Operating Officer and wider team. Specialist freelance digital media and videography support will also be commissioned where required.

WW will provide appropriate recording and digitisation equipment for the project.

Experience in audio/video recording and digital storytelling would therefore be particularly welcomed, although specialist support will be commissioned where required.

What We Hope to Achieve

By the end of the two-year project, we want to have created much more than a collection of historical records.

We want to:

- Preserve important memories and materials before they are lost.
- Build a high-quality and accessible record of Welsh Weightlifting heritage.
- Capture the voices and experiences of people from different generations and communities across Wales.
- Reconnect former athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers with the current Weightlifting community.
- Create opportunities for people to engage with the history through digital resources, exhibitions and events.
- Establish an archive and approach that WW can continue to develop beyond the funded project.

The project is one of the most significant heritage initiatives undertaken by WW and provides an opportunity to preserve stories that might otherwise never be recorded.

Who We Are Looking For

We are open to applicants from a range of professional backgrounds, including oral history, heritage, archives, museums, community history, academic research and related areas.

You do not need to be an expert in Weightlifting.

More important is the ability to research, listen, ask good questions, build trust with contributors and turn personal memories and historical material into an accurate and accessible record.

Welsh language skills are particularly welcomed, reflecting WW's role as a Welsh National Governing Body and our commitment to capturing stories in Welsh and English where appropriate.

Essential

We are looking for someone who:

- Has experience or a strong understanding of oral history, heritage, historical research or a related field.
- Is confident interviewing people and capturing personal stories sensitively and accurately.
- Has excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

- Has strong organisational and record-keeping skills.
- Can work independently and manage activity across a two-year project.
- Is comfortable building relationships with people from different generations and backgrounds.
- Has good digital skills.
- Is willing and able to travel across Wales.
- Demonstrates a commitment to safeguarding, equality and inclusive practice.

Desirable

- Welsh language skills.
- Experience delivering an oral history or community heritage project.
- Knowledge or interest in sport and sporting heritage.
- Experience digitising photographs, documents or archive material.
- Audio and video recording skills.
- Digital storytelling, photography or basic video-editing skills.
- Experience working with volunteers.

Working with WW

The successful applicant will have considerable independence in delivering the project while being supported by the Chief Operating Officer.

The role will be flexible and predominantly home-based, with travel required throughout Wales to meet contributors, visit clubs and attend relevant events and project activities.

WW will provide:

- Project management and ongoing support.
- Appropriate recording and digitisation equipment.
- Introductions to former members and other potential contributors.
- Access to WW's club, member and partner networks.
- Administrative and communications support.
- Reasonable project-related travel expenses.
- Specialist freelance digital media and videography support where required.
- Opportunities to work with heritage and community partners.

The Project Oral Historian / Heritage Officer will contribute to project monitoring, evaluation and reporting, with overall project governance and grant reporting led by WW's Chief Operating Officer / Project Lead, supported by the relevant WW subcommittee.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Weightlifting Wales is committed to creating an inclusive sport where everyone has the opportunity to participate, contribute and succeed.

We welcome applications from all suitably qualified individuals and particularly encourage applications from groups currently under-represented within our workforce, including disabled people, women and people from ethnically diverse communities.

We are committed to providing an inclusive recruitment process and will make reasonable adjustments wherever reasonably practicable to support applicants throughout the recruitment process.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit:

- A current CV.
- A covering letter (maximum two pages) outlining:
 - Why you are interested in the role.
 - Your relevant experience and skills.
 - Your approach to collecting and preserving oral histories.
 - Any relevant digital, audio or video experience.
 - Your availability.

Please send your application to:

Mr Jake Eastwood
admin@weightlifting.wales

Recruitment Timeline

Applications Open: 17 August 2026

Closing Date: 30 September 2026

Interviews: October 2026

Expected Start: November / December 2026