

LIBERATION INVESTMENT GROUP LLC
Form SC 13D/A
December 23, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

**Information to be Included in Statements Filed Pursuant to Rule
13d-1(a) and Amendments Thereto Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-2(a)**

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 17)*

BALLY TOTAL FITNESS HOLDING CORPORATION

(Name of Issuer)

COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$.01 PER SHARE

(Title of Class of Securities)

058 73K 10 8

(CUSIP Number)

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LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

TELEPHONE: 213-892-4333

(Name, address and telephone number of person authorized to receive notices and communications)

December 22, 2005

(Date of event which requires filing of this statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(e), 13d-1(f) or 13d-1(g), check the following box "X".

NOTE: Schedules filed in paper format shall include a signed original and five copies of the schedule, including all exhibits. See Rule 13d-7 for other parties to whom copies are to be sent.

* The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be filed for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Act) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No. 058 73K 10 8

(1) NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Liberation Investments, L.P.

(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

(3) SEC USE ONLY

(4) SOURCE OF FUNDS

WC

(5) CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

(6) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

(7) SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF
(8) SHARED VOTING POWER
SHARES

BENEFICIALLY
OWNED BY (9) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
PERSON

WITH
(10) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(11) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

2,662,963

(12) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ..

(13) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

7.02%

(14) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

PN

CUSIP No. 058 73K 10 8

(1) NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Liberation Investments, Ltd.

(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

(3) SEC USE ONLY

(4) SOURCE OF FUNDS

WC

(5) CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

(6) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Cayman Islands

(7) SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF
(8) SHARED VOTING POWER
SHARES

BENEFICIALLY
OWNED BY (9) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
PERSON

WITH
(10) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

(11) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

1,436,487

(12) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ..

(13) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

3.79%

(14) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

CO

CUSIP No. 058 73K 10 8

(1) NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Liberation Investment Group LLC

(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

(3) SEC USE ONLY

(4) SOURCE OF FUNDS

N/A

(5) CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

(6) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

(7) SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 0
(8) SHARED VOTING POWER
SHARES

BENEFICIALLY 4,099,450
OWNED BY (9) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
PERSON

WITH 0
(10) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

4,099,450
(11) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

4,099,450

(12) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ..

(13) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

10.80%

(14) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

OO, IA

CUSIP No. 058 73K 10 8

(1) NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Emanuel R. Pearlman

(2) CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a)

(b)

(3) SEC USE ONLY

(4) SOURCE OF FUNDS

N/A

(5) CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

(6) CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States

(7) SOLE VOTING POWER

NUMBER OF 35,000
(8) SHARED VOTING POWER
SHARES

BENEFICIALLY 4,099,450
OWNED BY (9) SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
PERSON

WITH 35,000
(10) SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

4,099,450
(11) AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

4,134,450

(12) CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES ..

(13) PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

10.90%

(14) TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IN, HC

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This Amendment No. 17 (this Amendment) relates to the Schedule 13D filed on behalf of (i) Liberation Investments, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (LILP); (ii) Liberation Investments Ltd. (LILTD), a private offshore investment corporation; (iii) Liberation Investment Group, LLC (LIGLLC), a Delaware limited liability company and general partner of LILP and discretionary investment advisor to LILTD; and (iv) Emanuel R. Pearlman, as General Manager and majority member of LIGLLC, with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 8, 2004, as amended by Amendment No. 1 filed on July 13, 2004, Amendment No. 2 filed on August 27, 2004, Amendment No. 3 filed on September 1, 2004, Amendment No. 4 filed on September 10, 2004, Amendment No. 5 filed on December 13, 2004, Amendment No. 6 filed on April 26, 2005, Amendment No. 7 filed on May 6, 2005, Amendment No. 8 filed on July 19, 2005, Amendment No. 9 filed on July 22, 2005, Amendment No. 10 filed on September 19, 2005, Amendment No. 11 filed on October 11, 2005, Amendment No. 12 filed on October 31, 2005, Amendment No. 13 filed on November 14, 2005, Amendment No. 14 filed on November 22, 2005, Amendment No. 15 filed on December 7, 2005 and Amendment No. 16 filed on December 14, 2005 (the Schedule 13D), relating to shares of common stock, \$.01 par value per share, of Bally Total Fitness Holding Corporation (the Company).

Items 4 and 7 of the Schedule 13D are hereby amended and supplemented as follows:

ITEM 4. PURPOSE OF TRANSACTION

On December 22, 2005, LILP and LILTD submitted a letter to the Board of Directors of the Company (the Board) (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.26, the Letter) in which they, among other things, expressed their concerns about the propriety of recent stock sales by Mr. Paul Toback, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, and certain other members of the Company's management team. The Letter also requests that the Board (i) immediately take the action necessary to separate the office of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the Board and (ii) authorize Steven Rogers and Adam Metz, two independent directors appointed to the Board subsequent to the Company's release on November 30, 2005 of its financial results, to independently investigate the propriety of recent stock sales executed by Mr. Toback and certain members of the Company's management team and the veracity and timeliness of the Company's recent public filings.

As a result of the delivery of the Letter to the Company, LILP and LILTD may engage in discussions with the Company's stockholders, management or Board concerning the matters described in the Letter.

In addition, on December 23, 2005, LILP and LILTD issued a press release (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.27) announcing, among other things, that on December 22, 2005, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware dismissed as moot a motion by the Company for a preliminary injunction proceeding against LILP and LILTD in an action brought by the Company to prevent LILP and LILTD from presenting a shareholder proposal at the Company's upcoming annual meeting.

ITEM 7. MATERIAL TO BE FILED AS EXHIBITS

The following exhibit is filed with this Amendment:

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Exhibit 99.26. Letter to the Board of Directors of the Company, dated December 21, 2005, submitted by LILP and LILTD.
Exhibit 99.27. Press Release, dated December 23, 2005.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: December 22, 2005

LIBERATION INVESTMENTS, L.P.
By: Liberation Investment Group LLC, general partner

By: /s/ Emanuel R. Pearlman

Emanuel R. Pearlman
General Manager

LIBERATION INVESTMENTS, LTD.

By: /s/ Emanuel R. Pearlman

Emanuel R. Pearlman
Director

LIBERATION INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC

By: /s/ Emanuel R. Pearlman

Emanuel R. Pearlman
General Manager

EMANUEL R. PEARLMAN

/s/ Emanuel R. Pearlman
