



FIRST HALF YEAR-ROUND UP

Having just got through a fraught first half year due to COVID-19 I would like to report on what we have achieved to date. Despite there being no competitions a lot of work on several different fronts has been carried out.

Pandemic

We started the year with the dark cloud of lockdowns leaving us not knowing when gyms could open or competitions start, but slowly some light started to appear at the end of the tunnel.

Chairman

Our long-standing Chairman Fred Sterry had been unwell for a few months and ended up in hospital. Very sadly, and unexpectedly, we got the news that he had passed away on 6th January. He is sorely missed and the amount of work he did means that it is a tough job for someone else to take on his work. This meant that our Deputy Chairman, Ian Finch, was called on to step into the breach and has done an excellent job so far chairing board meetings and advising on a range of issues.

Board Meetings

We have held three board meetings so far all via Zoom and conducted a wide range of business. As usual a lot of routine business was conducted, but the focus has been getting our domestic championships programme back up and running.

NGB Recognition

Having submitted our final application for NGB (National Governing Body) status early in 2020, everything has been on hold due to the pandemic. However, after some effort we managed to reengage with Sport England. I have had a Teams meeting and phone calls with them to clarify various aspects of our application and submitted more details. Our application is now being assessed and whilst there is no guarantee of success, I am hopeful that having overcome several hurdles along the way our submission will be viewed favourably.

Anti-Doping

Under the new IPF Anti-Doping rules affiliate's antidoping programmes must be under the auspices of either the IPF or a NADO (in our case UKAD). We had an initial meeting jointly with the CCES (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport), who are under contract to the IPF and UKAD. I have since had detailed dialogue with both UKAD, including a Teams meeting with their CEO and the CCES to establish the basis for our antidoping programme. Discussions are ongoing with UKAD and in the meantime I have arranged testing through the IPF. A key aspect of the new antidoping programme is education and Dr Chris Gilbert has been appointed to lead this.

Sponsorship

Our Sponsorship Officer Ben Davis has wasted no time in getting into the swing of things and has been working with both Eleiko and SBD to maximise the benefits from their agreements. These include provision of equipment for championships and media support. We have also have agreements in place with A7 and White Lights Media

Arnold Classic

I have been working with the IPF to finalise arrangements for these at the NEC 3rd October and this is an excellent opportunity to showcase our equipped lifters. This is a full blown international where World records can be set on home ground.

BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sports)

We have a team led by Nathan Gevao and Adebisi Omisakin working on a proposal for powerlifting to be recognised as a BUCS sport. I would like to thank Nathan and Ade for all their hard work on this as there are many benefits to university clubs from having BUCS recognition.

WEBSITE

The Media Team, in conjunction with our website builder, is in an advanced stage of launching a revamped website with several new features. This will present a rather more modern look and the aim is to make everything easier for members to understand and access.

COACHING COURSES

Our coaching courses have previously been accredited by REPS and subsequently PD:Approval. This is now all being taken over by CIMSPA (Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity) who are supported by Sport England. Fred Mckenzie and me have had a Teams meeting with them to discuss what is required to enter into partnership with them and have accreditation for our courses. This gives us the opportunity to restructure our courses and hopefully add some on-line elements and Charlie Marillier is leading on this. The overall process requires a fair amount of effort from us to provide all the necessary policies and procedures and I will be spearheading this.

BRAWN

We are in discussions with BRAWN and the IPF regarding how we can benefit from the capabilities that are on offer and participate in virtual competitions.

We all look forward to getting back to normality for the rest of the year.

Yours in Sport,

Richard Parker – CEO

IPF Category 1 Referee

Chair IPF Court of Justice

President Commonwealth Powerlifting Federation

Chair English Powerlifting Association

Chair SW PL Association