



ENGLAND

Report for British AGM 12th September 2021

I attended the All England Men's powerlifting championships held at the Oasis Academy Oldham 31st July organised by Jacob Wymer. Only some 38 entries and 27 actual competitors which was somewhat disappointing but a well run event in a good venue.

I was somewhat surprised to find out that there were financial rewards to be competed for the top three lifters and gift tokens for the best individual lift performances. Perhaps this is the way forward although it also suggests a move from amateur to professional sport. I have received some criticism about this and I believe that it warrants further discussion at BP executive level.

The venue is also to be used to host the Classic British this year and Jacob is proposing to hold a combined men and women's All England next year (May 28-30th 2022).

Moulton College was a late change of venue for the English Bench press championships 7th August 2021 organised by Faye Jordan and Andy Champ. This was a long day with several long periods of inactivity which given that it is just a one discipline competition could have been avoided to some extent. There were a number of criticisms regarding the standard of refereeing which I had to agree with. However without a jury or an appointed technical officer present little could realistically be done on the day.

As a nation we do not have that many IPF referees to call upon to form jury's at national championships so I feel that when a jury is not present a technical officer needs to be appointed to oversee the standard of officiating and where necessary intervene. An appointment of an English Technical officer would in my opinion also be a positive step forward. In addition there is I believe a need to introduce some referees refresher clinics, made compulsory, firstly to make sure that current officials are aware of any new rule changes that have been introduced and to also raise and discuss points they are not clear about. I often witness the same well established referees making the same mistakes time after time, not interpreting or perceiving the rules correctly, some adding their own! This issue is being discussed by the BP executive and will hopefully soon be resolved.

The All England women's championship was held at Moulton College 21st August with also a low number of entries (40) which resulted in making this a one day event instead of two. Covid 19 has no doubt been a factor in low entry numbers with lifters not having enough time to train or events being available to qualify in. Also with so many competitions to be fitted in to the last half of the year other comps may have been prioritised by lifters. Added to this the cancellation of the Commonwealth and Home nations and other international competitions means for some there is less incentive to compete in the All England events. Nevertheless it is good to see things returning to some normality again and membership slowly increasing which will hopefully lead to a better uptake for these comps next year.

Each year divisions are eligible for a membership rebate from British Powerlifting, all that is required from divisional secretary's or treasurers is that a copy of their divisional accounts and minutes of their AGM are forwarded to either the newly appointed EPA treasurer Adam Reilly or the EPA secretary. Most divisions have no problem with doing this but one or two are more than happy to do without this income, which if not claimed when available will be lost.

Kevin Jane

Director for England