



English Powerlifting Association – Secretary's report for 2015 GBPF AGM.

Following on from the English teams success at the Home Nations Championships and the largest All England championships to date the Commonwealth Championships held in Canada proved to be the icing on the cake for English powerlifting. I think I'm correct in reporting that the English team making the trip was the largest international powerlifting team (60+) to leave our shores. I originally thought that at most around two dozen would be going, and this would have been a significant improvement on the handful that competed for England two years ago in New Zealand.

With over 500 entries the competition has itself achieved new popularity. The host nation having the largest team, were pushed all the way by the English team who produced a multitude of medallist and record breakers in coming a close second. Although not able to make the trip I had plenty to occupy me dealing with literally hundreds of e-mails, t-shirts and track suits orders and phone calls etc. a task I will gladly pass on to someone else for the next championships.

A pity that England was not successful in the bid for the championships in 2017, but I envisage that the current trend will continue and England will be able to send a similar size team to South Africa in due course.

The EPA did contribute towards the cost of t-shirts this year for the Home Nations and Commonwealth teams, but I would like to see the Association make more of a contribution towards supporting future teams. Relying on the small profit from staging the All England championships to support lifters representing the nation is hardly worth bothering with. With all English divisions now receiving rebates from the GBPF related to membership numbers a proportion of this if retained by the EPA could go a long way, as would attracting sponsorship.

The increasing numbers of members means that as an association all divisions need to be ensuring that there are enough opportunities for lifters to achieve qualification totals and sustain their interest in the sport. This does necessitate holding either additional events or holding championships over two days. It may also mean that larger venues have to be identified. This of course cannot happen without other considerations such as also holding more referees courses and recruiting more people to take on responsibilities in organising events.

After introducing a qualifying standard for the All England last year, it was agreed at the EPA GM to increase the 'classic' qualification again this year setting it at 5% lower than the GBF classic standard, with the equipped standards remaining unaltered. I am proposing to this year use the current 13/14th August date for the All England for all male lifters and run an additional weekend day (August 6th) for an All England women's championships.

Merchandising- Sales of tracksuits increased substantially over the year in line with the number of lifters representing the GBPF internationally. Other items have stagnated partly due I think to various people using the GBPF logo to print on clothing etc. without permission.

I am still hoping to soon have items made available on line so that I do not have to carry as much stock and also to enable members to make on line purchases, with additional items made available.

Kevin Jane – Director for English Powerlifting