

GBPF GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2015

The GBPF has now reached a watershed in its development. Last year we experienced another year of strong membership growth in excess of 50% to crack the 2000 barrier and reach a closing total of 2242. Whilst this is fantastic, it brings with it new challenges, not least of which is providing enough competition spaces in Divisions. It is essential we manage this effectively and this means finding bigger venues and running longer championships. It's easy to say this of course, but this is entirely dependent on the availability and goodwill of promoters, officials and platform crew.

We submitted a new pre-application for National Governing Body status February 2015 and after several months received a rejection letter with a number of significant points. We responding to this and followed up, resulting in a meeting in January 2016. Out of this we now have a clear idea of what we need to do and the main task is to merge our Constitution with the Memorandum and Articles of Association so that our governance documentation is acceptable. This is in progress under the aegis of our newly formed Law and Legislation Committee. There is still a way to go to satisfy Sport England on all aspects of our organisation and governance, but we are definitely moving in a positive direction.

In excess of 80 national and regional tests were conducted in 2015, a significant increase over 2014. Out of these there were a few adverse findings, which have been processed by the Disciplinary Committee (DC) and the appropriate penalties imposed in accordance with the WADA Code. We have also adopted an intelligence based testing approach and this is being spear headed by our DCO Mark Walker. The cost of testing remains a major budget item, but this is money well spent to keep our sport clean. The DC has done their usual efficient job dealing with drug test failures and other matters.

Several coaching courses have been run successfully by Fred Mckenzie, aimed mostly at GBPF members. These are REPS approved and these will be extended in 2016 to include courses open to all comers, the aim being to expand our sphere of influence in the general fitness business. This will have the added benefit of attracting new members. On the technical front, we continue to run many divisional referee courses around the country. However, we need more referees to commit to moving up through the ranks to get their international licences. This means being more active at divisional and national championships and this is why we are introducing our own Referee's Licence.

We ran excellent championships in 2015, culminating in all three classic championships at the LeAF Academy, Bournemouth. This was a challenge for Paul Rees and his team, but everything went smoothly despite the large number of over 400 lifters in total. The increase in the number of lifters qualifying, particularly for the Classic has meant we have had to increase QTs to make things more manageable. The majority of championships have been streamed live via Three Whites and this will continue for 2016. Here I would

like to mention the outstanding work of our Championships Secretary Fred Sterry. Fred has done all the competition paperwork and for the number of championships and lifters we now have and this is no mean feat.

The medals gained at internationals are shown in the appended table and there were many very good performances, particularly in the Masters age groups. However, in the lower and open age groups competition is daunting and to achieve even a single lift medal placing requires an outstanding performance. Several of our lifters were a little unlucky not to get medals, but congratulations to those who did. Owen Hubbard was outstanding to take the Junior World Classic title at 83kg, with World record bench marks in both the junior and open age groups. I would also like to mention the record turnout of lifters from all the Home Countries at the Commonwealth Championships; some excellent results all round and these are also listed in the medal table. It is appropriate here to mention the dedicated work of our Head Coaches/Team Managers who select the teams and ensure our teams perform to the best of their ability. Theirs is not an easy job and we are fortunate to have their services.

We continue to benefit from our sponsorship agreement with SBD and for 2016 the package has been improved. All international teams and Home Countries will be supported under the new deal. We also gained some sponsorship from RepBoards, although this may not continue.

Rob Thomas has decided to stand down as web-master. He set up our web site at the birth of the GBPF and has maintained it ever since. I would like to thank Rob for all his hard work and hope he will continue to be involved. We have decided to have the web-site redesigned professionally to present our new image and incorporate improvements to functionality. The on-line membership application system will also be streamlined to make the Membership Registrar's job more straightforward.

The Strategic Plan has been updated and a key target is achieving a 3000 membership in the next two years. We also need to strengthen our administration to develop the Federation more effectively. We have many people in the Federation with specialist skills and knowledge, but quite often we don't know who they are. We are reliant on people coming forward willing and able to take on jobs.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Executive and Non-Executive Officers for their support and hard work in 2015 and look forward to working with you all again in 2016.

Richard Parker
General Secretary

2015 INTERNATIONAL MEDAL TABLE

CHAMPIONSHIP	LIFTER	CAT	SQUAT	BENCH	DEADLIFT	TOTAL
Euro Jun & S-Jun	No team sent					
Euro Seniors	Ellie Steel	57kg		Bronze		
Euro Bench Press	No team sent					
Euro Masters Bench	M1 Martin Green	105kg		Bronze		
	M4 Alex Lee	83kg		Gold		
Euro Masters	M1 Phil Richard	74kg	Gold	Gold	Silver	Gold
	Bernie McGurk	74kg	Bronze	Bronze	Gold	Silver
	T S Adewale	93kg			Bronze	
	M2 Stan Macrow	74kg		Bronze		
	M3 Roger Little	66kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver
	M4 Desi Scott	74kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver
	Mick Ellender	93kg	Bronze	Gold	Gold	Gold
	M1 Joanne Barnes	72kg		Bronze		
	Michelle Brand	84kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
	M3 Jacqui Blasbery	84+kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
	Marina Cornwall	47kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
	Sue Hollands	84+kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
	M3 Women					First
Western Euro Cup	Jake O'Neil	105kg	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Silver
	Ellie Steel	63kg	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Silver
	Kelly Phasey	84+kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
World Senior						
World Jun & S J	James Duff	74kg	Silver			
World Classic Junior	Amrik Mehta	59kg			Bronze	
	Owen Hubbard	83kg	Gold	Gold WR		Gold
	Devan Blackwood	93kg		Bronze		
	Thomas Brannick			Bronze		
	Abigail Mclean	84kg	Bronze		Silver	
	Charlie Chester	84+kg	Bronze		Silver	Bronze
World Classic Senior	Stephen Manuel	105kg	Bronze			Bronze
	Tony Cliffe	120kg	Bronze	Gold	Bronze	Bronze
World Classic Masters M1	Sheridan Wray	93kg		Gold	Bronze	Bronze
	Russell Kirby	105kg	Bronze			
	Andy Hutchings	120kg			Bronze	
	Chris Baker	120+kg		Bronze		
	Pelin Baykal	57kg	Bronze		Gold	Silver
	Kris Kyralcou	63kg	Bronze			Bronze
	Jo Whiteley	84+kg			Bronze	
World Classic Masters M2	David Gray	66kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
	Marc Giles	105kg		Bronze		
	Andy Rodney	120kg	Silver	Bronze	Silver	Gold
	Imelda Flanagan	47kg	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
	Jenny Hunter	52kg	Silver	Gold	Silver	Silver
	Lynda Banks	63kg			Gold	
	Jacqui Blasbery	84kg	Silver	Gold	Gold	Gold
	Helen Toms	84+kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver
World Classic	Ted Byrne	66kg	Bronze		Bronze	Bronze

Masters	M3	Cheema Hari Singh	74kg	Silver	Gold	Silver	Gold
		Marina Cornwall	47kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
World Classic Masters	M4	Ernie Parkes	83kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver
		Chris Gladding	120kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
World Masters Bench		No team sent					
World Masters	M1	Phil Richard	74kg	Gold	Gold	Bronze	Silver
	M2	Jean Maton	84kg	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver
	M4	Jacqui Blasbery	84+kg	Silver	Silver	Gold	Silver
		Mick Ellender	93kg	Silver	Gold	Silver	Gold
World Junior Bench		Graham Mellor	120+kg		Bronze		
World Sub-J Bench							
World Bench Press							
Commonwealth Special Olympians		Daniel McGauley	59kg	Gold	Gold	Silver	Gold
		Jemma Robinson	84+kg		Gold	Gold	
Commonwealth Equipped Bench Press	M2	Duncan Sharp	105kg		Gold		
	M3	Stewart Cowan	120kg		Gold		
		Tom Collins	105kg		Gold		
Commonwealth Classic Bench Press	Jun	Molly Chapman	63kg		Gold		
		Charlie Chester	84+kg		Gold		
Open		Michelle Trench	52kg		Gold		
M1		Beverley Rogers	63kg		Gold		
		Jeni Aulman	72kg		Gold		
		Sarah Marsden	84kg		Silver		
M3		Marina Cornwall	47kg		Gold		
SJ		Connor Burkhill	66kg		Gold		
		Farris Collins	93kg		Gold		
Jun		John Phillips	66kg		Gold		
Open		Simon Newton	74kg		Gold		
		Dan Watkins	93kg		Gold		
M1		Martin Smith	83kg		Gold		
		Sheridan Wray	93kg		Gold		
M2		John O'Riordan	93kg		Gold		
		Andy Rigby	105kg		Gold		
		Stewart Cowan	120kg		Gold		
Commonwealth Classic	Jun	Joy Nnamani	52kg	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold
		Hannah Chan	57kg	Silver	Bronze	Silver	Silver
		Amy Spencer	72kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver
		Charlie Chester	84+kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
Open		Emma Goodwin	52kg	Silver	Bronze	Silver	Silver
		Tanya Bull	72kg	Bronze		Silver	Bronze
M1		Vanessa Butler	57kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
		Khrys Kryiacou	63kg	Gold	Silver	Silver	Gold
		Sarah Marsden	84+kg	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Silver
M2		Gloria Fitzpatrick	72kg	Gold	Silver	Silver	Silver

M3	Marina Cornwall	47kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	
SJ	Connor Burkhill	66kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	
	Ben Sugarman	74kg	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	
	Ben Sparks	83kg	Bronze		Bronze	Bronze	
	Farris Collins	93kg	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	
Jun	Nathan Shaw	66kg	Silver	Silver	Gold	Gold	
	Jordan Lam	66kg	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Silver	
	Salman Khan	74kg	Silver	Gold	Gold	Gold	
	Owen Hubbard	83kg	Gold	Gold	Silver	Gold	
	Harvey Robinson	105kg	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold	
	Alex Pierides	105kg	Bronze	Bronze		Bronze	
	Callum Crozier	105kg		Silver			
	Chris Corbin	120kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	
	Open	Andrew Dawes	66kg	Silver	Bronze	Bronze	Silver
		Tom Gee	93kg		Bronze	Bronze	Bronze
Dan Watkins		93kg		Silver			
Mike Roberts		105kg		Silver			
Chris Hartwig		120+kg			Bronze		
M1	David O'Brien	83kg	Gold	Bronze	Silver	Silver	
	Martin Smith	83kg		Gold		Bronze	
	Sheridan Wray	93kg	Silver	Gold	Silver	Silver	
M2	Grant Sugarman	83kg	Silver	Silver	Bronze	Silver	
	John O'Riordan	93kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	
M3	Jim Dulling	105kg	Silver	Silver	Gold	Silver	
M4	Ernie Parks	83kg	Gold	Silver	Gold	Gold	
Commonwealth J Equipped Open J Open M3	Susannah Butler	63kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	
	Lucy Cohen	72kg	Silver	Silver	Silver	Silver	
	Sameen Tak	83kg	Silver	Gold	Silver	Silver	
	Mark Walker	105			Bronze		
	Jim Dulling	105kg	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold	

BL = Best Lifter
WR = World Record