

Athlete's commission report – 2021

I think everyone was glad to see Championships resuming in 2021 following the staggered relaxation of lockdown rules across the UK. Restrictions on travel were also slowly lifted meaning international Championships could resume.

From a planning perspective 2021 has been very difficult with all Championships really taking part in a 6 month window at the back end of 2021, which obviously meant a very condensed calendar, the federation continues to struggle to find willing promoters to host national Championships and much more needs to be done to make the prospect to those willing to host more appealing (more organised and functional support at the very least).

The Championships director and development director roles remained vacant for the entirety of 2021, meaning many of the areas of concern about the development of the federation and our ability to host truly world class Championships hasn't quite progressed as well as it might.

However, some great things have begun to happen in British powerlifting during 2021 / early 2022, the Arnold UK saw the first British Powerlifting hosted Arnold Powerlifting Championships and how great it is to see some prize money on offer for the lifters! I'm looking forward to seeing a larger crop of international lifters attend in 2022 and I know there is a lot of interest.

We identified and on-boarded our new Performance director Chris Curtiss, which is excellent news and hopefully he can work with our crop of esteemed and experienced international coaches to get the best from the lifters.

We finally received NGB status which the fed has been working tirelessly to obtain for many years, spearheaded by our CEO Richard Parker, I mentioned in my previous report for 2020 that this only marks the beginning of the effort to really see the benefit of NGB status to flow to the Fed, but there is no mistaking this has been and should be regarded as a huge milestone in the evolution of Powerlifting in Great Britain, well done Richard and all those who have worked so hard over the years to make this a possibility.

I also mentioned in my 2020 report the obvious need for a number of sub-committees to allow more of the burden of administration and decision making of the Fed be made by a wider base of individuals and hopefully allow us to future proof the board. I believe the delays in finding suitable individuals to fill the performance, development and Championship Director roles has delayed this, with the expectation that these individuals in pursuing their targets would need to set up a number of sub-committees to really yield the best results for the Fed. Hopefully we begin to see some progress on this front in the latter half of 2022.

Lastly, I'd like again to say a massive thank you to the lifters who have been attending the lifters forum's, in future these will be advertised not only on British Powerlifting facebook group but also on the British Powerlifting website calendar and will take place on the same day as the British Powerlifting board meetings so I can give more advances notice. If you have anything you would like to raise or discuss with the Board, please do not hesitate to contact me at athletescommission@britishpowerlifting.org

Tony Cliffe

Chair of the British Powerlifting Athlete's commission.