



ENGLAND

Director for English Powerlifting report for British Powerlifting AGM 22nd May 2022.

The English Bench press will be held in Newark on the 12th June, the Inter-divisional competition is to be held in Wootton Bassett on the 13th August, the latter in a new venue will hopefully ensure that this event gains popularity and becomes an established championship on the English calendar. Home nations 10/12/2022 Barry, Wales.

Rather than concentrate on the well-run English championships that have been held over the last year which I have mentioned in previous reports I feel inclined to bring attention to what I regard as a growing problem concerning several English divisions.

Over the past few years, I have increasingly been made aware of some of the issues several English divisions experience. This in the main is due to what I consider to be in-fighting between individuals sitting on the committees concerned. It is a simple fact that with people often from diverse backgrounds and having a variety of skills, coming together voluntarily to take on duties and be part of a committee are unlikely to all be pleased at the same time. To begin with, individuals may become committee members for any number of reasons, such as personal status, dedicated to the cause, coerced, elected, or having a specific skill base etc. However, like any business organisation with a committee, effectiveness depends on how these groups of people relate and communicate with one another.

During the covid 19 lockdown the East Midlands committee continued to meet for meetings using chat rooms as other divisions probably did. This did though pose problems at times which I attributed to the limited means of communication between individuals that using this format allows. In a physical meeting we can pick up far more non-verbal forms of communication such as a person's posture expressions etc. which all contribute to us making sense of what is being communicated. Similarly, as was often the case during lockdown when using either just e-mail or telephone conversation to communicate with each other, areas of communication were absent such as tone of voice and the intended meaning from written dialogue.

The area of communication was as a result raised as an item on the agenda for the East Midlands committee some time ago. Members discussing this I feel significantly helped to keep the committee together and functioning professionally. Outside of the committee

meetings some members may still not always have time for each other but are able to put things aside when need be at meetings. In the past the East Midlands committee in an effort to be more effective also produced clear job descriptions/roles for key committee positions, helpful if someone new comes on board.

As secretary I feel that some divisions would benefit from taking steps to improve the function of their divisional committees looking at things such as leadership styles, format of meetings, aims and objectives of the committee and constitution status etc. I can often be available if required to attend divisional meetings to either be an independent observer or to input on improving cohesion between committee members. Alternatively outside help can easily be found and in the long run could enable divisional committees to function and serve their memberships more positively.

All British Powerlifting members in my opinion deserve to be represented by a responsible and dedicated committee at divisional level, who in turn are a medium for raising issues and influencing change at national level. With BP membership steadily heading back to pre-lock-down numbers and National governing body status now achieved there is I believe significantly more pressure on divisions to make sure their house is in order. Personally, I would like to see all divisional committees moving forward over the next year and incorporating changes directed at national and international level regarding anti-doping and safeguarding and accommodating the needs of their membership.

Kevin Jane

Director for English Powerlifting