



Director for England Report for 2017 AGM

What a start to the year with members pestering me as to when the entry forms for the All England will be posted. As soon as it was, the flood gates opened with entries, payments, and queries bombarding me all hours of the day and night since. I think the completion has become as popular as an Adele gig. All well and good for the sport, but with the women's competition full within just one week and the senior men's comp full a week later there will need to be some drastic changes made for next year to either limit the number of entries or accommodate all who wish to enter. I am hoping to extend the women's event time wise this year, as the venue is available until 10.00pm on the 29th May, although additional help i.e. loaders and officials will be required if this is to happen. The cleaning up can be left to the Tuesday although is likely to incur extra costs.

From a personal view point I took on the position as secretary initially somewhat reluctantly, as at the time I could only devote a certain amount of time on a voluntary basis to the position. At that time (2012) I think the English membership stood at around 600 but is now probably four times that number. With it the work load has increased to a point that in reality additional officers need to be appointed, at least an assistant or admin person if the increasing membership is to be satisfied.

The Commonwealth team will shortly after the All England have to be selected and is likely to be an even larger team than that selected in 2015 which I believe was the largest international team the GBPF had sent abroad at the time. Lifters interested in representing England at this event will be asked to fill in a form at the All England weigh-in and English Bench Press (June 3/4 2017) to help reduce admin.

The 4 Nations championships to be hosted by Northern Ireland this year in my opinion needs to be altered slightly to reflect the upsurge in 'classic' lifting by increasing the classic lifting teams to 4 lifters and reducing the equipped teams to just 2. The overall team award is really what it is about, as I still have last year's trophies for the separate equipped and classic team winners.

2016

The 4 Nations from an English team perspective was somewhat a disaster from beginning to end although no real criticism of those who represented the county. With only 5 male equipped lifters to choose from who competed in the All England championships options were limited. Added to this some of the top three lifters based on Wilks in each category did not bother to reply to their invitations to represent their country. Others due to injury or other issues pulled out late on leaving us with a depleted team, although one that would probably have won the title had all the team made a total. Some very good performances from those who did lift for us at a well run event by Wales. I would like to suggest that next year because of the decline in equipped lifters that either additional classic lifters who have totalled at the All England are asked to compete albeit lifting classic in the equipped comp if they prefer, or we include any lifter who has made an equipped total at a BP event during the past year.

There were a few concerns re the location for the banquet, there being no parking facilities and few seats to be had to enjoy the meal together with being in a loud pub with other members of the public posed problems when awards were presented. The overall team award was presented to Wales but no one had worked out the winners of the separate team awards for the classic and equipped team winners. These shields are therefore still in my possession.

The All England championships were the largest to date with over 200 entries prior to lifters pulling out. It was not without problems, power failures, lack of internet connection etc. but on the whole a successful competition which resulted in £900 of the profit being donated to the EPA. As always my thanks and gratitude to those who worked hard to ensure the event ran as smooth as it did, namely the Farm PLC loaders and Mike King, Fred Sterry for producing the paperwork and Jo and Jo Whiteley who scored and MC'd the whole time.

Kevin Jane