

**GB Powerlifting Federation Ltd Annual General Meeting**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 at Moulton College**

**MINUTES**

Present: Richard Parker, Jacob Wymer, James Brincat-Smith, Kim Cowell, Jenni Sherwood, Bryn Evans, Emma Goodwin, Elizabeth Beales, Craig Wilkins, Tony Cliffe, Kevin Jane, Ian Finch, Allen Ottolangui, Jim McGill, Fred McKenzie, Pete Weiss, Sophia Ellis, Moa Wikner, Ben Davis, Paul Marsh, Jenny Hunter, Martin Bass, Lotte Hall, Richard Caine, Pete Sparkes, Phil Guise, Doreen Dowsett, Gigi Nicholson, Josh New, Holly Bryans, Sion Smyth, Matt Watson, Faye Jordan, Megan Davenport, Gary Hills, Sue Curtiss,

36 members in attendance  
174 proxy votes registered

1. Minutes of the 2021 AGM – accepted as published.
2. Matters arising - none
3. Finance Report.
  - 3.1. In Dave Turner's absence the Finance Report and accounts were presented by the CEO.
  - 3.2. James Brincat-Smith questioned the amount spent on bank charges echoed by Craig Wilkins. As the Finance report was not specific as to what the charges referred to and the FD was not present, more detail would be useful. The CEO pointed out that the bank charges would include international money transactions and PAYPAL charges. JBS suggested that BP could reduce such charges by using a REVOLUT card or SQUARE account system. CW suggested paying international invoices in mass rather than paying one at a time. The CEO pointed out that this was not practicable.
  - 3.3. Martin Bass questioned the amount from membership in the BP account when international teams were having to pay the majority of the costs of competing abroad. The CEO explained that there were outstanding drug test costs to be paid and it was also pointed out that a

healthy reserve was required in case of BP having to pay legal costs for any lifters challenging positive drug test results.

**3.4. Report accepted NEM COM.**

4. Agreement of budget for 2022.

4.1. Presented by the CEO in Dave Turner's absence.

4.2. Bryn Evans raised concern re the amount set aside for Web site (£6,500) which many felt was very expensive as there were far cheaper options around and possibly members who could design/hosts web sites for a fraction of this cost. The CEO pointed out that the current host's costs included the membership data base and other extensive site updates and that the £6.5K amount is not actual. However, a breakdown of costs from Dave was suggested, which resulted in the financial report not being accepted in its entirety.

5. Appointment and remuneration of accountants – D Turner & Co re-appointed. Remuneration would remain on a quarterly basis.

6. Chairman's Report.

**Report accepted NEM COM.**

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report.

7.1. The CEO read out his report and highlighted the key points, the most significant of which was the achievement of National Governing Body status. However, he emphasised that there was no guarantee of funding or a timescale as to when BP might benefit from this status.

7.2. Ben Davies raised concern over the length of time Sport England had taken to date with BP's application and might still take. CEO informed the meeting of the difficulties experienced in communicating with Sport England.

7.3. Bryn Evans asked why funding applications had not been made while awaiting Sport England's decision.

7.4. Tony Cliffe suggested that the Board should use the Sport England complaints procedure if need be re the length of time that take to communicate and make decisions.

7.5. Fred McKenzie informed the meeting that Sport England funding is usually for one off events and not to sustain initiatives.

7.6. The CEO also mentioned that it would be possible for anti-doping to be carried out at non national competitions, but that would be subject to signing an agreement committing to all the necessary and resultant costs for any ADRVs.

**7.7. Report accepted NEM COM.**

## 8. Committee Reports:

8.1. England – **report accepted NEM COM.**

**8.2. Scotland - report accepted NEM COM.**

8.3. Wales – no report.

8.4. Northern Ireland – no report

8.5. Disciplinary Committee

8.5.1. Bryn Evans presented his report and BE raised the issue of some coaches (not necessarily BP members) behaving inappropriately.

8.5.2. Pete Sparkes commented that that intimate coach/ lifter relationships should not be permitted. Also, that all clubs should have their own safeguarding policies and ideally a designated qualified officer.

8.5.3. The CEO reported that Mark Townend has been suspended by the IPF for two years. He was tested at the British Equipped Bench Press Championships and his urine sample was found to contain the banned substance clomiphene.

**Report accepted NEM COM.**

8.6. Athlete's Commission.

8.6.1. Tony Cliffe presented his report and emphasised the need for more competition promoters.

8.6.2. Craig Wilkins suggested that the athlete's forum could do with more promotion, e.g. via Instagram.

8.6.3. Jenny Sherwood said it would be good to target views of junior/sub junior lifters.

**Report accepted NEM COM.**

8.7. Law and Legislation Committee – nothing to report.

8.8. Medical Committee.

8.8.1. The CEO presented the report in the absence of Chris Gilbert who is currently in Australia.

8.8.2. The Medical Committee providing services on medications, exercise during illness, and navigation through the TUE process.

8.8.3. In addition Chris reported on the education aspects, which are particularly important for UKAD. To prepare British Powerlifting compliance with the Assurance Framework conferences attended included, Mental Health Education in sports, UKAD's 'Workshops

on Building an Effective Clean Sport Education Strategy and Implementation Plan, and British Weightlifting seminar on youth development. Future conferences include “Transwomen Athletes: Fairness, Inclusion and Sport, and Duty of Care”. In addition, I joined the British Association of Sport & Exercise Science (BASES), and the ResearchGate science network.

**Report accepted NEM COM.**

9. At the request of the Chairman, Ben Davis - Development and Competition Director gave a brief account of his intentions re the post. Initially he would liaise with divisional development officers to identify what is already happening and where he can contribute. Also, to liaise with universities re staging national British championships.

10. Elections – none this year.

11. Notices of motion from the Board:

- 11.1. To accept the resignation of Tanya Bull as Director for Wales.
- 11.2. To accept the appointment of Thomas Morgan as Director for Wales.

10.1 and 10.2 **accepted NEM COM.**

12. Notice of Motion from members:

12.1. From Carole O’Neil YNE

- 12.1.1. Request a formal written commitment from British Powerlifting that any requests for divisions to host national competitions are made formally through the elected executive teams of those divisions. Record that, where the request is not made through these elected channels, the divisions have no obligation to provide support for the event (including by providing referees, platform crews and/or table staff).

No proposer present – not considered.

- 12.1.2. Consider offering financial compensation to divisions which agree to host national competitions, to cover costs associated with providing the venue, table staff, platform crews and set-up / tear-down teams.

No proposer present – not considered.

12.2. Qualifying totals for British Equipped championships and British Equipped bench press championships from 2023 to be raised to match that of Classic championships and Classic bench press championships where totals are currently lower.

Proposed: Craig Wilkins

Seconded: Kevin Jane

Votes for: 62

Against: 41

Abstentions: 100

**PASSED**

12.3. Classic qualifying totals for 2023 to be as follows:

Proposed: Craig Wilkins

Seconded: Richard Parker

1. 2023 University qualifying totals to be 97.5% of the 2021 Junior qualifying totals.

Votes for:

189

Against: 7

Abstentions:

**PASSED**

2. 2023 Sub Junior male and Junior male and female qualifying totals to be increased by 5%, rounded down to nearest 2.5kg.

Votes for:

166

Against: 6

Abstentions: 31

**PASSED**

3. 2023 Open, M1 and M2 qualifying totals to be increased by 2.5%, rounded down to nearest 2.5kg.

Votes for:

204

Against: 5

Abstentions: 1

**PASSED**

4. 2023 Sub Junior, Junior, Open, M1 and M2 bench press qualifying totals to be increased by 15% or minimum of 2.5kg increase, rounded down to nearest 2.5kg (in real terms 2.5kg-7.5kg for women and 7.5kg-22.5kg for men).

Votes for:

196

Against: 1

Abstentions: 4

**PASSED**

12.4. From James Brincat-Smith – Reduce all female Sjn QT's by 10% with immediate effect.

Proposed: James Brincat-Smith

Seconded: Ben Davis

Votes for: 97

Against: 22

Abstentions:

**PASSED**

12.5. From Betty Gray - I would like to propose a motion that the British Powerlifting executive committee approach the executive committees of both the EPF and IPF with regard to the future organisation of international Masters Championships.

Proposed: Richard Parker    Seconded: Jacob Wymer    **PASSED NEM COM**

12.6. From Gigi Nicolson - Include the option for members to disclose a disability when entering divisional and national-level competitions with the view that organisers should provide reasonable adjustments, accommodating lifters within current IPF rules by 2023. We would recommend that event organisers provide adequate accessibility information for venues across all levels of competitions by 2023.

Proposed: Gigi Nicholson    Seconded: Jacob Wymer    **PASSED NEM COM**

12.7. Reinstate the paragraph 4.1 in the disciplinary procedure:

Proposed; Bryn Evans    Seconded: Kim Cowell

The Chairman explained that this change was made because the correct procedures were not being followed and that it was in line with the IPF process.

Votes for:    180    Against: 20    Abstentions: 3    **PASSED**

12.8. From Bryn Evans, Kim Cowell - Board Meeting minutes, including all historic minutes, to be published on the British Powerlifting website within 7 days of any meeting.

Proposed; Bryn Evans    Seconded: Kim Cowell

The Chair first made it clear to the meeting that he had not asked for a Notice of Motion to be removed, as posted on Facebook, by a member of the Northwest division in a conversation that was held at the Junior championships the previous week. A 'heathy' debate followed between the chairman and Kim Cowell where KC informed the meeting how she had felt intimidated by the chair and being talked over and shouted at by him in a public space. Ian also explained that any raised voices were as a direct result of being stood next to the speakers relaying the speaker's commentary and were simply an attempt to be heard!

The CEO explained that the rules governing Board minutes were detailed in the Articles. Hence, any change would have to be the subject of a Special Resolution.

An amendment was Proposed by: Kim Cowell and Seconded by: Richard Caine that:

An approved summary of board minutes should be published once the minutes had been accepted by the Board.

## **PASSED NEM COM**

12.9. From Bryn Evans, Kim Cowell - The Board shall publish, by no later than 3 months following the AGM, their plan encompassing the future for British Powerlifting in light of the recent awarding of NGB status. The report should detail the implications of the status, all / any recommendations made during the process of the Application, and the intentions for securing funding as a result of it.

An amendment was Proposed by: Richard Parker and Seconded by: Richard Caine that:

The Strategic Plan should be updated within three months to cover the points in the proposal.

Votes for: 99      Against: 13      Abstentions: 92      **PASSED**

12.10. From Bryn Evans, Kim Cowell – With Motion 12.9 in mind, it is proposed that the Constitution is brought in line with those requirements under Tier 1 of Sport England’s Governance, and implemented, by no later than the next AGM. This must incorporate all 8 requirements and sub requirements of Tier 1 with a timebound plan to work towards Tier 2.

The Chairman read out a statement from the Sport England website concerning compliance:

*The intention of setting out the Requirements of Tier 1 as a mandatory condition for funding is not for you to rush to make changes to your organisation, or to put policies in place quickly just to try to secure the funding. You are encouraged to be honest and open with Sport England or UK Sport about which Requirements you currently meet and which Requirements you think you may not meet. If you believe you don’t currently meet a particular Requirement, don’t immediately assume you won’t be eligible for funding. Speak with Sport England or UK Sport before you make any changes to your organisation. We will then explain how you could become eligible for funding, while supporting you in achieving compliance with the Requirements. For example, one option may be for your governing committee to agree to a board resolution/governing committee resolution that commits your organisation to completing an action so that you comply in the future.*

The CEO outlined the funding ranges for each tier of compliance:

Tier 1 - £10K to £250K, Tier 2 - £250K to 1M, Tier 3 - £1M up

Bryn Evans was requested by the CEO to provide a list of all the requirements where he considered we were deficient.

### **PASSED NEM COM**

- 12.11. From Bryn Evans, Kim Cowell - The Board to create and maintain a 'Lessons Learned' register, with the NGB recognition process as a starting point. This should be a living document which is updated at least quarterly

### **PASSED NEM COM**

- 12.12. James Brincat-Smith - A Mandatory presence of a Safeguarding Officer at all sanctioned BP events. DSL to be present at all national events with immediate effect and divisions given until 2023 to recruit their own DSL with a clear drawn-out procedure for them to follow, in line with our Safeguarding policy and National guidelines.

An amendment was Proposed by: Richard Parker that the time limit of "by 2023" should be changed to "as soon as practicable" and that it should apply to both English divisions and Home Countries.

### **PASSED NEM COM**

- 12.13 James Brincat-Smith - The Appointment of a Welfare and Safety Lead Director on the board of British Powerlifting by 2023, who's role will be a point of contact for National and Divisional DSL's, maintain and review our Safeguarding Policy and foster relations with Mental Health organisations, in an effort to assist the physical and mental wellbeing of our Membership. Work with sport England to source funding for Level 2 and 3 safeguarding training and Enhanced DBS checks for all British Powerlifting referees and Volunteers where necessary.

Pete Sparks commented that there is a need for each division to have a Safeguarding lead appropriately trained with an enhanced DBS check. Kevin Jane emphasised that to date only 10 officials had provided him with details of their DBS status. Kevin said he also prepared to compile a list of officials with safeguarding training qualifications. Pete Sparks said training can be done online for about £31 a course.



Following discussion, it was suggested that in the interim, a sub-committee be formed comprising Pete Sparks, James Brincat-Smith and Jenni Sherwood.

Note that this a Tier 3 only requirement.

Meeting closed at 15.40hrs.

Hall of Fame Awards were present to Pete Sparks (official) and Allen Ottolangui (lifter). The other recipient is Ellie Steel (lifter).