

## **Minutes of GBPF AGM 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

1. Ralph Farquharson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10.45hrs.  
82 voting members were present.
2. Apologies received from:
  - Mick Hunham
  - Gary Mills
  - Willie Clements
  - Gavin Walker
  - Brian Baker
  - Sue Hollands

Note: As this is a 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary AGM, the rules require the GBPF officers to stand down and re-seek election.

### **3. Election of Chairperson for the AGM**

Jim Dulling was proposed and seconded by Fred Sterry and Chris Cooper respectively and a vote taken to accept this was carried with 59 votes in favour.

### **4. Election of Minute secretary for the meeting**

Kevin Green was proposed by Richard Parker and seconded John Halfacre. This was carried with a majority vote in favour

AGM Chairman recommended to proceed in accordance with the Agenda that is in our by laws

### **5. Chairman's report**

Ralph Farquharson gave his report. Ralph's written report had been prepared and published in advance but not everyone had a copy.

Ralph highlighted some of the points in his report that he felt were more important and also mentioned some points that were not in his report, mentioning a national event that in his view had not been supported well enough locally. The AGM Chairman asked Ralph to stick to points in his report only due to time constraints. Ralph notably also thanked Stuart and Fred for their work this year.

Ralph also wished to clear up rumours about his personal expenses, but time was then called on the report by the AGM chairman.

Ralph's full report can be found on the newsflashes section of the GBPF website dated 4/3/12.

Questions from the floor:

Q What was Ralph's view about the recent Commonwealth Championships held at Bournemouth University.

A Ralph commented that he felt that one referee was not a current IPF referee and Ralph commented that he didn't attend the championships in person.

Q AGM Chairman asked Ralph if he felt that he had followed the GBPF constitution.

A Ralph answered that he does generally know the rules and follows them.  
Q GBPF Chairman asked Ralph whether the GBPF accounts had been audited according to GBPF rules.  
A Ralph explained that after writing to Marion Gibson who prepares and presents our accounts, that an audit was not necessary.  
Q AGM Chairman asked Ralph about his budget for expenses and whether a budget exists.  
A No budget could be produced.  
The AGM Chairman then commented that he felt that Ralph had failed in his duties to provide a budgetary statement and financial plan for the coming year. The AGM Chairman then asked if there were any more comments from the floor. Kevin Jane suggested that more information would probably come from the Financial Director at that stage of the AGM.  
Another member asked if Ralph knew numbers relating to how many drug tests had been carried out and how many failures recorded.  
Exact details were not available at the AGM.

A proposal then came from the floor from Chris Cooper, Seconded by Dave Tucker proposing a vote of no confidence in Ralph as Chairman of GBPF. A debate then took place as to the validity of such a proposal from the floor and whether or not it was against the rules and whether it was a requirement to have a vote in favour from at least two thirds of the GBPF membership. The proposal was then withdrawn.

It was agreed that as the previously rejected 2010 AGM minutes had now been amended they should be accepted as a true record.

#### **6. Minutes of 2011 AGM held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Not everyone had seen a copy.  
These had been posted on the GBPF website but no copies were made available on the day for general circulation.  
AGM Chairman requested comments from the floor.  
Q There appears to be no evidence of agenda's and reports for executive meetings that happened in the last year.  
A AGM Chairman reported that this was included in a number of motions submitted at last year's AGM and that the GBPF executive have not acted upon the wishes of the membership.  
AGM Chairman proposed that acceptance of the minutes should be held open to next year's AGM when everyone has had a chance to see a copy of them.

#### **7. Finance Officer/Treasurers and Auditors report.**

The Finance Officer circulated copies of his report to the meeting. He explained that he had been unable to publish or circulate copies before as he had only very recently received them himself.  
The Finance Officer spoke about his job as custodian of GBPF money and said that he always wanted to be open, fair and honest. He then went through some of the income and outgoings for the last year until the GBPF Chairman had to call time upon the report.

Questions from the floor:

It was noted that the Olive Moody account didn't feature in the accounts.

*Note: this is an account set up by John Moody in memory of his wife Olive with the purpose to assist junior lifters.*

The Finance Officer explained that this account is not generally used for GBPF business and so didn't feature in the general accounts.

There were congratulations from the floor for the Finance Officers presentation of the accounts and a comment that we didn't require as much detail.

There was concern expressed that a large proportion of our budget goes towards drug testing and insurance. The Finance Officer agreed but maintained that these were necessities and we did get a very good rate for our insurance cover.

There was a comment from the floor about the changing ratio of junior to senior membership numbers affecting our income.

Another question from the floor was placed with regard to £820 owed to the Olive Moody fund. The Financial Director explained that our financial circumstances at one point during the year necessitated borrowing from this account in order to pay for bills that were outstanding. The money has now been returned.

A question from the floor asked whether any young lifters has benefitted from this fund in the last year.

Finance Officer reported that awards had been made to the best male and best female junior lifters of the year totaling £220.

The next comment from the floor mentioned that if Ralph had not been paid £800 for flight expenses then there would not have been a need to borrow from the Olive Moody account.

Another question from the floor asked why junior subscriptions rates were raised to £40 for junior members who were over 18 years of age when they are still classed as junior lifters for the purpose of competitions up to the age of 23.

This was another item that had been raised at last year's AGM with a promise that the board would look into it during the 2011 year. This was not done.

It was noted that our insurance company stipulate over 18 as senior and under 18 as junior.

Another question from the floor queried air fares and expenses, more detail was required. The Finance Officer explained that Air fares, drug test fees etc. were taken and paid in from lifters who were lifting at international events and the GBPF account was used as a holding account and then air fare tickets were then paid for from the GBPF account.

The Finance Officer explained that the Chairman's expenses were rightly paid when he was engaged in certain GBPF activities. This is within GBPF rules.

Ralph then explained that he would like to respond to e-mails etc. questioning his expenses. Certain GBPF obligations required him to attend certain functions and so expenses/air fares were claimed.

Question from the floor - Do we pay Ralph to come to GB for squad sessions.

Answer was no.

Comments from the floor: Our accounts have not been audited, why not.

There was no reply.

The Finance Officer commented "we are solvent"

Comments from the floor disagreed.

Finance Officer commented that assets worth several thousand pounds were also bought during the year.

There was a question from the floor regarding an outstanding £500 fine to the GBPF for a failed drug test. Finance Officer admitted that this had been omitted from the accounts and there was an ongoing issue to claim the money from the drug test failure.

A vote to accept the unaudited accounts was taken and resulted in 23 votes for and 27 votes against.

The accounts had been prepared as usual by Marion Gibson, but not audited, which was according to GBPF current instructions. The meeting was very happy with the presentation and grateful to Marion and the Finance Officer had explained that Marion had very generously donated her fee back to the GBPF as she has always done.

There was an explanation from Mike Edwards, a qualified accountant, amongst the membership that for a charity of the type and turnover of GBPF that an audit is not required and would be unusual and expensive.

An amendment was then made that we should accept the accounts as a true and accurate report and that the presentation and lack of audit was wholly appropriate for our organization.

Proposed by: Mike Edwards

Seconded by Rod Regler

**8. Approve the budget for the forthcoming year**

None prepared

**9. Establishment of membership fees**

There was a recommendation from the floor that this remain unchanged

Carried with 1 vote against

**10. General Secretary's Report**

The General Secretary's report had submitted his written report but as some had not seen it and the General Secretary had taken a break from the meeting and was not currently in the room the AGM Chairman read out the report in its entirety.

Richard Parker sought clarification of the cost for drug testing. This was verified as correct by the General Secretary who was now in the room.

**11. Committee Reports (as requested in the AGM requirements in the bye laws)**

Technical Committee – None submitted – Doreen Dowsett explained that she as the Technical Officer had never been asked to produce one.

Medical Committee – none

Disciplinary Committee – none

Appeals – none

Law and Legislation – none

Doping Committee – none

Doping Hearing Panel – none

**13:00 – 13:15 Comfort Break**

**12. Election of Officers**

**GBPF Chairman**

The AGM Chairman asked for nominations received for position on GBPF Chairman.

AGM Chairman was handed some written proposals from Ralph.

These were read out and were nominations from Ralph Farquharson, Arthur Hoey, John Jackson, Ian Kinghorn, Jasvinder Singh and Bryn Evans

Among these the only nomination for Chairman was for Ralph Farquharson.

John Halfacre asked why his submitted nomination had not been accepted by the General Secretary. The general secretary had refused all nominations that were not seconded. After examination of the rules it was found that a seconder is not absolutely necessary so the AGM Chairman accepted these and nominations from Richard Parker as well. There were now nominations for Ralph Farquharson and Fred Sterry for position of GBPF Chairman.

Ralph addressed the meeting and decided to stand down as Chairman.

Fred Sterry addressed the meeting and after an overwhelming vote in favour was elected at the new GBPF Chairman.

**General Secretary**

Arthur Hoey and Richard Parker had been nominated for General Secretary.

Arthur Hoey addressed the meeting also decided to stand down as General Secretary.

Ralph Farquharson then objected to Richard Parker's nomination as General Secretary and read out a paragraph from a personal e-mail dated 14/6/11 which seemed to call into question Richard's character without any foundation at all.

Richard replied that this information had not been seen by him before and was a completely arbitrary statement that had no bearing upon the AGM at all. The e-mail was deemed irrelevant to this meeting and a vote for Richard was carried unanimously.

Richard upon request introduced himself to the meeting and gave a resume into his background.

**Finance Officer**

Nominations for this position had been received for John Jackson and Mike Edwards.

John Jackson decided to stand down as Finance Officer and thanked everyone for their support. John offered his support to Mike if this was required. This gesture was appreciated from the floor.

Mike Edwards was accepted as new Finance Officer after he had made his personal statement and there was a unanimous vote in favour.

#### **Director for England**

Kevin Jane had been nominated by English Powerlifting and was elected unopposed after an overwhelming vote in favour.

#### **Director for Scotland**

No nomination had been received from the home country but Jim Mutrie had only been in office for 1 year. It was then decided that Jim should remain in this position for a 3 year period which will then fall in line with the other elected officers. Jim Mutrie was provisionally elected pending a mandate from Scotland.

#### **Director for Wales**

Rob Thomas was elected unopposed

#### **Director for Northern Ireland**

Vacant

#### **Other Nominations**

There were nominations received for:

Bryn Evans	British Junior Team Coach
Jaz Singh	Director for Athletes and Coaches
Stan Macrow	Assistant Chief Technical Officer
Doreen Dowsett	Technical Officer

GBPF Chairman advised that these positions are appointed by the Executive and these posts will be filled as soon as possible.

### **13. Proposals**

The following proposals were submitted by Jim Dulling

- 1** The motions passed by last year's AGM are acted upon - **Agreed**
- 2** That the Directors negotiate the reintegration of members of Scottish Powerlifting and Northern Ireland Powerlifting back into GBPF - **Carried unanimously**
- 3** The GBPF website is the most important communication mechanism and it needs to be used to its full potential. The forum went off line at the end of November. Results are not displayed. Competition data is missing. It is not fit for purpose and needs to be addressed - **Carried unanimously.**
- 4** The Directors make a priority of dramatically increasing the membership - **Agreed.**
- 5** A priority in the strategic plan of GBPF is drug testing, including at divisional level; as well as the publication of results with any additional information.

Amended to add: Drug testing at national level to be a priority and then rolled out to divisional level - **Agreed**

- 6 The GBPF ends age discrimination in Unequipped Powerlifting. In 'Equipped' lifting, Masters lifters may claim Senior titles and be selected to lift in IPF and EPF Senior championships. If a Masters lifter enters the British Senior Unequipped Championships and achieves the highest total, they are not granted the title: a lifter lifting less but not a Master is given the title instead. Similarly, the best lifter should be invited to lift at the IPF Classic, even if they are a Master.

*{Background from Jess Jones: In September 2010 someone who lifted less than I did who were under 40 was given the senior title. It was slightly different this year as there were only two lifters in my weight class and we were we both masters 2 lifters.*

*I received an invitation to the Commonwealth event but was unable to come because of work commitments. I was disappointed that the invitation was to lift against other masters 2 lifters and not in the open 57kg category. I currently hold the senior 57kg class deadlift and total records, set in November 2011 after I turned 50. If lucky enough to be invited to the IPF classic in Sweden in June I would be delighted to attend but wonder if this age discrimination will prevail. This does not occur in equipped lifting. (Jenny Hunter lifted the most at 52kg in the equipped British Championships and was given the senior title in the equipped event but not in the unequipped event where she also lifted the most.)*

*I hope you feel able to consider putting this right for those who come along after me. I wonder how Paul Cooper would feel if he is still the best when he turns 40 but is no longer about to compete against all 74kg lifters.}*

Amended to include that: There must be no age discrimination in unequipped powerlifting, rules to be changed at the next AGM. Also no one is to be denied access to competition on grounds of age, race or creed, however 14 is the minimum age for competition currently set in GBPF rules - **Agreed**

- 7 Minutes of meetings of the directors, executive and committees need to be published within 14 days of the meeting; Amended to 30 days.

**Agreed**

- 8 That an Asset Register of GBPF equipment and apparatus be presented as part of the Treasurers Report at the AGM - **Agreed**

- 9 The directors are to move towards NGB status, using all avenues, including if necessary, negotiations with other governing bodies.

**Agreed**

AGM Chairman asked if there were any other known propositions

Proposition from the floor to look into the prospect of removing GBPF insurance.

This proposition was not accepted from the floor as it had not been previously submitted but the GBPF executive will be looking into this anyway.

**14. AOB**

There was a query with regard to GBPF assets (laptops etc.) that were held by outgoing executives - *New Executive will pursue the return of any assets.*

Website Info – how do we get info onto the website? - *Send to your Divisional Secretary who will have access, any problems then contact the website administrator.*

There was then some discussion about championships that had been arranged in the near future and concerns arose about whether they would still go ahead as planned - *The executive will deal with this as a high priority and any changes, venue etc. will be communicated as soon as possible.*

There was a vote of thanks for Jim Dulling and his handling of affairs as GBPF Chairman for the day.

There was a query about who deals with membership registration etc. - *This is done by the Finance officer.*

There was a suggestion with regard to the introduction of rolling membership - *The executive will look at this as part of developing increased membership.*

**Meeting concluded and closed at 14.12 hrs.**

**Accepted by 2013 AGM 17<sup>th</sup> March:**

<b>Fred Sterry .....</b>	<b>Richard Parker .....</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>GENERAL SECRETARY</b>