



FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT 2023.

As discussed at the EGM British Powerlifting Finance had several priority items to complete between then and this AGM.

Below I provide a brief update on each of these workstreams as well as a summary of the Federations 2023 financial performance versus 2022:

1. Move the accounting from Excel based to accounting software. – Transition to Xero accounting software was completed in 2023 and is running smoothly for 2024. The manual work required to create the accounts is now behind us and much of the matching and allocation is automated. There are direct links to PayPal and Lloyds bank accounts.
2. Banking access and controls –I have full access and control over our Lloyds bank accounts and the Fed's PayPal account, Bernie and Tom have been set up on Lloyds but approval controls are yet to be put in place, I will suggest a limit of £20k for dual authorisation given the number and frequency of smaller transactions and the usual urgent nature of some of the EPF/IPF invoices for settlement.
3. FY22 external audit - was conducted by Garside & Co, it cost the Fed £4,900 + VAT, The FY22 audit has been completed and we provide a copy of the signed financial statements with the auditors opinion. As expected, there are no material findings from the audit and for an organisation of our size the controls and procedures in place are not uncommon, that said I have been drafting a financial controls document which I aim to publish on the BP website in coming months to give better transparency of the financial processes and controls in place.
4. Financial committee –Been slow progress on this front, I needed to get through the audit and weigh up the workload and how best to distribute given required access and controls, as things stand distribution of work-load probably isn't necessary at this stage but I would like to start working with future successors.
5. Expense claims policy – A draft policy still to be finalized, but there should be no delays in payment at the current time and any delays in payments being made or more my personal circumstances trying to stay on top of payments in my spare time than any desire to not pay in line with agreed items at the AGM. As it goes payment of coaching expenses (hotels) as agreed at the prior AGM do not seem to be detrimental to the Federations financial health and I don't see any reason to remove or to reduce the current agreement.
6. 2023 budget skipped whilst we focused on completion of FY22 audit - 2024 budget draft for review during the AGM.
7. PayPal – It was costing us 2.9%+30p in PayPal fees for all incoming payments. PayPal and stripe negotiations ended with us staying with PayPal at the reduced rates of 0.99% + 25p for Debit and credit card transactions and 1.99% + 30p for PayPal transactions, this did however require a system upgrade and several months to get to completion (finally complete by November 2023).
8. Transparency –First Quarterly finance report will be uploaded to the Fed website by the end of April covering Q1 2024, end of July for Q2, end of Oct for Q3 and end Jan for Q4.

9. Investments in national Championships - I'm sure James will go into more detail in his report on Championships but we have made some sizable investments to support our Championships package to improve our national series events at the end of 2023 and into 2024, providing for better warm up areas, better platform presentation, back drops, full media kit etc.

As at the 31 December 2023 the Members funds balance was £233,801 (2022: £169,965) showing another year of strengthened financial position of the Federation. At the time of writing our cash balance in the Fed is £390k. (£253k is on 32-day deposit to try and generate better interest income).

INCOME

During 2023 our Income streams were higher in all areas than 2022, with the membership back to peak levels and the desire to compete on the national stage reaching an all-time high.

International events showed full GB representation across all age groups and disciplines.

Coaching courses have seen record income activity in large part thanks to Swindon Barbell who have established a strong asset for the Federation which we have agreed to invest in further in 2024.

Total income for the year was £458,409 (2022: £319,272)

breakdown is as follows:

Membership income – £196,662 (2022: £162,003)
British Championship Entry fees – £70,414 (2022: £37,845)
Internationals - £138,987 (2022: £ 81,596) (Covers competition entry & doping fees, hotel bookings for team lifters and coaches and transport costs).
Coaching courses - £24,597
Sponsorship - £17,845
Referee course fees and interest income making up the remainder.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for 2023 was £394,572 (2022: £254,163)

As per prior years and with the agreed increased cost of paying for coaching and referees international accommodations, international expenditure was the biggest expenditure item of 2023 at £201,253 (2022 : £130,341). Please see below to try and add some transparency to what tends to be a contentious topic at AGM's, below is a summary of the Net international loss position and where the costs are going (All values in GBP):

2023 Internationals	
International Income	138,987
International expenditure	201,253
Loss on internationals	- 62,266
Entry fee refunds to lifters	17,730
Coaches hotels and expense claims	27,128
Ref hotels	17,408

UK Event hosting costs was next at £55,803 (2022: £28,810) followed by divisional rebates at £44,838 (2022: £39,278), followed by Drug testing (Provision) £30,000 (2022: £32,436), Streaming services £15,217 and Trophies £10,158.

The Financial statements for the year (2023) will be made available at the AGM which will show the detailed Income and Expenditure account in full along with the balance sheet position, we will also present the 2024 budget.

The federation starts 2024 with a strong financial base, a healthy cash balance, some strong asset purchases to support the national series events and a full calendar of national and International events scheduled.

Thanks

Tony

(British Powerlifting Financial Director)