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## **Competitions Director Report**

### **2024 AGM**

#### **James Brincat-Smith**

The 2024 National series has managed to exceed both my expectations and thus far that of the Membership. Below are copies of my last two board reports outlining my teams activities, investments and progress since taking office. Individual Competition Budgets can be found in the following link

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t7QrHVE0wyvKt3GSAGCGGQvr7Hki9Q8H/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1t7QrHVE0wyvKt3GSAGCGGQvr7Hki9Q8H/view?usp=drive_link)

From the outset we wanted to bring to our membership an International competition experience, a vision shared and backed by the board has come to fruition. I myself am grateful for the support of the board since my appointment, and must extend some specific thanks to my team, Sabrina Moore, Kim Cowell and Craig Wilkins. These "Backroom Staff" have been the best support I could wish for. Also not forgetting Jenni Sherwood, the lady behind the Director who is always there helping, and stepping into those gaps where needed. Thank you all.

As I write I sit at the table on the last day of the Eleiko Jnr Championships, in the last five week period myself, my team, countless number of officials and volunteers have managed to host around 1100 lifters. There must be some sort of record there and one which we are all proud of.

A huge vote of thanks to our 2024 Meet Directors, Jason Moore of the North Midlands and his crew, and a special thanks to Adam Fosbrook who put his heart and soul into running the Classic Bench. Thanks to our venues also who have been such great hosts, and we look forward to the rest of the season.

Along with our Partners and sponsors our 2024 season so far has seen record breaking attendance and many British records, along with a host of unofficial European and World records. Whilst the numbers grow, as does the cost. This year we have increased both volunteer and referee expenses, managed to improve awards for athletes, and even delivered Cash Prizes. These Cash prizes are awarded on the proviso that we have athlete testing at each championships.

In association with the IPF some 43 athletes have been drug tested at our British Championships. In this years British Schedule not one day has gone by without an athlete getting that elusive tap on the shoulder as they leave the platform to be escorted away for testing. My thanks extend to UKAD (the IPF's third party agent) and moreover the athletes who have undergone testing, the attitude and professionalism from both parties deserves a special note.

Standards from our officials on the platform have been upheld at every turn, for which I am thankful for. I will however take this opportunity to remind Divisions that there are no differing standards in our federation, having ran divisional level competitions for some years the same old "you're too tough for a divisional meet" comment is ever present. I feel we should never give our athletes dis service by allowing them to believe their lifting is to a standard when it may not be. This last week has seen countless young

athletes crestfallen as lifts have been disallowed, mostly followed by “These are so much stricter than divisions”. Let’s work together to encourage our new and old to bring them to a standard. By doing so my volunteers and staff may not be then subjected to poor behavior and abuse from athletes coaches and parents who feel they’ve had a poor decision.

I will say however, as much as we have delivered the great, we have not always got it all right, and lessons have been learned. My utmost apologies go out to the Open Classic Bench lifters, who through my eagerness to put on a display of great lifting on a Sat evening Prime Time spot I myself missed the fact that we had jnrs the following day in contention for Open medals given the comp format. Recently myself and Sophia Ellis had a meeting after concerns were raised following the classic Bench Championships, and assurances were given that we will not be having this again. Next Years Bench Fest will most likely be bigger and better with a new schedule format to be confirmed.

Finally from myself, I’ve enjoyed 99% of the comp season so far the 1% of poor behaviour shall not cloud what has been an amazing start to 2024. Post AGM I hope to be advertising for a new Competition Director, the model has been built, the hard work has been done to be able to deliver a package that so far has proved effective.

The 2025 and 2026 calendar is ready, should Divisions, Home Nations or individual Meet Directors wish to take on a British championship remember we are not here to demand from you, but here to offer support and help you bring to the stage the great experience our membership deserve. We are stronger together and this next term for our executive whoever it may be is looking brighter with you all onboard.

See you on a platform soon.

James Brincat-Smith.

Competition Director.

## Competitions Director Report

**3 February 2024**

Dear Board / Membership,

I write some three weeks out from our first in the National series of Championships, our team are working well and surpassing all our deadlines and expectations so far. Moving to live schedules and rosters has been a great move forward and one that's been welcomed by the membership. The work from the team is to be applauded and I'd like to extend a public thanks to them all.

So far 2024 sees record numbers in all events and shows no sign of slowing down, with our first two National events seeing huge increases as below.

Event	2022	2023	2024	Growth 23-24
British equipped Bench	22	41	49	19.5% up
British Full Power equipped	57	46	85	85% up
British classic Bench	144	152	271	78% up

With the Eleiko British Sub jnr. / jnr championships currently sitting at 271 entries from a 2023 high of 306 I see no reason why we can't expect growth in this championships also with a little over two weeks left for entries.

In the last few weeks we have begun publishing info guides through our social media channels on what to expect as an athlete and a coach, these have gone down really well, not just on home soil but with some notable International athletes and Federations, which is both humbling and proof that we are on the right track.

### **National Event package**

This is almost completed barring a few minor details and full finances for which will be published once collated.

## **National Event Sponsorship**

Some chatter of whether the funds from this will be passed down to HN events etc, the simple answer to this is no. There is future HN support which I will detail below but National Series Sponsorship monies are ringfenced for the National Series and HN event organizers are encouraged to do as we have done and advertise for sponsorship, details on parameters can be sought from our Development Director Ben Davis.

A great example of what is achievable through advertising and engagement with the membership can be seen with the Manchester Open in 2023, proof that giving the membership what they crave can make a better event for all, along with opportunities for businesses to be part of that.

## **Current tasks / Actionable**

British Equipped Weekend	Complete organizational wise, final touches for athletes to be done.
Classic Bench –	Closes today schedule pending, site visit done and going well.
Jnrs	GS Confirmed, Conditions of usage approved and actioned.

## **Merchandise**

SBD to supply tees for Open and Jnr Champs

Union Jacked TBC but likely for other events especially given the numbers.

## **HN / National Support 2024 and beyond.**

In conjunction with SBD we have managed to secure further support for the National Series and home Nations.

## **British Open 2025**

As with previous years applications for the SBD event fund are open, with a date set for 2025 we are looking for promoters to come forward and bid. It's never too early to have this

locked in so bids welcome for this or any 2025/2026 National event. (20-23 Nov 2025/19-22 Nov 2026)

### **National Series Support**

2024 will see the first of two National Series events outside of the British championships. As our membership grows and demand for British championships expand we also need to expand the availability of high level competitions, and as numbers grow we will have no choice other than to increase qualifying totals for the Open Championships. These events will form a Qualifying model for the 2025 British Open (finer details TBC), with an aim to have a Northern and a Southern National Series Qualifier as part of our National Series of events.

These events will be given National Status on the proviso that an agreed Qualifying Total is achieved and as part of the National Series they are also liable for any Drug testing fees occurred for the event.

Like any new venture and ideas these need to be modeled and proved to be workable for the promoter and membership, and in 2024 we have our chosen model to use for the Northern Qualifier which we have locked in, at which we as British Powerlifting wish to invite anyone along to see what we expect of the hosts and how we as a federation can support you in ways other than just financially.

Applications for this support must be made through [competitions@britishpowerlifting.org](mailto:competitions@britishpowerlifting.org) and not directly through SBD. Monies and support awarded are through the federation and must be approved by the federation who will then consult SBD.

### **Home Nations Support**

In conjunction with SBD we can confirm that in 2024 we will have an availability for conditional HN support packages for their National Events.

2024 Home Nations championships can apply for up to £5000.00 in funding towards this event, for too long now the Home Nations event has seen a massive hit financially to the hosts of this event and we hope that with this support we can elevate this once a year event for all Home Nations.

Further Funding is available for the individual Home Nations, how this will be modelled will be decided in due course, from a budgeting stance while all home nations do not have the same agreement with BP it can't simply be a pro rata support package. Nor will it be on a blank cheque basis for Home Nations to make their life easier. This support must be seen to be making upfront improvements to what is already in place and isn't there for profiteering purposes. Along with our National Series, post event accounts must be published and expenditure justified, should further funding applications wish to be made for approval. As with the National Series Qualifier support, applications must be made to [competitions@britishpowerlifting.org](mailto:competitions@britishpowerlifting.org) with

a plan on how HN's wish to use the support and amount requested which will then be discussed with the Exec and our sponsors.

Thanks again to all of the Competitions Team and the support from our Partners and Sponsors.

See you all soon.

James Brincat-Smith

Competitions Director. British

Powerlifting.

## Competitions Director Report

**10 December 2023**

Dear Board / Membership,

Since being appointed late September, it's been a scramble to get both the calendar and events organized for 2024, however, with a great team behind me, and the support of key board members I'm proud to have delivered on a motion that was brought to an AGM back in 2020, that the following years Calendar be published by 1 November. This year we delivered this almost a month earlier than requested, in an unprecedented move for our federation.

I now propose the following dates for 2025 and 2026, giving our membership a 3-year calendar, to be updated by Nov 1<sup>st</sup> each year to add another year to continue to help athletes and coaches plan.

### **2025-2026 proposed dates**

<b>Championship</b>	<b>Proposed date</b>	<b>Comment</b>
British Equipped Full Power & Bench	25-26 January 2025 24-25 January 2026	These events move back to the fourth weekend in Jan as of 2025, whilst I understand that this is not ideal for some Masters lifters who wish to compete in Classic Euros, it does however work perfectly well for all equipped teams who are currently having to pick international teams before the Championship.
British Classic Bench	15-16 February 2025 14-15 February 2026	This event also moves forward to allow selection and squad sessions to take place.
Arnolds	Likely to remain 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend in March moving forward	
British Juniors & Sub- Juniors Classic	20-23 March 2025 19-22 March 2026	2025 will have to see a double platform 3- or 4-day event. We do not intend to increase the QTs right now and an event of 8 days equivalent may be required to supply the demand for our grass roots lifters.
British University Championships	25-27 April 2025 24-26 April 2026	This year sees a three day BUCS event with two platforms, moving forward we will also keep this at the same time of year and same format.
British Masters Classic	7-8 June 2025 6-7 June 2026	No change.
British Open Classic	20-23 November 2025 19-22 November 2025	Finally this year sees the first SBD British classic Open Championships being availed of since SBD offered support for the event. Moving forward the same weekend will be used for the four-day event.

## **2024 and beyond**

Sabrina and I were joined by two very capable competition secretaries shortly after our appointment, namely Kim Cowell and Craig Wilkins. They have a wealth of experience and are a vital part of our team, for that we are grateful.

So far, I've been humbled with the support offered for the 2024 National Series and would welcome bids from all over the country to host our 2025-2026 seasons. Early 2024 we will publish our competition bidding pack, with a step-by-step guide of not only what we expect from a championship organiser, but more how we can support you, both logistically and financially in delivering for us as a federation.

All our 2024 National championships are well on the way to looking like a great success. Not only are we delivering a higher-level competition, but this next season also sees a fully transparent budgeted series, and with the addition of the Arnolds in March we are happy to say that our 2024 Competition Series will run at a small profit. That is necessary at this point, as we are in the process of investing c.

£60,000 in the first National Series competition pack, with a reinvestment plan to be made in coming years through enhance equipment partnerships. This will comprise a full suite of kit provided to promoters for our national competitions to deliver their event. It will also be available for Home Nations to loan (fee tbc). This package will be a great step forward in helping promoters deliver a high-quality event and alleviate some of demands upon them in organising and transporting equipment.

A Home Nations Support Package will be developed for competitions, and we would encourage discussion with the relevant competition secretaries of each Home Nation.

Next year will see the trial of our first supported National Series event in Manchester in August, with the membership increasing and competitions getting busier 2025 will require a raise in QTs for National Championships. Consequently, there will be an inevitable gap for those who wish to compete at National level but do not meet the 2025++ qualifying totals. In anticipation of that, we have created a framework for 2 National Series Competitions to take place in 2025. Delivering a tiered system of National Competitions will encourage our membership to excel and is also a model used by other NGBs.

With new sponsors coming onboard for 2024, and increased support from current sponsors, our athlete experience will be at the heart of our efforts. Without our strong network of volunteers, there would be no athlete experience and with that in mind, 2024 will see an increase in volunteer expenses to £75 per day.

Through attending various internationals this year and having had various discussions, I have indicated my desire to bring international competitions back to British Powerlifting. To that end, today, I propose a bid for the Western Euros in 2027 with a view to that being a stepping-stone to hosting the Classic World Championships in 2030.

Finally we are pleased to inform that the new year sees three more divisions taking on the Quiet Series of Competitions (SW/WM and YNE) anyone else wishing to host these should reach out to the team



for the Quiet series guide pack, as put together by Gigi Nicolson of the NM. These competitions are now starting to prove really popular with us managing to break down a lot of barriers for people to start their lifting journey.

Thank you once again for the support. The British Powerlifting Competition team are ready to deliver and welcome bids for 2025 and beyond.

James Brincat-Smith  
Competitions  
Director British  
Powerlifting