

MINUTES GB Powerlifting Federation Ltd
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 10th March 2018

1. Voting members present: Richard Parker, Mick Ellender, Charlotte Reynolds, Henry Clark, Ted Brown, Craig Wilkins, Ian Finch, Kevin Jane, Carol Parker, Emma Goodwin, Paul Marsh, Oliver Nexter, George Maddocks, Pete Sparks, Mike Edwards, Peter Weiss, Dave Kirkland, Jo Whiteley, Joe Whiteley, Phil Guise, Dean Bowering, Mike Patterson, Bryn Evans, Bill Dadley, Helen Toms, Adam Reilly, Doreen Dowsett, Dave Cridland, Cameron Keyes, Teneko Walford, Kevin Green, Fred McKenzie, Kitty Burroughs, Fred Sterry.

34 in attendance and 113 proxy votes – as per attendance list and list of proxy vote entitlements.

Apologies: Paul Coke, Drew Fackrell, Julian Harris, Tanya Bull, Matthew Parker, Marc Giles, Phil Richard, Alex Kapka, James Brincat-Smith, Alex Mathieson

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM. These were read and accepted by those present.
3. Matters arising. There were no matters arising that weren't dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.
4. Finance Report.

Mike Edwards circulated copies and presented the Finance Report.

Phil Guise asked if it was necessary to give so much back in divisional rebates.

Ian Finch asked if this spending was monitored in each division.

Joe Whiteley asked for clarification on the different fees for members in NI and Scotland to which Ian responded that at present, in the light of striving for Governing Body recognition, it was preferable to maintain this as it currently is. It was suggested that this be revisited in the future.

Mike Patterson questioned the increase in the costs of International Competitions.

Joe asked if the membership fees should be increased to gain additional income.

Ian Finch suggested that the entry fees be increased.

The report was accepted.

5. Agreement of budget for 2018

Bryn Evans questioned where the overspending was in 2017 and Mike informed the meeting that it was on Drug testing and Internationals.

The budget for 2018 was accepted.

6. Appointment and remuneration of accountants.

The reappointment of M A Edwards Ltd was unanimously accepted.

7. Chairman's Report.

This was accepted with no comments.

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report:

Pete Sparks asked for information regarding the position regarding gaining National Governing Body status. Richard Parker explained the two latest questions, the Paralympic Bench Press being the current hurdle. Mike Patterson added that every sport now have to present new documents to Sport England which is also a temporary problem. Richard also added that this is all only a forerunner to what will need to be presented.

Drug testing – Richard reported that a small deduction had successfully been negotiated for next year with IDTM.

Pete Sparks reported on the position regarding Coaching Courses. There are planned developments for these and there will be a new handbook. It is anticipated that there will be a big increase in courses this year.

The British University Championships will be run as two separate competitions this year – men's and women's on different weekends, the men's with two platforms. Joe Whiteley asked if there should be Divisional University Championships.

The report was accepted.

9. Committee Reports:

9.1. England

9.2. Scotland

9.3. Wales

9.4. Northern Ireland

These were all published and there were no comments.

9.5. Disciplinary Committee

Dean Bowring asked why John Smith had been banned for two years rather than 6 months. Ian Finch gave a full explanation.

9.6. Athlete's Commission

It appeared that very few queries were being directed to Dean Bowring.

Mike Patterson suggested that it may require easier access from the website.

9.7. Law and Legislation Committee

Mike Patterson gave a verbal report and explained that there will be a new report coming out next year.

George Maddock introduced himself and his company and the new set up regarding the Live Streaming.

10. Elections:

10.1. Chairman

10.1.1. In accordance with Article 46 Fred Sterry wished to be considered for re-election.

Fred Sterry was nominated by Mike Edwards who spoke in Fred's favour. He was seconded by Kevin Jane.

Dean Bowring was nominated by Phil Richard and seconded by Tanya Bull. Mike Patterson spoke in his favour. He was There was discussion regarding the role of the Chairman and both nominees were addressed and invited to speak before the vote was made.

Total Votes including proxies: Dean 71 votes, Fred 72 votes, 4 abstentions.

Fred was duly elected to continue his role as Chairman.

10.2. Chief Executive Officer - In accordance with Article 46 Richard Parker wished to be considered for re-election.

This was accepted.

10.3. Finance Director - In accordance with Article 46 Mike Edwards wished to be considered for re-election.

This was accepted.

10.4. Chairman of Athletes of Commission

10.4.1. In accordance with Article 46 Dean Bowring wished to be considered for re-election.

10.4.2. Paul Marsh is nominated by Oscar Stephenson and seconded by Louise Sinniah-Burr.

Paul addressed the meeting but felt that it was best for the federation to maintain the stability and was therefore happy to support Dean retaining the position.

Dean was duly elected: Dean 25, Abstentions 10

- 10.5. Appointment of Kevin Jane as Director for England.
This was accepted.
- 10.6. Appointment of Tanya Bull as Director for Wales.
This was accepted.
- 10.7. Appointment of Alex Mathieson as Director for Scotland.
This was accepted.

11. Notices of motion:

- 11.1. To accept by Special Resolution (75% majority required) revisions to the Articles of Association.
This was accepted.
- 11.2. To accept the proposed changes to the Board Structure.
Four new director positions were presented to the meeting by Mike Patterson. Mike talked through the reasons and roles of each of these positions and the impact each will have within British Powerlifting. He explained that they will bring fresh blood and fresh ideas and will give members better access to the board.
This was accepted: 30 in favour, none against with 4 abstentions.
- 11.3. To accept the revised Disciplinary Procedure.
Mike Patterson explained the major changes.
This was accepted unanimously.
- 11.4. To accept proposed revisions to the By-Laws (this was considered in conjunction with 12.5)
 - 11.4.1. Submitted by Richard Parker, Fred Sterry, Kevin Jane and Alex Mathieson:

Add – 26.4 Only British Powerlifting members are permitted in the warm-up or holding area. For the avoidance of doubt, competitors are responsible for adherence to this rule. Deliberate flouting of this rule, after a warning, may invoke disciplinary action, including disqualification from the championships concerned.

Reason – this rule has been successfully enforced for over a year and this is merely to formalise it into the By-Laws. We should not have anyone in the warm-up areas who is not subject to our rules, particularly anti-doping. This is also the only way we can really identify banned members. It's impracticable to expect officials to be able to identify these by sight.

12.5 From Dean Bowring, seconded by Mike Patterson

By-laws are clarified to confirm who can / cannot enter the warm-up area following some confusion this year. The By-Laws be amended to confirm that only the following individuals:

1. **cannot** enter the warm-up area of a competition:
 - a. an individual who is banned by British Powerlifting or the IPF;
 - b. an individual who the competition jury, within their powers outlined at paragraph [x] determines should not be permitted to enter the warm-up area; and
 - c. an individual who is currently suspended on an interim basis, unless the suspension states otherwise.

2. **can** enter the warm-up area provided they do not meet the descriptions at 1 above:
 - a. each official of the competition;
 - b. each lifter in the competition (a “**Competition Lifter**”);
 - c. in the case of a classic or being only Competition Lifter, up to 2 named individuals of the Competition Lifter, each of whom must be serving a coaching or supervising or spotting or loading role; and
 - d. in the case of a equipped 3 lift Competition Lifter, up to 3 named individuals of the Competition Lifter, each of whom must be serving a coaching or supervising or spotting or loading role.

in each case, access is only permitted within a reasonable time of the Competition Lifter’s platform lifts.

3. **must** be in the warm up area:
 - e. where the Competition Lifter is under the age of [16][18], an adult chaperone of that Competition lifter. For avoidance of doubt, if the chaperone is not to help in the warm-up area at all, they will not form one of the individuals at 2c or 2d above.

PROPOSAL RATIONALE

The only rationale we have been informed of for stopping non-banned- non-British Powerlifting members from the warm-up area is the presence of assumed drug takers in the warm-up area. Although not ideal, this will have little to no impact on the competition itself and British Powerlifting cannot stop British Powerlifting members associating with drug taking individuals outside of competition, therefore we do not see what impact the warm-up room will have.

On the flip-side, we do see the following issues it creates:

British Powerlifting is a trading name of GB Powerlifting Federation Ltd
Limited by guarantee and Registered in England and Wales , No. 06625045
AFFILIATED TO: The International Powerlifting Federation & the European Powerlifting Federation

- stops lifters who are training 'independently' (i.e. not with other BP members) having help on the day;
- stops non-member lifters from helping their powerlifting friends. A British Powerlifting membership is not required to effectively load a bar, spot or enter a lifters attempt;
- potential for a shortage of helper in the warm-up area;
- has led to people (parents, guardians, etc.) becoming members solely for the purpose of entering the warm-up area despite having no intention of being otherwise involved in the federation;
- lifters effectively must know other British Powerlifting members to effectively compete on a level playing field to other more connected members;
- will significantly impact equipped lifters who require more helpers from bringing non-British Powerlifting helpers;
- very difficult to enforce, requires at least one official at the warm-up area entrance at all times otherwise will not be fair;
- safeguarding issue of parent being allowed to accompany young children; and
- stops non-British Powerlifting individuals coming to help and seeing the standard of the Competition for themselves.

The proposed rule should be far more readily enforceable (the number of banned lifters from time to time is far lower than the number of members).

**11.4.1 was rejected by over 75% of the meeting.
12.5 was passed by over 75% of the meeting.**

11.4.2. Submitted by the Board:

Add – 26.5 Refunds for championships entries disapproved or withdrawn will be subject to a £5 administration charge and no refund will be given for a withdrawal after the closing date for entries.

Reason –We incur PayPal charges for the initial transaction and any refund plus the time and effort to process.

This was accepted with no rejections and 3 abstentions.

Amend - 47.3 Bringing British Powerlifting or the sport of Powerlifting into disrepute.

This was agreed.

Amend – 25.7 Any lifter found positive may apply for membership again after their suspension term has been served. However, the lifter must first have repaid the cost of the anti-doping test **or any IPF fine.**

This was accepted with none against and 1 abstention.

- 11.5. To accept the resignation as Ricky Mullan as Director for Northern Ireland
This was accepted unanimously.
- 11.6. To accept the appointment of Alexandra Kapka as Director for Northern Ireland
This was accepted unanimously.
- 11.7. To accept the appointment of Julian Harris as an Independent Director
This was accepted with none against and 4 abstentions.

12. Notices of Motion from members:

- 12.1. From YNE
(This was considered in conjunction with 12.3 c)

- a) All Referees in good standing within their division should have their BP Membership fees paid for by BP. This includes Referees who do not lift themselves.

This is down to the fact that refereeing is increasingly being seen as a thankless task, and with the limited number of qualified referees, they are being asked to attend a 2 British Championships per year with limited allowance for expense claim (I understand expenses of £20/day can be claimed). While the £40 to cover membership shouldn't be a significant cost to BP, it would be another sign that they appreciate the work which referees undertake for the remainder of the membership.

12.3 From NW

- a) National AGMs (ie EPA and British Powerlifting) should travel around the country. Currently both AGMs are held in Northampton in the southern half of England. It would be fairer to rotate the host division as this would give members in northern districts a better chance of being able to attend.

Mike Patterson said that as this was the most important meeting of the Federation, he felt that it was important to have a fixed venue which everyone was aware of.

Joe Whiteley was concerned by the problem reaching it by public transport.

Some demographic analysis was suggested.

The motion was amended to read: The BP AGM be subject to demographic analysis to find the most appropriate central location.

This was agreed.

12.1 b Possibility to have some National Training Squads in the North.

This was raised by one of our Masters lifters who was requested to attend a squad session on the south coast (I am aware that the location of the squad session is often dictated by the location of the head coach and a gym which has the requisite capacity). They asked if it would be possible to have squad sessions closer to the centre of the country to minimise the amount of travel required by the majority of parties. During this discussion it was suggested that BP could approach SBD and see if they would be willing to host squad session at their location in Rochdale (space permitting), as it would help to tie things in with their sponsorship.

Pete Sparks said that this would be addressed by the new Performance Director.

He told the meeting that the aim was to have 6 regional development areas and would be for all age categories and both classic and equipped lifters.

The motion was edited to read: Possibility to have 6 regional squads (replacing 'in the north').

12.2 From SEC

- a) Referee Expenses to be Increase by British Powerlifting. Referee expenses to be increase by British Powerlifting. Each referee should be paid differently depending on the amount of miles they have travelled, e.g. we in the South East would get the same as someone from Scotland at the British Classic Bench in February. Also I think there should be an opportunity to add your hotel onto the expenses form, only if you referee over a multiple of days. British Powerlifting would then reimburse a percentage of the hotel as well as a daily fee. (CK)

- b) English and British QT totals to be increased for Classic Junior and Classic Masters age classes. (CW).
- c) Re-introduce Associate membership for British Powerlifting. (CR)

These motions were withdrawn.

12.3b From NW

Appointment of a Communications Officer to the British Powerlifting board to be responsible for development and execution of an effective communications strategy. One of the biggest failings of this federation is in the area of communication. The average member has no idea what the Board is working on or where they are up to with any of their objectives. In this regard, British Powerlifting falls short of other federations and we should seek to close this gap.

The idea is that someone who sits on the board will be responsible for acting as a bridge between the Board and the membership to facilitate communications in both directions. This role could be combined with Chair of the lifters commission as long as that person is committed to an effective communications strategy and has the skills to deliver it. Otherwise a new role should be created. This should have the effect of reducing the burden of queries going to the Board and open up channels of communication via social media – an area that currently needs development.

This motion was withdrawn.

12.3c Referees who officiate at two British championships in a year be given free membership for the following year. Currently, we do not adequately support or celebrate our officials who work hard for the federation. This would be a good thank you for their efforts.

This was agreed subject to Referees Returns having been sent to Doreen Dowsett and these subsequently passed on to the Membership Registrar (without which it would be impossible to administer)

- d) Referees expenses to be increased as the current £20 per day expenses do not even begin to cover the out of pocket expenses our officials suffer in order to officiate at national events:
 - i) £10 for a 100 mile round trip, £20 for 200 mile round trip, £30 for 300 mile round trip etc
 - ii) £50 overnight expenses when 100 miles or more away from home and officiating on 2 consecutive days.

Mike Edwards spoke in favour of i. but against ii.

- i. **Was passed with 3 against and 3 abstentions**
- ii. **Was rejected with 14 against, 6 in favour and 6 abstentions.**

- e) A role (or committee) is created to push forward our application for NGB status. This is crucial to obtaining funding at any level and needs to be prioritised. If it is someone's dedicated role, then hopefully we can make some progress.

Mike Patterson explained that having a 'committee' would not help. Richard reported that when the Pre Application Response is approved, the membership will be informed. This was withdrawn.

- f) Qualifying totals are raised for Junior and Master lifters and the senior QTs are brought back to a consistent standard rather than requiring a lower standard for the less populated weight classes.

Craig Wilkins suggested that a process for capping should be implemented regarding qualifying totals. He suggested that it need not be a big difference and needs to be decided at least a year ahead. Richard Parker explained that this would have implications regarding loss of BP income.

Kevin Jayne suggested that there could be a Secondary British Championships with lower, or no, qualifying totals.

Ian Finch agreed that the qualifying totals were far too low.

Mike Patterson suggested that there need to be a balance between the British Championships and analysis needs to be undertaken regarding the Regional/British Championships.

Richard Parker suggested an amendment to the motion to read that British totals be revised for all age groups.

This was passed with 2 against and 4 abstentions.

Joe Whiteley suggested that this needs to be addressed by the Competitions Director, when the appointment has been made.

12.4

From Wales

- a) This AGM calls upon the British Powerlifting Executive to introduce a ruling that participation in the British Equipped Championship requires athletes to wear at least one piece of equipment. Equipment to include knee wraps, a squat suit, a deadlift suit, a bench shirt. This AGM also calls upon the British Powerlifting Executive to review and raise the qualifying totals for equipped championship.

There was discussion regarding the qualifying totals re equipped/classic.

The consensus was that totals at equipped should be at least as high as classic.

This was agreed with 5 abstentions and none against.

- b) This AGM calls upon the British Powerlifting Executive to review the classic qualifying totals for all age and weight classes for 2019 and raise them where appropriate.

This had already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

12.6 From Dave Kirkland – NM

That at national championships the first weigh-in be covered by local referees. It seems to work in our division N/M

It was agreed that promoters should provide local referees to officiate the first groups at competitions, where possible.
There were none against and 5 abstentions.

- 13 Agreement of membership fees for 2019 – no changes proposed.

There were 15 against, 14 in favour and 5 abstentions.
Proxy votes were taken and the motion was passed ie that there would be no changes.

- 14 Strategic Plan – acceptance of update.

This was accepted.

- 15 Hall of Fame – Colin Wright, Marc Giles and Andy Rodney inducted for 2017.

On behalf of Joy Nnamani, Paul Marsh accepted the Best Lifter Award from the 2018 British Women's Classic Championships.

- 16 No other business.

Mike Patterson thanked the Board for their hard work throughout the last year.