

ATHLETE'S COMMISSION REPORT 2019

Active members:

Tony Cliffe (ENG)
Philip Richard (Wales)
William Murray (SCO)
Abi Graham (SCO)
Ellie Steele (ENG)
Vacant (NI)

Speaker/British Powerlifting board Member:

Tony Cliffe

Since taking over as the Athletes commission Chair from Dean Bowering in October 2019 the commission hasn't been able to meet up in person. We have a vacant seat for the representation on the commission for the Northern Ireland region, however we do have a proposed representative.

We have been able to communicate however via our Facebook group and have made some progress in engaging with the British Powerlifting lifters via the British Championships feedback questionnaire. We have fed back to the British powerlifting board the thoughts and views of the respondents at the January 2020 board meeting and set forth below a summary of suggestion/recommendations presented:

Key recommendations/requests:

1. Appoint a Competition Director to deliver consistent standards.
2. Create a set of British Powerlifting Championships standards to be written and approved by the board against which future Championships can be checked.
3. Create a Central centre of excellence/fall back like Czech Rep for the EPF.
4. Higher qualifying totals or some other form of restricting numbers per class at British Championships. *
5. More promotion for the 2020 feedback questionnaire, with links on the entry form and the website.
6. Review the timing of the British Equipped Championships for 2021 onwards. (Very close to prior year World Championships).
7. In 2021 the British raw masters are in October as is the Classic world masters, can we find somewhere else in the calendar to fit it?
8. No Representative for NI on the Commission for athletes so could do with some help finding a replacement?
9. Advertising and marketing of events. Do we have a budget for this and how do we push this forward?

*Caveat this with unless the numbers can be handled safely and efficiently by the promoters and follow the USA format with the "prime time" flights.

Our overall summary on feedback from the British Championships report was one of inconsistent standards of Championships. We've had some high-quality British Powerlifting Championships

during 2019, however we have also had some very poor feedback on others. This lack of consistency we feel could be best addressed by recommendations 1-4 above.

We also believe that a clear vision and view of what is desirable and seen as a best in class for a British Championships needs to be agreed upon by not only the board but all the lifters and officials as well so we can strive towards that vision.

We would like to thank all the lifters who responded to the questionnaires in a positive and constructive way.

We also want to say a massive thank you from all the lifters of British Powerlifting to all the volunteers, officials and promoters of British Championships.

We would like to express our appreciation for all those who make our Championships possible.

Those people cannot and should not be taken for granted.

The ever-increasing standard of lifting across British Powerlifting continued throughout 2019. We have seen great success across all our international teams once again with World, European and commonwealth Champions being made. The British powerlifting records have had to be reset time and again throughout the year to keep up with the performances.

However, we are clearly creating great demand on British Powerlifting resources in this regard and the Financial report will show the extent to which the support of international competitions is creating a large draw on British Powerlifting funds. So, Unfortunately, we think we will have to face the prospect of higher standards needed of the nominated lifters for the federation to cover entry and doping fees for international Championships in 2020 and beyond.

We are very much looking forward to the lifting in 2020. The new SBD invitational taking place in Sheffield is due to set a new standard in World Powerlifting, drawing in great crowds and an opportunity to see an international of such high calibre on our doorstep is very exciting.

Undoubtedly 2020 will be another record-breaking year for British Powerlifting, with greater membership numbers, a greater number of competitions and the on-going increases in powerlifting performance standards.

All of these increases bring their own challenges and we would like to encourage all lifters of all standards to support your divisions by volunteering to help out at your local competitions, contact your divisional secretaries and help out where you can (table staff/spotting and loading/becoming a referee etc).

Our desire for 2020 from the Athlete's commission is to create more opportunities to hear from the lifters, obviously that can be done face to face when you see us at competitions but you can contact the commission directly at athletescommission@britishpowerlifting.org or via "Contact Us" on the website.

Thank you for your attention:

Tony Cliffe

Athletes commission Chairman