

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 organised 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 1st each year to add another year to continue to help athletes and coaches plan.

2025-2026 proposed dates

Championship	Proposed date	Comment
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 rd 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