

Board Reports

21st July 2024

Scottish Powerlifting Report

Membership Update

Membership for the division has now surpassed 800, representing the highest level of membership in our history. The addition of our first dedicated “First Time Lifter” event in the autumn has driven an influx of new memberships mid-year, and we continue to pace well against our target of a 30% membership increase from 2023.

Our continued ambition is to achieve 1000 members by 2026 and to cement ourselves as the federation of choice in Scotland, alongside attaining NGB status with sportscotland.

Financial Update

We continue to operate from a robust financial position, with an operating budget increase of 144% since June 2023. The primary drivers of this are increased membership uptake alongside increased competition entries, as well as sponsorship contributions. We have made direct steps to reinvest into the organisation and the membership through enhancing competition experience and facilities, upgraded competition equipment and investment in our coaching network.

We continue to be supported by external auditors and accounting software investment to reconcile our bookkeeping and ensure compliance and risk mitigation.

Competition and International Selection Update

The summer months represent the championship season in Scotland, with the Scottish Bench Press and Equipped Championships held in June, and Scottish Classic Championships in July. These are the final opportunities for our athletes to qualify for the selection pool for the 2024 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships, which is reflected in the record level of entries – 140 athletes have registered to compete in the Classic Championship event, a 75% increase from the same event in 2023.

Our Commonwealth selection pool has also reached nearly 50 registered interests with 2 championships still to take place, suggesting a record number of athletes will represent Team Scotland in Sun City.

We are also confirmed hosts of the 2024 Home Nations event, which is now confirmed for 14th December, hosted in Glasgow. We look forward to welcoming you all to the National Science Centre for a spectacle event to end the 2024 season in style!



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Athlete Success

We must of course again recognise the achievements of our Scottish Powerlifting athletes Annie Nelson and Tasmin Campbell, who both achieved discipline medals at the recent IPF World Classic Championships in Lithuania. Tasmin also became the highest ranked M1 lifter of all time, and broke 2 M1 World records along the way, while Annie challenged strongly for an overall podium position, missing out at the very last attempt. The impact that these women have had on the sport in Scotland cannot be underestimated – both are fantastic role models, and we are exceptionally proud not just of their platform achievements, but also of the way they continue to blaze a trail for others.

We had further international success at the European Equipped Championships in Luxembourg, with Scott Simon and Bernie McGurk taking home gold in their respective classes, and Scott achieving best lifter in the M2 category. We also had medals galore at the World Bench Press Championships and are thrilled to see four of our athletes will be making the trip to Estonia for the FISU World University Powerlifting Championships.

International Coaching Development Programme

As part of his Head Coach remit, Will Brown has now commenced the roll out of our pilot international coaching development programme, offering divisional coaches the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills through a blend of online and practical learning sessions and tailored personal development plans.

The group has already undertaken an in-person practical session hosted by Paisley Barbell Club, as well as an online session on the unique athlete challenges at international level delivered by Bobbie Butters. A further session is scheduled with Team USA Head Coach Matt Gary on attempt selection and game day strategy.

The Scottish Powerlifting Executive Committee have further invested in this programme with 50% funding for this group to undertake the new format of the BP Level 2 Coaching Course.



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Partnership Update

In addition to the broader Home Nations partnership with SBD, we have been able to secure new partnership agreements with a range of partners that will help us further build a strong proposition for our members. The newest partnerships are:

- **ESN – official nutrition partner of Scottish Powerlifting**
- **Outlaw Athlete Therapy – official sports therapy partner of Scottish Powerlifting**
- **Union Jacked – official apparel and merchandise partner of Scottish Powerlifting**
- **Dedicated Productions – official media partner of Scottish Powerlifting**

In addition to these partnerships, we also recognise the support of our Media Officer, Alyce Macpherson at StrongKind Coaching, who has partnered with us to provide free period products at all competitions. This has been hugely well received in the Scottish Powerlifting community, and we hope to build on this DE&I initiative further.

Referee and Technical Update

Following the appointment of Adam Reilly to the role of Technical Officer for British Powerlifting, we have been working to build a clear referee promotion policy and process that aligns with the BP approach. We will be establishing a Scottish Powerlifting Technical Committee which will oversee referee development and make recommendations for promotion to National level, and this will be rolled out in the coming months.

Congratulations to Kirsty McCahill, Maureen Gordon and Scott Simon who have all recently achieved their promotion to National Referee status.

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Ongoing Initiatives

We continue to explore the opportunity to establish a formal club network within Scottish Powerlifting, empowering our grassroots clubs to host official competitions and thereby increase the opportunities for athletes to compete and achieve qualification for national events. Several positive trials have taken place with Paisley Barbell Club and Granite City Barbell Club, and we hope to formalise our approach to club events in the coming months.

We are continuing to engage with external partners and bodies to help support our growth ambitions, with a number of our committee scheduled to attend the Scottish Women In Sport Conference this August, which this year will be focussed on women's health, wellbeing and safety in sport.

All said, another successful quarter for Scottish Powerlifting – we look forward to seeing the continued progress and working closely with the newly appointment British Powerlifting Board structure.

Claire Tocher

Director for Scotland



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