



ENGLAND

English Powerlifting Secretary's report 2021 AGM on the 12th February 2022

This year has at least seen some positive movement back to normality, if only through finding ways to run powerlifting events while accommodating the threat posed by the covid 19 pandemic.

However the annual All England events were somewhat depleted in terms of the number of lifters competing but this no doubt partly due to the Commonwealth Powerlifting championships and the home nations not being able to take place. Nevertheless from my point of view it was a positive step forward to see our national championships being organised by other people and being run successfully. Special thanks to Faye Jordan, Kim Cowell and Jacob Wyner for their hard work and dedication in running our national events last year and to James Brincatt-Smith for stepping in to run this year's bench press.

When the All England was first run at Moulton College the facilities were in 2008 regarded by many as a quality venue in contrast to several other places used for national championships at the time. However things have moved on thankfully and venues are gradually improving as well as the technology being used to stage events such as streaming, lifting equipment, scoring and refs light systems etc. which have enhanced the spectacle and sport of powerlifting.

Hopefully this year will attract larger entry numbers to championships again and see the Home Nation's trophy being competed for together with the Commonwealth taking place and the inter divisional's.

In response to the suggestion of altering current divisional boundaries to resolve certain anomalies around the country I have a number of reservations.

1. I am aware of the issue several lifters who live in Milton Keynes have raised re wanting to lift and be part of the East Midlands division which is probably a similar problem for other lifters around the country who reside near to divisional boundaries. However the Milton Keynes issue will remain even if Northamptonshire is assigned to the North Midlands.

2. Any changes to divisional boundaries would involve some decision regarding how the current divisional finances are divided up,

For instance would creating two divisions out of YNE result in each new division having a 50% share of the current finances. There of course will be similar consequences re any equipment own by divisions as to who can claim what.

3. There is also if boundaries are to be altered the question of divisional records for the areas concerned. Would established records have to be frozen and forgotten or be accommodated or moved to other divisions>

4. Governance of any new or rearranged division is I think likely to be a significant issue with the possibility of some established officials finding themselves redundant, or having to look at alternative options in order to continue to offer their support. Also it is likely that some newly created divisions may have difficulty in finding willing people to take over key committee positions.

I'm sure there would be other factors to consider if the suggested boundary changes were to be implemented and I cannot realistically see why this needs to happen in the first place. In reality I could see some logic in renaming some of the current divisions. For instance I have never understood why the South Midlands is so named as places such as Southampton are nowhere near the Midlands. (*South of the Midlands might be more appropriate*) Similarly Essex is as far away from the East Midlands (*East of England division might be more appropriate*).

New qualifying totals for the 69kg and 76kg women's categories added to web site, no other changes to qualifying standards for 2022, although these need to be discussed and if need be revised for 2023.

Kevin Jane