DRAFT MINUTES

**English Powerlifting Association**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting for 2014.**

**The meeting took place in the Thorpe Centre, Moulton College, Northampton on the 1st February 2015.**

**Meeting opened at 11.00am**

1. **Members present;-** Richard Parker (SW) (Chair), Fred Sterry (NM), Doreen Dowsett (NM), Jim Dulling (YNE), Kevin Green (SW), Pete Weiss (EM), Ian Finch (EM), Adam Reilly (SE), Philip Guise (WM), Sue Giles (NM), Marc Giles (NM), Matthew Parker (SW), Mike Hunnan (YNE), Anna Macnab (GL), Craig Wilkins(SE), Dave Kirkland (NM), Allen Ottolangui (EM), Jenny Hunter (EM), K. Green (SW), Kevin Jane (EM). (*North West and South Midlands not represented)*
2. **Apologies;** Jaswinder Singh, Dean Bowring, Paul Coke, Fred McKenzie, Scott Thompson, Jim McGill.
3. **Acceptance of minutes from previous AGM (16/2/2014)** Unanimously accepted as true.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes;**
5. ***President-*** The Chairman still to contact Harry Turner re his position as EPA President.
6. ***Divisional representative –*** The GBPF web site manager Rob Thomas has now things in place for a named representative from each division to be given a password to access the GBPF membership database. Divisional secretaries should inform Rob of their rep.
7. ***EPA club affiliation*** – YNE will promote this alongside their own initiative to hopefully encourage more membership and revenue for the EPA, as it is in the members interest if they wish to save on the cost of entering English National competitions and promote their clubs via the EPA website.
8. **Officer reports;** The Chairman, and Secretary produced written reports which were read out and raised and number of points that were discussed.
9. With the Commonwealth Powerlifting championships to be held this year and details already on the website, It was suggested (Marc Giles) that the English bench press championship be re-introduced. ***(ACTION)>*** Marc Giles and Jim Dulling agreed to look at possible dates and venues to stage this. Marc also suggested that any lifters currently wanting to be considered for the Commonwealth bench press should let their Divisional Secretary’s know together with details of their performances.
10. ***Qualifying standards;*** It was decided that due to the high number of entries at the All England championships that this year a qualifying standard will be set for all age groups ‘classic’ and ‘equipped’ utilising the current GBPF national standards.
11. ***National Standards;*** The meeting discussed the present GBPF national qualifying totals and it was felt that some of these needed to be altered, partly to reduce the large numbers of lifters currently able to lift at this level, but also to set a more even standard across the weight classes. **(ACTION)>** Marc Giles to liaise with the Secretary on this and offer some suggestions.
12. **Treasurers report;** The Championship account balance stands at £3,368.42 and the Treasurers account balance at £3280.18. The Treasurer highlighted the fact that only six clubs were affiliated to the EPA, which could be one way of generating income if promoted more. The EPA has little other income apart from what is raised from the All England event. However as some divisions had not claimed their entitlement to a membership rebate from the GBPF the meeting decided unanimously to present the following as a Notice of Motion to the GBPF AGM ***‘ That if an English Division does not claim their membership rebate form the EPA within the current year the money will be retained by the EPA.’***
13. **Election of Officers;** This remains unchanged with no nominations or resignations received, and the president’s position pending.

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| **Position** | **Officer** |
| President | Harry Turner\* |
| Chairman | Richard Parker |
| General Secretary | Kevin Jane |
| Treasurer | Fred Sterry |
| Assistant treasurer | Doreen Dowsett |
| Sponsorship secretary | Fred McKenzie |
| Championship secretary | Kevin Jane |
| Selection secretary | Fred Sterry |
| Merchandising officer | Kevin Jane |
| Records Officer | Ian Finch |
| Web Master | Matthew Parker |

**Director for England –** Kevin Jane

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| **DIVISION** | **REPRESENTATIVE** |
| East Midlands | Peter Weiss |
| North Midlands | Fred Sterry |
| South Midlands | Dean Bowring |
| West Midlands | Jaswinder Singh |
| Greater London | Anna Macnab |
| North West | Bryn Evans |
| South East | John Halfacre |
| South West | Kevin Green |
| Yorkshire North East | Fred McKenzie |

1. **Championship dates;**
   1. All England – Moulton College Northampton 15/16th August 2015.
   2. English Bench Press TBA.
   3. 4 Nations Ashington, Northumberland October 24th 2015.
   4. Commonwealth Vancouver, Canada December 1st-5th 2015
2. **EPA Council meetings;** It was decided that in the current climate no dates needed to be set, meetings could be arranged if important issues need debating or decisions have to be made.
3. **Notices of motions;**
   1. ***Changes to the Constitution Para 1.1:***

“That Isle of Man is removed from NW division and Channel Islands removed from SE.” Reason – these are not part of the UK and so cannot belong to an English division. **(Proposed Richard Parker, Seconded Ian Finch – CARRIED)**

**YNE Proposals**

1. That the executive continue to try to gain governing body status for GBPF and reports progress on the GBPF website. **(WITHDRAWN)**

2. That Divisional Secretaries must submit results of competitions for publication on the GBPF website within 14 days of the competition**.(ACTION)>** *The secretary to remind Divisional secretary’s to ensure this happens.*

3. That GBPF develop an online entry for national championships where lifters state where they obtained qualification, entries will be confirmed online and fee payment made electronically if possible. **(WITHDRAWN)**

4. That the Executive be commended for developing membership through BodyMASS. **(CARRIED, UNANIMOUS)**

5. That a strategic plan is produced by the executive that outlines the priorities, the responsibilities and the deadlines of that plan. **(WITHDRAWN)**

6. That national records can be set at any GBPF competition where there are three at least national standard referees judging the lift, drug testing is carried out and there is a jury of international referees. **(CARRIED 9 in favour, 6 against, 5 abstained).**

7. A referee has to officiate at a minimum of 10 divisional level competitions before being considered as suitable to become a national standard referee. **(Not Carried- 11 against, 4 for, 5 abstained)**

8. That the GBPF appoints a DCO and that the officer works with each division to ensure that drug testing happens at Divisional Championships and out of competition, that a fine of £500 be made to positive lifters and that a testing system is found that is realistically priced. This might mean a two tier testing system (cheap and expensive). That a cost efficient drug testing protocol is established.

Broken down into four separate Motions-

a). *That the GBPF appoints a DCO and that the officer works with each division to ensure that drug testing happens at Divisional Championships* **(Carried, unanimous)**

b).that a fine of £500 be made to positive lifters and that a testing system is found that is realistically priced **(WITHDRAWN)**

c). Out of competition testing, **(WITHDRAWN)**

d).That a cost efficient drug testing protocol is established. **(WITHDRAWN)**

9. That a banned lifter should be liable for any failed drug test fee, if they wish to rejoin. **(added to and CARRIED –unanimous)**

10. That a banned lifter has to pay for themselves to be retested before being allowed to reapply for GBPF membership**. (NOT CARRIED, 1 for, 19 against)**

11. That the GBPF produce a calendar 2 years in advance and the calendar meets lifters expectations (no clashes, no consecutive day competing and geographically varied**).(WITHDRAWN)**

12. That the GBPF identify individuals who can take control over national recruitment initiatives:- New Year Resolution Train with Weights, NHS Get Active, National Powerlifting Day, Weights for the Disaffected – 14 to 16 School Children, You haven’t Got a sport – You have now! **(CARRIED, Unanimous)**

13. That a category in the GBPF Hall of Fame be created for ‘International Role of Honour’ and that this can include historical nominations. **(Amended and Carried unanimous)**

**NM PROPOSALS**

That the present subsidy of £20 per championship for those officials who are travelling a minimum

of 100mls round trip, should be increased to £20 per day of the championship attended. **(CARRIED, unanimous)**

PROPOSAL

That the GBPF inform the IPF of our members concern over the new rules regards to

belts and singlet’s**. (CARRIED unanimous)**

1. **Any other business;**
2. Membership eligibility – When a person joins the GBPF they agree to abide by the rules governing the Federation, no one is refused membership unless they are on list for violating doping offences.
3. Jenny Hunter raised the issue of the difficulties arising for lifters and officials with many INZER belts having no identifiable manufacturer’s marking s on them – It was suggested that as long at the belt conformed to the specifications required re size officials should at this time use their own initiative.
4. Craig Wilkins made the point that more info needs to be included on competition score sheets i.e. whether lifters are lifting equipped or not, WILKS coefficients, lifters age category etc.
5. Matthew Parker, announced that he is set up a web page on the EPA site for Divisional contacts with photos, also he will add score sheets, logos and other info that can be downloaded. Matthew is also looking to and a paypal system to the site so that members can pay to entre English Championships on line. He will also look into adding a section where divisional results can be seen.
6. Jenny raised the point that some organisers and members were using the Face book site to inform members of competition details such as weigh-in times, and that this in effect is bad practice as many members do not use it and such information should be dispersed via the appropriate channels.
7. It was suggested that the EPA logo should receive more prominence at divisional level. (MP)
8. Marc Giles reported that he now has a GBPF wall that can be used as background at events measuring 2 x 4 mts.

Meeting close at 2.15pm

Kevin Jane - Secretary

As appendix;

**Director for England – Secretary’s report 2014**

Without doubt 2014 represents the most successful year to date for the GBPF, the large increase in membership, being the most significant development. I now feel that England is part of the GBPF as opposed to being more or less the GBPF as it used to appear to be.

The rapidly growing membership although much needed and welcome does create more work for those involved in either organising events and for the officers of the various divisions and home nations. From an English perspective I am aware that many divisional competitions are attracting far more entries than can be catered for, even the All England championship was oversubscribed. If the membership trend is hopefully continuing it is about being one step ahead and ensuring that there are sufficient places and events available for the members to compete and qualify for national competitions at.

As I have mentioned in the past, it is I think time raise the qualifying standards at national level for ‘classic’ lifting which would make running the British championships easier. At the same time introducing a secondary qualifying standard and championship as with BALWA in the past, would give lifters additional titles and standards to aim at. Similar action at divisional level would help to keep events to one day affairs, but would necessitate running more competitions. If entries to divisional championships are regularly becoming capped and guest lifters not allowed to compete there are likely to be members who may miss out on an opportunity to qualify for a national competition and some members who will probably look to alternative organisations.

The English Powerlifting Association was originally set up to give the English divisions some independence within the GBPF, which at the time was needed. However since the current GBPF executive has taken over I feel that far less importance and support has been given to the EPA. This to some degree is a positive as there is not the threat as in the past of English divisions being dictated to or subjected to, dare I say mismanagement of the GBPF. Nevertheless The EPA was also set up to ensure that divisions had representation at national level and would provide the appropriate channel for members to voice their views and opinions.

I often skim through social media web sites and can see any amount of moans and groans from members not happy with ‘this’ or wanting ‘that’ to be altered. Grumbling about things on sites such as face book does not alter anything, talking to divisional officers and making sure your points are voiced might. However my point here is about what I see as a lack of representation for members in some divisions and the possibility that some members are not having the opportunity to have their points aired. In a similar light not all divisions have provided me with AGM minutes and account details so that they can claim their membership rebates, money the members of divisions’ might of course find useful.

I appreciate the difficulty divisions have in trying to attract or encourage new members to take on committee responsibilities but with so many new members there are likely to be some who have time and skills to offer. Representation at EPA meetings is I think becoming more important albeit not for the same reasons as in the past, but there are a growing number of issues that need to be discussed and decisions to be made that would enable the sport to develop further. In particular debating;

* Easing the need for lifters to enter competitions as soon as an event is announced in order to ensure they have a place.
* Whether to introduce a qualifying standard for the All England championships and if what standard.
* Drug testing at the All England and lifters selected to represent the country
* Do we need to re-introduce the English bench press championship in light of needed to select lifters for the Commonwealth.

I produced a report on the Home Nations earlier this year, which for England was a great event and result, not that the other nations can complain as there were some incredible performances from all involved. The All England championships was the biggest to date but I’m still amazed at how many lifters did not turn up to lift on both days. In all around twenty meaning that if I had known earlier those on the reserve list could have been able to compete. There are always a few lifters who become injured or take ill at the last moment, but I do wonder if the possible threat of being drug tested may have also been a deterrent , if so good. The high standard of lifting did make it difficult to select a team for the Home Nations especially as this year those invited wanted to lift. With the commonwealth powerlifting championships taking place this year I envisage even more entries for the All England in 2015.

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Kevin Jane - Secretary