



ENGLAND

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the English Powerlifting Association.

The meeting took place at Moulton College, Northampton on the 28th January 2024.

Meeting opened at 11.06am

1. **Members present-** Richard Parker (Chairman), Caral Parker, Bryn Evans, Jenny Hunter, Allen Ottolangui, Lottie Hall, James Taylor, Joy Nnamani, Paul Marsh, Sophia Ellis, Andy Champ, Ian Finch & Kevin Jane.
2. **Apologies-** Matthew Parker, Mick Ellender, Charlotte Reynolds, Jenni Sherwood, Steve Walker, Jim McGill, Craig Coggle.
3. **Matters arising from previous Annual General Meeting-**
 - *Paul Marsh reported that Martin Marshall had run a couple of equipped bench press sessions in an effort to attract more equipped competitors.
 - *Paul also commented on the staging of the inter-divisional championships held in London, which had a few seating problems. Paul later mentioned the poor team result at the home nations championships held in Belfast.
4. **Officer reports-** The chairman raised the issue re the All England competition not taking place last year which resulted in a brief discussion where it was seemingly accepted that no one in particular was to blame, and that there was much that could be learned from the situations that arose. The Manchester Open that resulted from the All England cancellation was otherwise a great success and the North West division staged a quality event, setting a standard for others to aspire to.
The secretary did put forward the question as to whether the EPA could realistically accommodate 500+ lifters at a national event. The obvious solutions were to either split the championship into age categories with different comp dates or increase the qualifying totals. The latter suggestion being the most probable, and it was decided to look at this option after the British Powerlifting AGM and see if the BP standards are increased as a guideline. The Chairman will contact the English Bench press competition organiser Fred MacKenzie re holding the equipped bench press on the Sunday, the classic being on the Saturday to allow lifters wishing to compete in both, some time to recover. There was apparently an issue on the comp web page regarding lifters not being able to enter their qualifying details, Andy to chase up.

The treasurer provided the meeting with details of the EPA accounts (see attached). The chair thanked Jenny for taking on this position at short notice. **The secretary's report** highlighted the need for more to be done in terms of seeking funding in order to support teams representing the nation, particularly at the Commonwealth championships and to purchase equipment for staging events. It was agreed to purchase at least one backdrop for the forthcoming competitions. Andy to look at ordering/designing these with a view that they can be used for the foreseeable future. The report also once again made the point that the EPA as an association received little support or priority from many of the countries divisions. The meeting had only three divisional representatives present, with members from only five divisions in attendance. It was agreed that the secretary will endeavour to contact all appointed divisional reps with the objective of holding regular council meetings by Zoom in an effort to improve communication between divisions and increases involvement.

Championship officer report- Andy informed the meeting of the dates for the All England 3 lift and bench press championships plus the need for ideally someone to come forward to host this years inter-divisional championships.

All England Bench press, Northumberland 13th April 2024. All England Women's 15/16th June 2024 Flitwick, beds. All England Men's 22/23rd June 2024 Flitwick Beds

Greater London division- Joy gave a verbal report mentioning that five full power comps had taken place last year at the usual venues currently at their disposal. This promoted some discussion around the difficulties Greater London faces when trying to find suitable venues to host competitions. Many venues were unavailable and limited parking availability and high prices were constant obstacles.

West Midlands – Jenni Sherwood who had recently stepped down as rep for this division had provided a written report which echoed some of the issues other divisions were experiencing in terms of finding reliable volunteers and good quality coaches. The division though was improving in terms of increased members and the number of competitions being run.

5. **Constitution-** Some amendments to the EPA constitution were presented for acceptance by the meeting, however it was pointed out that the number of members present at the meeting did not equate to at least the minimum required. The new proposal was to alter what had always been in place (10% of the membership, around 460) to a realistic number of 15. Even this figure was not possible with only thirteen in attendance at this meeting. The original number for a quorum had never been achieved. As the EPA needs to keep functioning and the likelihood of a 10% target ever being achieved at such meetings, it was agreed (11 for, 1 against, 1 abstention) to set a minimum quorum of 10 members + 2 online attendees. Bryn offered to look at other points in the constitution that may need to be altered and then

present these at a council meeting if this goes ahead, to seek the views of others.

6. Election of officers-

Position	Officer
President	Fred McKenzie
Chairman	Richard Parker
General Secretary	Kevin Jane
Treasurer	Jenny Hunter
Assistant treasurer	Lottie Hall
Sponsorship secretary	Fred McKenzie
Championship secretary	Andy Champ
Development officer	Vacant
Selection secretary	Paul Marsh
Records Officer	Craig Wilkins
Web Master	Matthew Parker
Director for England	Kevin Jane
Social media officers	Matthew Parker
Technical officer	Lottie Hall

7. Divisional representatives: Currently

DIVISION	REPRESENTATIVE
East Midlands	Lottie Hall
North Midlands	Jenni Sherwood
South Midlands	Ashraf Alhasan
West Midlands	Cat Shamel
Greater London	Joy Nnamani
North West	Bryn Evans
South East	Mick Ellender
South West	Emily Bennett
Yorkshire North East	Samantha Cadman?

The chairman will contact Fred re his sponsorship secretary role as to whether he still wants to continue in this position. Sophia Ellis offered to help out with social media development and will liaise with Matthew. As the EPA to date has not had a technical officer Lottie Hall offered to take on this role unopposed.

7. **Coaching proposal-** Craig Coggle and Katerina Sweatman had both put in separate proposals (Neither present) to split the head coach position into a

classic and equipped coach. The meeting discussed this at length, in the first instance a head coach position did not currently exist, coaching coming under the selections secretary's remit. It was mentioned that as things are there were insufficient equipped lifters representing the EPA to warrant a specific head coach. Paul will endeavour to provide those wishing to coach with opportunities to gain experience and work towards gaining appropriate recognised training.

- 9. Officer expenses** – This item was included by the secretary to discuss current EPA levels of funding for coaches and officials representing the nation. This promoted discussion with Jenny and Lottie to look at creating an expenses claim form and publicise the amounts available. Paul suggested limiting the number of coaches who can claim per competition and that what is available is spread across the coaching team more equally. No decisions were made and some specific proposals and figures need to be presented and agreed upon.
- 10. Qualifying standards**- These were discussed earlier. The current EPA standards do not include any categories for M3 & M4 women and M4 men, it was agreed to add these in due course.
- 11. A.O.B.**- Andy pointed out a need for the EPA to elect a technical officer which was actioned. Also raised the subject of improving social media profile which was also actioned. Andy suggested the EPA should have their own e-mail address (already have domain name). Richard to look into this, and the secretary would be happy to use this if need be. In addition Andy suggested that the EPA purchase a new competition combo rack and weights etc., he offered to find prices and feedback. If purchased the storage of such items will need to be considered.

Meeting closed at 1.55pm