

GBPF Chairman's Report for 2009/2010

This year was a very important year for Great Britain Powerlifting Federation, being the first year governing our sport without any influence from our big brother; on reflection I think we passed the test with flying colours. It took the help and support of many dedicated people to make it happen.

It is with great disappointment having to report the sad loss of Barrie Nelson and Mick Barry since last year's AGM, two great servants and supporters of GBPF. They both will be sadly missed.

Reviewing some of our success during the past year.

Memberships

In my report last year I stated if we achieved 500 members in our first year it would be a wonderful achievement, we managed over 900, this has surpassed our wildest dream, what a great endorsement for GBPF we must now use it as a stepping stone to create a powerful Powerlifting Federation in Great Britain.

National and International

Congratulations to Paul Rees for the work he is doing developing the sport at grass roots level, if we're to become a force on the International stage in the future then it is important to build a strong foundation.

Our performances at Internationals are now showing signs of getting back to 70's and 80's when GB was feared on the world stage. 2009 started with Phill Richard winning the European title and the year ended with Dean Bowring becoming first British lifter to win the super heavy world crown. Both men's and women's teams came second at the Western European Championships. The juniors achieved a number of individual medals but most importantly they all produced PB at the European juniors. The Bench Press and Masters teams also achieved a number of successes all in all a very successful year for our International lifters.

One disappointment to the year was that some of the senior team were unable to compete at the World Championships in India due to the fact we did not have the correct documentation required, as Team Manager I must take full responsibility for the error for which I apologise to both the lifters and GBPF. The Executive board has now taken steps to ensure it never happens again.

National Championships

As Arthur Hoey stated in his end of year report all our championships were excellently organised and efficiently run, many thanks to the promoters, officials and helpers for making these championships a success. Thanks also to the divisions for their kind support.

Powerlifting course

The GBPF has now introduced a coaching course, this is important for the development of our sport because without coaches we cannot produce lifters for the future. I sincerely hope we get a good response for the course.

Insurance

Huge thanks must go to Arthur Hoey for organising one of the most comprehensive Insurance policy for our members; it must be very satisfying to our members to know they have the best insurance cover possible.

Website

My personal thanks to Rob Thomas for producing in my opinion one of the best Powerlifting websites, it is serving our members to great effect.

Finance

To make sure all our Accounts are in good order John Jackson and Marian Gibson have worked extremely hard to ensure all our spending is correct and in order for the members.

GBPF Mission for 2010

The EC board's main effort must go toward achieving NGB Status, if we're to be recognised as a credible governing body then this must be our number one goal. To comply with IPF and WADA anti-doping rules it is imperative we have Drug Testing programme in place during 2010.

To help with our effort the EPF and IPF have given us their support by send a letter to Sport England on our behalf.

I would also like to see more effort to find ways of raising sponsorships for the sport, I know it is very difficult with the economical climate to obtain sponsorship, but it must not stop us trying.

To help the development of gross routes lifting I've made a request to the EPF EC to introduce Sub-Junior for 2011, if accepted it will be a great opportunity for more junior lifters to qualify for the 2011 European championships on home soil.

The IPF executive has requested that each region discuss whether or not the IPF should organised Raw Powerlifting. This item is on the agenda for the EPF Executive board meeting in Spain in February. I will inform you at the AGM of the outcome.

Conclusion

My thanks to the Executive board, Officials, Referees, Team Managers, Coaches, Club Secretaries and helpers who have given their time voluntarily to support GBPF.

Ralph Farquharson