



**British Drug Free Powerlifting Association
Annual General Meeting, 26th March 2016**

Minutes

Present:

Neil Thomas, President
Manon Bradley, Membership Registrar, President Elect
Pat Reeves, General Secretary
Pete Gaskin, Webmaster / Records Registrar
Silvia Costa, South East division
Russell Martin, South West division
Sue Bethell, representing Wales
Mike Leadbetter, representing North West division
Chris Martin, Navy Secretary
Catherine Walter (in attendance)
Neil Ratcliffe (in attendance)

National Council roles and responsibilities

President

Neil Thomas indicated that he was standing down at the completion of the National Single Lift Championships and that following the election amongst National Council members, Manon Bradley had been elected as the new President. He told the National Council that there would be an extensive hand-over period between March and June during which time he would ensure that Manon was fully briefed about the responsibilities of the role.

Manon Bradley thanked Neil for his huge contribution to the Association and indicated her wish that he would remain involved with the future of the Association.

Drugs Controls Officer

Neil also indicated that he was mentoring Dean Roberts with the hope that he would be able to take on the Drugs Control Officer post in the future.

Neil asked all NC members present if they were content to maintain their positions for a further year. With the following exceptions all agreed.

Membership Registrar

Manon told the NC that she was resigning from the post of Membership Registrar and that Catherine Walter had volunteered to take on the role following her assistance behind the scenes for the past two years. Manon Bradley proposed Catherine for the role; this was seconded by Pete Gaskin and agreed by all those present.

Actions: *Pete Gaskin to change name of Membership Registrar on website
Manon Bradley to provide training and support to Catherine
Pat Reeves to inform full NC of change in Membership Registrar*

Technical Secretary

Pat Reeves informed the NC that Andy Davies was now too ill to continue in this role and had formally handed in his resignation.

Treasurer

Neil Thomas told the NC that Mark Horton has agreed to remain in post until 31st December 2016. Thereafter a new Treasurer will be required. Sue Bethell volunteered for this post. It was agreed that Mark would continue in the role during the handover between Neil and Manon and that at the appropriate time this position will be re-submitted to the NC. It is hoped that Sue would still be interested in the role at that time.

North East Division

Dave Heath (not present) had indicated that he will be moving out of the division in April 2016 and therefore a new Divisional Representative will be required.

***Action:** Vacancy to be advertise on website by Pete Gaskin
Vacancy to be advertised to whole of membership as per plan below
NC members to make recommendations for replacement Div Rep whom might be approached by
Manon Bradley*

There followed a review of vacant positions and a discussion of how best to fill them. It was agreed that the following roles would be advertised to the whole of the membership and any volunteers would be voted on by the NC via a postal ballot:

Treasurer

Coaching secretary

Technical secretary – it is possible that this role will be divided into 2 or more roles – to provide greater geographical spread.

Permit secretary – not strictly vacant as currently undertake by Gen Sec.

***Action:** Manon Bradley to draft note to be sent to whole of current membership by Mem Registrar
Nominations to be received by General Secretary to be circulated in ballot to NC at appropriate time*

During discussion the following roles were considered to require updating and further consideration. The roles would be suspended pending further discussion:

Youth development officer

Women's officer

***Action:** Manon Bradley to confer with NC members regarding the future of these roles
Manon Bradley to make suggestions for these roles via future NC ballot*

The following roles were discussed as to whether they were necessary:

Medical Advisor

Legal Advisor

***Action:** Pete Gaskin to remove Medical Advisor from contacts list on website
Manon Bradley to contact own legal advisor for advice re. Legal Advisor (!)*

New roles

The possibility of creating a new NC role of Events Co-ordinator was discussed and it was agreed that Neil Thomas would be invited to take on this role following his hand-over of Presidency to Manon Bradley. This was proposed by Manon Bradley, seconded by Russell Martin and agreed by all those present.

***Action:** Pete Gaskin to add the role to the website from 1st June 2016
Manon Bradley and Neil Thomas to draft a clearly defined job description*

Financial statement

Neil Thomas assured the NC that the association was still in a strong financial position with a cashflow of £60,000 in 2015.

National championships

The following dates were agreed for the 2017 National championships:

5th February – Equipped

25th – 26th February – Full Power

25th – 26th March – Single Lifts

Divisional reps were reminded that they can organise divisional qualifying events immediately after the National championships and that there was no need to wait until October / November to hold these events.

There was considerable discussion regarding whether event promoters should be allowed to bid to organise National championships in the future. It was agreed that, in order to maintain the excellent standard that has been set over the past few years, they should not be allowed to bid to arrange National Full Power, National Equipped or National Single Lifts. However, they would be allowed to bid to host the following:

4 Nations

British Masters

***Action:** Pat Reeves to make note and to invite bids as appropriate for 2017*

Divisional competitions

Pat Reeves raised her concern that some divisions are not holding sufficient divisional events to enable all of their lifters to qualify for Nationals. She evidenced this with the fact that she held 5 divisional comps in West Midlands during 2015/16 – the last of which attracted almost 70 lifters – many of whom were from other divisions. It was agreed that this would be reviewed and discussed with all divisional representatives.

***Action:** Manon Bradley to discuss divisional needs with each div rep*

Online payment for events

Russell Martin informed the NC of his intention to start organising online payments for events in order to reduce paperwork and the risks associated with holding large amounts of cash. Manon Bradley told him that the current membership database has a facility to organise online event entries including fee payment. She agreed to share the facility with him and to arrange appropriate training on the module.

***Action:** Manon to share IMG STG with Russell Martin and arrange training*

O2 Arena event

Neil Thomas informed the NC that the association had been invited to take part in a Strength Expo event on 16th / 17th July at O2 arena. At present details are not fully clear. It is hoped that the event will be an opportunity to raise awareness of BDFPA, to encourage people to take up powerlifting and to join the BDFPA.

***Action:** Neil Thomas to share more with NC as it becomes available*

Membership fee

Pat Reeves raised the question of whether the membership fee should be increased to £40. It was acknowledged that the fee had only recently been increased and therefore it was too soon to do so again. However, the discount offered to club members was discussed. It was agreed to examine the club fee and club member fee to determine if an increase in these fees might be beneficial.

***Action:** Manon Bradley and Catherine Walter to determine income from club memberships and calculate impact of increases*

Any Other Business

Manon Bradley informed all those organising divisional competitions that it was no longer necessary to ask competitors for their membership number as their membership status was checked online prior to all comps.

Manon reiterated her thanks to Neil Thomas for his excellent leadership over the past 8 years and asked the NC to join her in thanking him for his hard work.

There was no other business. The meeting was closed.