

IAWA(UK) AGM – Saturday 5th December 11am – Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Due to the Covid restrictions it was decided there was no other option than to run the meeting on line. (it is worth stating that in fact, despite slight concerns beforehand, the meeting did work very well on 'Zoom')

Present: Paul Barette, Steve Gardner, Steve Andrews, Chris Bass and Gary Ell

Apologies: Frank Allen and Neil Keddy

The introduction was made by the President: Steve Gardner who steered the meeting. Welcoming those present to the screen and reflecting on the difficult year we have all endured through 2020. After a promising start with two very good events, we were plunged into Lockdown and thereafter we have found ourselves in various levels and states of isolation. This of course meant we were not able to hold any competitions at all after the Midlands All Round in March. We did hold a 'Virtual' Event which went down very well, organised by Steve Gardner and Stevie Shanks, and a great sale of T Shirts for the Virtual event raised over £300 towards Drug Testing Costs at the forthcoming International event in Ireland. I think we had about 78 lifters from 8 different Countries take part, including Disabled lifters. Because we had nothing else for our membership this year all those who had paid their membership for 2020 have had their memberships extended for a further 12 months. We do have a December Virtual Lift off set for 19th and 20th December – 'The Steve Angell Memorial Lift Off'. Following a similar format to the earlier event, keeping it simple, and offering a lift scenario where both lifts can be from the floor if lifters are unable to take up the overhead option. Whilst we realise that not everyone can take part in these events, it is about all we can do, and the offer is there for any who can and want to take part, in a spirit of inclusion, fun and activity. Whilst there is nothing official about the lifts and results are not refereed and cannot be used to claim records, we insist on the lifts being performed correctly in order to be passed, and the lifters to wear correct platform competition dress.

A review and vote on the **proposed fixtures for 2021** then took place. Steve Gardner had put together the fixture list for next year as usual, and based it on the proposed list of events for 2020 which we largely had been forced to cancel. Starting with the British Grip Championships in February, the fixtures are set to run through the year, leading up to the International Events: The World Championships in October in the USA and the Gold Cup in November in Ireland. There is also a schedule of Southern Area Fixtures again, and the programme includes the Postal World Championships and the International Strongman Postal as per usual. Please see the fixture list for all details. It is realised that we may still be in a difficult position with Covid restrictions in February, and if we are forced to cancel the event it was agreed we could just hold a virtual Grip Competition instead, along the same unofficial lines as our Virtual Lift off's to date. If we can run the competition as normal, we will of course, but if not we will revert to virtual and will give as much notice as possible. This will be the same for following fixtures too. Chris Bass has also produced the lifts and format for the All Round League. When you see the schedule please bear in mind that for the same Covid reasons Leg One will not go ahead, the league will be run over the remaining 5 legs, the first leg (Leg 2) being due by the end of March.

The Treasurers Report: Was made by Steve Andrews who had spoken earlier with Frank Allen. The IAWA(UK) Bank Account currently stands at £7,224.91. We are in good shape financially, although we haven't really had much outlay this year because of the situation. We had a good income from memberships and several new members, and the coffers were swelled also by the £312.09 that was raised by T Shirt Sales for the Drug Testing.

Membership Secretary: the report was given by Paul Barette, as we know Paul had worked very hard to get our membership process brought into the modern World, and today members can join and pay online. This system has proved to be working very well, and the Chairman thanked Paul for his hard work on the project. Paul stated that we had 73 members joined this year, which was pretty amazing as our usual figure is around 90 to 100 members, yet we still had 73 even though our competition programme had to be cancelled (the point being that a lot of lifters don't renew their membership until they enter a competition. So this bodes well for future membership numbers being good once we are back to a more usual competition active format.

All Round League and British and Worlds Records: Chris Bass spoke about the 2021 AR League, and as previously mentioned, the 6 legs and their lifts are all set for the next year, BUT we have decided to ignore Leg 1 and let the League take place over the 5 remaining legs (The reason is that Leg 1 results would need to be in by the end of January, and all were agreed that may be too soon because of the current situation, so better to go for the 2nd leg as the start (results in by end of March). No record claims had been able to be submitted of course since the Midlands All Round in March, other than some claims which came in from Australia who had been able to hold some competitions in their Country.

Drug Testing and Technical Issues: Gary Ell spoke on this matter. Gary explained the Drug Tests were carried out at the British Grip Competition in February, 2 tests were conducted and were returned as Negative result. Then from that point no tests were conducted as a result of no activity.

Disability Liaison: Neil Keddy was not able to be present but had reported to Paul Barette beforehand. Paul said that Neil had spoken of the two disability competitions we plan to hold in May and September, so basically looking to do in 2021 just what we had planned to do this year. Steve Gardner is joint promoter of the disability events with Neil and confirmed that at this point we have done as much as we can do, the events are organised, the list of disability lifts was produced along with workable rules. It was also pleasing to note that we had disabled lifters taking part in the Virtual event. We now wait with excited anticipation to see how the two events we have got planned pan out.

Paul Barette gave a report on the situation with our **Historical Records Archive**. Paul has been working hard to put the information that was previously kept on card index files for the history of records per each lift into digital format. It is a huge task and Paul is making good progress but it will be a while until the job is completed. When it is done, it will be easy to look up who had the earliest record for any lift in any division and see its progress as records were broken en route to what stands at this present date. It was agreed that once the information is uploaded there is no need to keep the large trays of card index files.

Paul also reminded the meeting that our new system for people wanting to **claim record certificates** is now all up and running. Those wishing to claim certificates can do this on line via the website by filling in a form and sending payment, they then receive the certificates in due course.

Other Business:

Steve Gardner informed the meeting that the Virtual lift off in December will be in Steve Angell's name, as a memorial to him. After further discussion Steve is looking into the possibility of a Perpetual Award in Steve's name, to be presented at the Powerlifting Championships each year.

Gary Ell spoke about the MX Category we will be able to use if we are approached by lifters who want to lift but not be identified as Male or Female. The MX category was discussed as to how it would work, and it would appear to be a fairly simple situation. Lifters would lift in that Division and receive awards in that

division too, with new records being set under the MX Category. As per individuals overall scores being arrived at through allowances....if born male the lifter would get the appropriate age allowance, if born female they would be allocated the 33% allowance. This situation has not occurred as yet in IAWA (UK) but if and when it does, we are able to accommodate all lifters as we move forward.

A proposal for a new lift came from Gary Ell to the Committee. The 2 x One Inch Rod Vertical bars Lift. (We already have the 2 x 2 inch rod lift so this addition would seem to be a sensible addition to the listings) The IAWA (UK) Committee agreed to support the Proposal, and the correct order of business is that it will now be passed to the IAWA World Council where it will come up for proposal at the World Championships in USA in October. Steve Gardner will progress this matter to the Worlds IAWA Committee.

Election of Officers:

It was established that all current officers were prepared to stand for re election. It was confirmed there were no other applications for consideration. The Committee was then re-elected en-bloc unanimously.

President and Fixtures Officer: Steve Gardner

Chairman: Steve Andrews (also Perpetual Awards Co-ordinator)

Treasurer: Frank Allen, and Steve Andrews Assistant

Vice President, Membership Secretary and Asst Records Registrar: Paul Barette

Records Registrar and All Round League Co-ordinator: Chris Bass

Drug Testing Officers: Frank Allen and Gary Ell

Disability Liaison Officer: Neil Keddy

Technical Committee: Steve Gardner, Gary Ell & Frank Allen

At 1.09pm there being no other items of business, The President thanked all officers for their hard work and continued efforts on behalf of IAWA(UK) and closed the meeting.