



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

28 November 2021

Regen Centre. Landing Lane, Riccall, York YO19 6PM

In attendance:

Carole O'Neil (Chair), Gemma Surtees (Treasurer), Samantha Cadman (Acting Secretary), James McGill, Richard Caine, Sheridan Wray, Chris Cooper, Simon Green

Apologies for Absence

Joanne Barnes, David O'Brien, Amanda Howes, Matt Dempsey

1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 January 2021 were taken as read.
2. Reports from the Chair and Treasurer were received and approved (see attached).
3. Samantha Cadman was proposed by Gemma Surtees for formal appointment as Secretary of the division. Motion seconded by Richard Caine, and approved.
4. The draft calendar for 2022 had previously been shared with members via the divisional Facebook group, and was approved (subject to any changes needed to avoid clashes with national / international competitions, once confirmed). Despite having been involved in the Exec Committee's decision not to host a Northern Universities event in 2022, James McGill queried this at the AGM. The reasons behind the decision were re-stated, and a post will be made on social media channels to share this with members. **Action: Chair to post on Facebook explaining decision.**
5. Other Federation business was discussed and agreed as follows:
 - a. Competition membership fees to be increased to £31 (inclusive of £1 Paypal fee), with effect from March 2022
 - b. Additional entry fees to be used to fund payment for those who help at competitions. **Action: Treasurer to work up proposals for consideration by Executive Committee**
 - c. Surplus funds in accounts to be used to procure additional equipment for the division to facilitate improved competition date experience for members. **Action: Equipment Manager to cost up proposals for new / replacement equipment, possibly including:**
 - new platform (David O'Brien to be asked to assist with production)
 - new back-boards for platform area
 - Trolley to assist in transporting plates to from storage cupboard to warm-up area



- Shipping container to provide additional storage capacity at Regen Centre (subject to approval from Centre management)
- d. Referees course to be arranged in 2022 for members wishing to train as divisional referees. Course fees to be paid upfront by members to demonstrate their commitment, but reimbursed by division once they have refereed at least two divisional competitions. **Action: Secretary to liaise with Technical Officer(s) to arrange, and communicate plans to members.**
- e. Short training session on spotting / loading skills to be arranged during 2022 to provide support for members wishing to step up and help the division. Sheridan Wray kindly offered to create course outline. Possibly pair with equipped lifting taster session for members wishing to try equipment for the first time. **Action: Secretary to liaise with Sheridan to make arrangements.**
- f. Alex Macaulay to be invited to join Executive team as co-opted member, in new position of “Livestream Officer”. He has already done some great work on improving our livestream offering, and can now build on this and train others. **Action: Chair to invite Alex to join the team.**

6. Post-Meeting Notes

Two late motions were received for submission to the British Powerlifting AGM, as follows:

- Request a formal written commitment from British Powerlifting that any requests for divisions to host national competitions are made formally through the elected executive teams of those divisions. Record that, where the request is not made through these elected channels, the divisions have no obligation to provide support for the event (including by providing referees, platform crews and/or table staff).
- Consider offering financial compensation to divisions which agree to host national competitions, to cover costs associated with providing the venue, table staff, platform crews and set-up / tear-down teams.

Carole O’Neil has resigned as Chair of the Division with immediate effect, primarily due to a series of incidents in which the collective efforts of the elected Executive team have been undermined by the activities of specific long-standing unelected members, with the knowledge and implicit consent of British Powerlifting. These members have previously committed the division to hosting a national championship without the consent of the Executive team, and have done so again in relation to the 2022 British Junior Championships. The elected Executive team wishes to put on record its concerns over the ability of the division to host a successful event and, in particular, to provide the number of platform helpers that would be necessary to keep lifters safe.

The unelected members referred to above have also made unsubstantiated allegations of nepotism against the Chair and the elected team, which are strenuously denied.



Work is ongoing to handover outstanding matters in relation to the 2022 competition calendar to the Secretary and the wider Executive team.



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Chair's Report

As I approach the end of my first year as Chair of the Federation, I've been reflecting on the highs and lows of the past 12 months.

There have been many positives. It has been fantastic to see competitions starting up again at a divisional, national and international level, after what felt like a very long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Once restrictions in England were lifted, we set an ambitious competition schedule for the division for the second half of the year, in an effort to give as many of our members as possible the opportunity to get back on the platform and compete. There was a lot to get our heads around; many of us were fairly new to the Exec, and we also had to think through what additional measures needed to be in place to keep people safe whilst Covid was still circulating in our communities. I am pleased to say that we were able to host over 200 lifters (out of a total membership of c260 people) across four competitions in the period June to November, including many people who were making their competitive debut. We saw some fantastic performances, with some of our lifters going on to compete at national and international events. It was also great to see so many of our newer members stepping up to help the division by offering their services to help set-up and tear-down competitions, help on the platform and on the table, and assist with live-streaming our events. Thank you to everyone who has helped out at a competition this year in any way – we can't do any of this without you!

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the rest of the Executive team for their continued hard work and commitment throughout the year. I am embarrassed to admit that, until I joined the Exec at the beginning of this year, I had no idea how much work this small team of people put in behind the scenes to stage our divisional competitions. Everyone on the Exec has a day-job, family commitments and their own training schedule to fit in as well as their role in the YNE, and I'm constantly amazed by how they all manage to keep all the plates spinning and a smile on their faces!

Whilst I'm in "thank you" mode, I'd also like to thank our team of referees, some of whom show up at competition after competition, putting in long days to ensure that our lifters are treated fairly and consistently. We are lucky to have a large pool of referees in our region, and I've heard it said that our lifters are amongst the most well-prepared in the country when it comes to national competitions. The quality of the refereeing at our divisional competitions plays a huge role in this.

As well as our divisional competitions, we also hosted the British Juniors in Ashington in October. Jim and Fred have, for many years, been passionate about developing young powerlifters to safeguard the future of our sport in the region, and so it was fantastic to welcome so many talented young lifters back to the North East for a national championship.

We have set our provisional competition schedule for 2022, and have shared this with members via our private Facebook group. Please note that this is still a **draft** calendar at the time of writing, as we await confirmation of the national competition schedule for next year. We may have to change some of our dates, or move events between the allocated slots once we have clarity on this, in order to allow as many people as possible to qualify for their national events, so please keep an eye on our social media channels and the website for any changes, and for confirmation of plans for next year.



Gemma will report separately on our finances, but I am pleased to say that we are in good shape financially. We are fortunate to have two excellent venues for our competitions in the Regen Centre and the Hirst Welfare Centre, both of whom allow us to use their space at very modest cost, as well as storing our equipment in a cost-effective way. We have had some feedback from some of our members that city-centre venues would be easier for some of our lifters to access. The cost of some of these venues, together with the logistics associated with moving the huge amounts of equipment that we need to stage our competitions mean that we are likely to continue to use the venues with whom we have established relationships for the foreseeable future. Following a survey of members of earlier this year, next year's competitions will be split more evenly between the northern half of our region (Hirst) and the southern half (Regen), which we hope will give members more choice over where they wish to compete.

As always, our biggest challenge when it comes to our competition schedule is getting the help we need to make competitions run quickly, efficiently and (most importantly) safely. It takes a lot of pairs of hands to deliver the fantastic set-up that we have for our competitions, and to keep our lifters safe on the platform on competition day. Every time we host a competition, we find ourselves short of help and there have been at least two competitions this year where we have come close to having to call the event off due to not having enough people to run them safely. If you haven't already helped out at a competition (or even if you have), please consider doing so next year. We will provide plenty of support to anyone who hasn't done it before, and it's a great opportunity to show your support for your fellow lifters in our YNE community. We've also (thanks to Becky Martin) got some rather fabulous new YNE T-Shirts for the year ahead, and we're looking at providing a free shirt to those who help out at a competition.

Before I hand over to Gemma, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all of our members all the best for the forthcoming festive season, and a healthy, safe and prosperous 2022.

Signed:

Carole O'Neil
Chair
28 November 2021



Treasurer's report 2020/21

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I PRESENT MY REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020.

CASH

As at the 31 December 2020 the federation had net Members funds of £ 7,297. This compares favourably to funds at 31 December 2019 of £4,398.

INCOME

During the year our Income streams were limited due to the Covid pandemic outbreak with only two divisional competitions which took place in the first quarter of the year. We hosted the National women's British but this is funded through British Powerlifting so no income or expenditure has been recognised. Total income for the year was £6,305. This comprised:

- Competition entry fees - £1,464
- Membership rebate- £4,841

with merchandise sales income and club affiliation fees making up the remainder.

EXPENDITURE

Our expenditure for the year was £3,481. The main areas of expenditure were as follows:

- Competition expenses - £2,175
- Reimbursement of expenses to officials and volunteers - £588
- Merchandise purchases - £403
- Other expenses (website etc) - £315

OVERALL SURPLUS

The division made a net deficit on competitions in the year of £710. However, there was an overall surplus of £2,824 following the rebate from British Powerlifting.

The Financial statements for the year (2020) will be made available at the AGM which will show the detailed Income and Expenditure account in full.

2021 update

At the date of the AGM the bank balance was just over £11,000. The division received £2,520 from British Powerlifting during the year in respect of the membership rebate. This was lower than in the previous year as a result of lower membership numbers in 2020 compared to membership in 2019. The division has hosted 4 competitions during the year, the results of which are still being analysed.

GEMMA SURTEES FCA