**GPC EUROPEAN AGM**

**Thursday 11th June, 8pm – Winter Gardens, Eastbourne, UK**

**MINUTES**

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
2. **In Attendance:** GPC Board Members: Lee Marshall, Frank McGivney, Ger McNamara, Jan Matej, Anita Mahony (one vote each) GPC National Reps from Finland, GB, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, France, Ireland, Serbia and Slovenia (one vote each) *There were 15 votes available* General GPC Members from a number of nations.
3. **Apologies for Absence**

Jean Marc Chenin, France

1. **Minutes from the 2014 European AGM**

These were not read as had been distributed prior to the meeting. There were no matters arising

1. **Board Members Presentations**

The President Lee Marshall thanked the Scott Halliday, the organiser of these Europeans Championships, and his team, for a fantastic competition with everything required – good loaders, equipment etc

The European Vice President Jan Matej gave an evaluation report of activities within Europe in 2014 – with 21 countries affiliated to GPC Europe, an increase of two countries. He also gave a statistical report on the 2015 European Championships held in Trutnov, Czech Republic and indicated that there were also two other GPC cross nation championships – The Karphatian Cup and the Balkan Cup. Almost 700 athletes from 20 nations competed in these three championships.

474 lifters from 19 countries competed at the European Championships from 19 countries. The championships were well organised by Libor Hurdalek & the event ran smoothly and for this he thanked Libor.

The Balkan Cup was held in Knjazevac Serbia in March and had 106 lifters from four countries

The Inaugural Carphatian Cup was held in Bardejov Slovakia in October and had 118 participants from 6 countries. Lee Marshall attended and lifters had the opportunity to break World & European records.

The Treasurer Frank McGivney indicated that the GPC is in a strong financial position at the moment as the GPC has been progressing with more nations joining and more lifters competing internationally. With more lifters competing, new financial measures will have to be brought in in order to be able to pay referees a contribution for their efforts. He also encouraged nations to inform him of any changes of personnel within their national federations so that the correct person receives the invoice for the annual affiliation fee in January each year.

The Technical Officer, Ger McNamara reported that the equipment at this European championships was fantastic and met all requirements. However, he had been keeping an eye on the personal equipment of lifters and had picked up a number of lifters with 3 metre wraps and tight cycling shorts under their leotards and that he would be carrying out such kit inspection at the World Championships in Las Vegas. He also praised Lee Marshall for being a top class President and for his efforts to make the GPC the best Powerlifting Federation in the world.

1. **Balkan President Selection**

The GPC Board had decided at their meeting that as there is a European Vice President, the position of Balkan President was superfluous.

1. **Items from GPC Board Meeting**

Some items from the GPC Board Meeting will be put on the Agenda for the GPC World AGM as all nations need to have the opportunity to vote on items which may affect them.

1. **Bids from European Championships Prospective Host Countries**

Poland and Finland had both submitted bids to host the 2016 & 2017 European Championships.

Franciszek Szabluk from Poland withdrew its bid prior to making a presentation and indicated that it wished only to be considered for the 2017 European Championships. It was unanimously agreed that Poland would host the 2017 European Championships.

Johannes Impio presented the bid from the Finnish Powerlifting Organisation/Arctic Power Team for the European Championships in Roviniemi, Finland. He had a powerpoint presentation and some leaflets on the area. Roviniemi is situated in the Arctic Circle (8 hours on a train from Hensinki) but there are 2 airlines and four flights daily from Helsinki to Rovaniemi which are cheap if booked well in advance. The Venue has been used for Weightlifting World Championships and there are 5000 kgs in Eliko weights and 4 monolifts in the area (15 in Finland). There are 40 hotel rooms and some cottages at the venue itself and 2000 hotel rooms to suit all budgets in Rovaniemi. There are 3 gyms and 3 restaurants at the venue. He will be in talks with local companies for special deals and plans to co-opt people to transport people from Rovaniemi city centre to the venue. Johannes had provisional dates booked to be confirmed if the championship bid was successful.

It was decided that Finland will host the 2016 European Championships in Rovaniemi. (Dates have been confirmed for 5th-11th June 2016)

1. **Any Other Business**
2. Scott Halliday indicated that in organising these championships, it had been a nightmare dealing with & trying to trace entry fees from individual lifters. He suggested that a motion be put to the World AGM that nations, as well as submitted the team list, must be responsible for making the fund transfer for the entire team also. Frank McGivney offered to put this motion together and submit it for the World AGM.
3. Scott Halliday also suggested that the fees be paid in the currency of the host nation as he lost a lot of money on exchange rates. Frank McGivney suggested instead that organisers set up a Euro bank account as the GPC currency is in Euro and fees are determined in Euros. It was just unfortunate for Scott that Sterling was currently fluctuating strongly against the Euro.
4. Scott Halliday took the opportunity to thank the GPC Secretary Anita Mahony for her assistance and advice with all the work in the preparations for the European Championship and during the event also.
5. Hanne Bingle expressed her satisfaction that women felt very much included in the GPC and in these European Championships and in addition she thanked Tania George for all her work in promoting Powerlifting amongst women.
6. The Serbian delegation indicated the Livestream should be provided free of charge so that it could be watched all over the world to promote the sport. No decision could be made on this.
7. Scott Halliday proposed that nobody should be allowed to approach the table personnel during the progress of the competition and that expeditors should be used to bring attempts to the table. This was going to be trialled the next day at the European Championships.
8. The Serbian delegation expressed their disappointment with GPC Record Keeper Tina Gacnik who they claimed, despite being invited, did not attend the Balkan Championships in her role as Record Keeper. Tina responded that she could not attend as she had started a new job. The GPC Board came to her defence and said that she does a fantastic job as Record Keeper and the Serbian complaint was unjustified as Tina had updated the records with the results from the Balkan Championships which was her role with the GPC.
9. **Close of Meeting.**