**GPC – European AGM 2014**

**Hotel Patria, Trutnov, 5th June 2014**

Present: National Voting Reps: Ger McNamara – Ireland, Andy Saunders – GB, Libor Hurdalek – Czech Republic, Johannes Impio – Finland, Tina Gacnik – Slovenia, Milos Cecanovic- Montenegro, Thomas Wagner – Germany, Jean-Marc Chenin – France, Eugene Pavlov – Ukraine, Srdjan Trifunovic – Serbia, Franciszek Szabluk – Poland.

Board Members: Lee Marshall – President, Jan Matej – European Vice President, Brian Johnson – World Vice President, Ger McNamara – Technical Officer, Anita Mahony – Secretary

Apologies: Frank McGivney –Treasurer.

The meeting was opened by European Vice President who welcomed all the participants and nations to the AGM. He thanked the athletes and organisers for the high level of activity at this year’s European Championships in Trutnov as well as thanking Mr. Libor Hurdalek for a great championships.

Board Members Reports

President – Mr Lee Marshall thanked Mr. Hurdalek on behalf of the board for a fantastic championships which had loads of lifters making it very busy but it’s been successful and Libor has a great team behind him including a superb team of loaders which helped the event run efficiently.

European Vice President - Mr Jan Matej made his comprehensive report which highlighted the number of countries in Europe which participated in the GPC in 2013 (19) which was 3 more than 2012. Also individual lifters from 6 countries Bosnia Herzegovina, Spain, Austria, Macedonia, Greece & Armenia participated in international events in 2013.Mr Matej’s statistics indicated that 248 athletes from 21 countries took part in the European Championships in Serbia (175 raw, 73 equipped). He reported that the number of raw lifters has increased at every event since raw was introduced in 2010 due to the low cost of raw lifting compared to equipped lifting. For this reason Mr Matej has put forward a motion to increase the number of raw lifting days from 3-4 in future championships.

The Secretary, Anita Mahony gave her report in which she stated that 21 European countries have so far paid affiliation fees this year. Austria is a new affiliate and 2 additional countries had lifters at these European championships. GPC is growing fast in the Eastern European countries, Balkan countries and in the UK. Outside of Europe New Zealand is a new affiliate and Australia continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. The secretary congratulated Mr Hurdalek and his team on the excellent championships currently taking place as well as the very successful World Championships in Hungary and last year’s European Championships in Serbia. She encouraged national federations to encourage their lifters to compete in this year’s world championships in Argentina. She thanked Libor Hurdalek on the superb work he has done on the new GPC website which is very professional, easy to navigate and has lots of relevant information on it. She reported that Peter Tregloan has just resigned last week as Technical Officer due to ill health and on behalf of the Board wished him a speedy and successful recovery. The secretary then highlighted that the position up for election on the GPC Board at the World AGM would be that of secretary and while intending to go forward for the position again, she encouraged others to put their names forward also.

Motions.

1. Mr Matej proposed a new championships on the GPC Calendar of events - The Carphatian Cup which will be a cooperation between four countries – Poland, Czech Republic, Ukraine & Slovakia but to which lifters from other countries are invited to attend. The introduction of this championships was passed unanimously and the first Carphatian Cup will take place in Bardejov at the end of October. World/European records can be broken at this event.
2. Mr Matej proposed that the European championships be increased from 6 days to 7 commencing on a Sunday. Mr Hurdalek stated that it was difficult to predict the numbers and lots of lifters for this event entered after the closing date. The Secretary Anita Mahony highlighted that the list of entries should not be available online prior to the closing The Technical officer Ger McNamara stated that a cutoff of three weeks before a championships should be applied after which no late entries would be accepted. After a long discussion, it was decided that the nation winning the bid would decide on whether it would be a 6 or 7 day event, taking into account the expected number of competitors given factors such as location and popularity of GPC in the neighbouring countries, location of world championships the same year etc. and also that the number of days of the championships and the days for each event must be decided prior to the championships information being distributed.

The next two motions on the agenda referred to Croatia. Srdjan Trifunovic had put forward a motion that the licence for GPC in Croatia be reviewed as Croatia did not participate in Balkan championships or European Championships this year. The second related motion came from Sinisa Knezevic, Croatia requesting that he be granted the GPC licence from Croatia due to the fact that the Croatian Powerlifting Federation, which he had left, now also has the IPF licence which prohibits its members from participating in the GPC. The GPC Licence for 2014 was just paid last week by the Croatian Powerlifting Federation again and was accompanied by a letter from Daniel Skopec indicating that a new person, Ivica Moslavac would now drive the GPC in Croatia for lifters who don’t compete in IPF. After much discussion it was decided that the licence would be awarded to Ivica Moslavac but that the federation would be set up as a different name (perhaps “as a club” like Rhino Powerlifting Club which is the South Africa affiliate due to similar laws in that country) given the fact that only one federation is permitted under Croatian law. The licence in Croatia will however be reviewed at the World AGM in 2015 for 2016 giving the federation time to get GPC up and running in Croatia once more.

**Bids for European Championships 2015.**

No bids had been received prior to the AGM so bids were invited from the federations present. Andy Saunders from GB made the only bid and offered to host the GPC European Championships in Eastbourne which is close to Dover, the channel tunnel and Gatwick airport. The proposed venue is being used in August for the British Championships. This bid was passed unanimously.

No bids for 2016 were received.

**Any Other Business**

1. The Serbian Federation asked if World/European Championships could be broken at the Balkan Championships. He was informed that they could if a Level 1 Referee from the GPC Board was invited to officiate at the event and another international referee was present. These championships will be scheduled in March(powerlifting), November (benchpress) and lifters from nations outside the Balkans may compete as guests if they wish.
2. Mr Hurdalek indicated that with the introduction of single lift deadlifts in GPC events, the lifting schedule needs to be reviewed as many lifters have indicated that they will not compete in deadlift if it is held prior to full powerlifting. It was agreed this will be taken into consideration in the planning of future championships schedules.
3. Mr Hurdalek highlighted that numbers of clicks on the livestream for these championships. In the first three days there had been 5961 visits to the livestream, almost 2000 per day which is very high.
4. The Technical Officer, Ger McNamara reported that the introduction of the start command on the bench this year has proved very effective and it has made it safer for lifters and more professional.
5. Mr Hurdalek thanked the national federations for sending their lifters to these European Championships and the Czech federation are very happy that these nations have taken part in them.

That concluded the matters of the meeting.