



SMPA AGM AGENDA 2022

Date: 4th December 2022

Meeting start time: 12pm

AGM minutes in red.

Attendance:

- David Murray
- Ashraf Alhasan
- Kyran O’Neill
- Daniel Jay
- Lukas Amosovas
- Tzvetelina Tzonova
- Mathew Hallett
- Charlie Knight
- Tom Butts

As General Secretary at the time of the meeting, David Murray was nominated to chair the meeting.

This will be the first time we have tried to run the AGM virtually, so please do bear with any slight issues.

You will have received your reports and the votable motions in advance, and hopefully advised your response. We will allow for discussion on the day but given the format of the even it doesn’t favour prolonged discussion / vote counting becomes difficult to verify in comparison to a live event, hence the request to vote in advance.

As per the EPA bylaws the AGM must have a minimum of 4 persons to be quorate, failure to meet the minimum will require a rescheduling of the event.

Opening:

Summary of reports to be delivered to AGM

Vote to accept the reports. Agreed.

Structural motions:

1A. Change of executive structure

This is a requirement to be compliant with the bylaws of the EPA under which SMPA operates. Please see the attached organigram for a visual representation of the new council. Agreed.

1B. Addition of welfare officer into the executive.

This is required by BP to be actioned by the end of 2023 for Sport England compliance. To also review the delegation of these responsibilities and nomination of a welfare officer at every SMPA event going forward. The exec to liaise with the EPA / BP to understand the scope of the role / training and requirements. It would be prudent to assume that any officer would need to be DBS checked. Agreed. Welfare Officer to be made a non-executive position within South Midlands Powerlifting Association. Acknowledgement that the position is currently vacant.

1C vote for positions.

Currently no roles are contested, and we have the below nominations for roles to be taken up (based on the new structure)

President: - no nomination

Dean Bowring nominated as President. Agreed.

Chairman: - Ashraf Alhasan

Agreed.

General Secretary: - Kyran O'Neill

Agreed.

Communications & social media: - Lukas Amosovas

Lukas withdrew his nomination.

Tzvetelina Tzonova nominated herself to position. Agreed.

Treasurer: - no nomination

Berkshire rep:- Charlie Knight

Agreed.

Hampshire rep:- Dave Murray

Agreed.

Isle of Wight rep:- no nomination

Oxfordshire rep:- no nomination

Buckinghamshire rep:- no nomination

Discussions highlighted the need for a further Executive member to act as University Representative, operating as a coordinator for all University Powerlifting Club Presidents within the Division.

Lukas Amosovas nominated himself to this position. Agreed.

Discussions re vacant Treasurer position: this will likely be picked back up by David Murray subject to further discussions regarding setting up a club bank account to maximise accountability and transparency of the Division's finances.

Other votable motions:

2A:

I would also like to submit a motion for better comms across the SM division. Doing everything via Facebook is sub optimal at best being that many lifters aren't on Facebook, and the ones that are often don't see the updates unless they go hunting for them. I propose a monthly newsletter via mailchimp or similar platform, which could house all info of upcoming events, a couple of stories from lifters in the division and such like.

Discussion centred around the workload this would entail. New Communications & Social Media Secretary agreed to the motion in principle as it would fall within this member's remit. Agreed.

2B:

In keeping with the Sport England requirements for proven welfare of members, referees in the division should be subject to a DBS check. This should be co-ordinated with the EPA / BP to ensure that this is done in accordance with current strategies, utilising any existing commercial links for DBS checks (economies of scale). It is proposed that the Division rather than the individual pick up the cost.

Robust discussion on this point regarding the implications of this motion being agreed by the Division. Several points raised:

- a. Referees hold British Powerlifting qualifications, not South Midlands qualifications, so if a referee 'fails' a DBS check (i.e. the check highlights something unsuitable for their role as a referee), it cannot be down the South Midlands division to strip the referee of their British Powerlifting qualification.
- b. If South Midlands division decides that a referee has 'failed' their DBS check and therefore decides not to allow this referee to officiate at South Midlands competitions, this referee could still go and try their luck in another division which may have different standards. Members feel this should be coordinated on a national level.
- c. As the referee qualification is a national qualification allowing referees to officiate at competitions all across the country, members feel that British Powerlifting should bare responsibility for the cost of the DBS checks.

- d. Unclear as to what is the protocol should a referee refuse a DBS check. South Midlands division feels it would not have the power to strip this person of their national qualification in such a situation.

Members agreed in principle that referees should be subject to DBS checks due to their position of responsibility, but that more information is required from English Powerlifting Association and/or British Powerlifting as to where responsibility for this requirement lies. Chairman/EPA point of contact to find out more from BP/EPA. Overall position: agreed.

2C:

To have the divisional contact for the EPA changed to the new voted in Chairman, to help ensure that communications are passed through and actioned by the executive. Agreed.

AOB

1. SMPA website. Further to the discussion on improving comms in motion 2A, discussion as to whether a new website and website manager is necessary. Acknowledged excellent work of current website manager but who is no longer involved in powerlifting and may not have the free time to implement the above motion.

Conclusion: awaiting review of finances when single Division bank account is set up and Treasurer role is filled. To be picked back up.

2. Discussion of distribution of the Division's kit, specifically the requirement of an Eleiko combination rack to be kept at Barbell Division due to the large number of competitions run there, saving them needing to collect a rack from Gosport each time. Current position is that two Eleiko racks belonging to the Division are kept in Gosport where a similar number of competitions are run. Members present agreed it makes sense to have one Eleiko rack in Gosport and one at Barbell Division. SMPA inventory to be updated as and when change is made.
3. Increasing support from spotters, loaders & referees at divisional competitions. Discussion as to whether people who have helped out at a competition can have discounted, e.g. half price entry to a future competition within a reasonable time period. Members present generally supportive. Details to be worked out in discussions with regular divisional competition hosts (mostly gym owners).
4. Discussion of possible annual competitions:
 - a. South Midlands University Championships (following on from the successful competition on 26/11/22). Discussion centred around encouraging students to get involved in helping out at competitions as well as lifting. University Representative to coordinate with university powerlifting club's within the division to consider this as a regular competition going forward. An important point raised by members

present is that this should not take away from the amount of competitions available to non-university SMPA members.

- b. South Midlands Counties Championships. I.e. Buckinghamshire v Oxfordshire v Berkshire v Hampshire v Isle of Wight. Members liked the idea in principle but would require more engagement within the division outside of Hampshire & Berkshire. To be considered going forward.
- c. Competition between gym teams, e.g. Fitness24, Red Beard Barbell, Barbell Division, Elite Bodyworks. Possibly an idea for an informal competition just for fun. To be discussed further.