

NC Bulletin (No.54) – Aug 14

Dear NC Members

We are now all over half of the year gone and we look forward to the last of the main international events in the next few months. It is good to see a number of divisional events coming along and the amount we have is subject to part of this ballot.



Drugs' testing is at an all time high with the majority of divisional events also conducting testing. This does however increase costs for the organisation and if we wish to continue or even conduct additional testing we must consider how we are to pay for all of this as the current funding methods will not last indefinitely without bolstering the funds.

I am currently in negotiation with an Insurance company to provide a degree of cover for both the BDFPA and individuals that will be part of the membership fee. This has progressed and we await the final quote but in essence when you join the BDFPA you will also receive a set level of personal accident cover for any BDFPA event and the organization itself will have an increased level of indemnity insurance for all those who run or assist in the organisation of the BDFPA.

We are currently sitting well above 500 members and it is testament to all you out there that we continue to grow each year, long may it continue.

The BDFPA still requires a Raw Power editor and I ask all NC members to consider if they know an individual who may wish to be considered for the roll along with the vacant Drugs Control Officer, currently filled by the president, these positions have had some interest and once working commitments have been addressed I am confident we will see some new NC members both in these areas and divisional reps.

So that you are all aware I have applied for the position of Vice-President of the WDFPF, this will not affect any of my duties within the BDFPA and is subject to vote at Moldova.

Yours in Drug Free Powerlifting.

Neil Thomas MBE
President BDFPA

Could you please be prompt in returning your ballots!

Any reps who will be organising competitions to let Pat Reeves (as the temporary Permit Secretary) know about your event ASAP. This ensures that the BDFPA rules are followed and website is updated.

**POSTAL/E-MAIL VOTING RETURNS - NC Elections and Other Business
(Yes/no/abstain – total votes available, but excluding President's vote – which is a deciding vote only)**

New Business

Membership fees

Background:

The BDFPA has not raised its membership fees for a number of years now and it is time we address our current desire to undertake more testing with the need to increase funds to meet these additional costs.

I have calculated that if we increase membership fees by £2.50 at each level we will still be the best value for money and will have an additional £1250.00 based on this years number to undertake drugs testing.

The NC is requested to vote on the increase in membership fees to be applicable from Jan 2015

Regional Competitions:

There are a number of divisions that are currently finding it hard to hold events and therefore allow lifters to qualify for National and International competitions. In order to allow for greater opportunity to lift and meet qualification requirements it has been suggested that there are regional competitions held that will allow lifters from any division the opportunity to participate in lieu of their own divisional. These will be on an open basis, as in any lifter from any division may lift and will count as qualifying events for national Championships. There will be 3 annotated regions:

Scotland and border counties

Midlands

South and London

The NC is requested to vote on the formation of regional level events as named previously.

Awarding of record Appeal

Joe Webb has had a record declined as he was not a member for 3 months prior to breaking a national Record. Until Ballot 53 the 3 month rule was implied and as such we needed to vote to have it implemented. Although Joe does not fall into this category his situation is one where he has a postion to ack the NC to award his record based on:

Joe Webb had been a member of the BDFPA previously for a number of years. In 2013 he took a gap year from school in order to travel to Australia and as such he was not resident in the UK and could not join the ADFPA as he was not resident there either. As he had not been a member for a year when he rejoined, at the start of the 2014 membership year he was classed as a new member. He has sent me a letter of appeal regarding the matter and I consider his case to be valid in that:

He was unable to join the BDFPA as he was away.

He joined close to the beginning of the membership year having returned from Australia.

He had been a previous member of the BDFPA of good standing and dedicated resolve.

It is my opinion that had he not been in Australia he would have been a member in the last 12 months therefore meeting all the requirements and having rejoined as soon as he could he has done all he can to show his dedication to drugs free sport and the ethos of the BDFPA. In doing so I am content that his record should stand and he not be classed as a new member as he was unable to meet the membership requirements due to long term travel.

The NC is requested to vote whether or not Joe Webb should be awarded his national recorded based on the previous implied criteria and his personal circumstances balanced with his pervious dedication to the BDFPA

Suspended animation membership:

In light of the Joe Webb issue it is motioned that the NC consider the opportunity for individual to put their membership into suspended animation if they are set to be away for long periods of time. This would be achieved by the member submitting a written explanation of what they are doing and why they should be considered for suspended animation of membership. The member would receive no refund of current years dues and on return would be expected to pay the membership rate for the year they rejoin as per normal membership renewal, what it would allow is for a data base of individuals to be held by the Sec or Pres that would retain their member status as opposed to having to rejoin as a new members.

The NC is requested to vote on the administrative ability for members to be able to declare their absence for protracted periods time, agreed in writing by the Gen Sec or Pres of the BDFPA, in order not to be classed as new members on their return recognizing the fact they must make every effort to rejoin the organization soon after return to the UK.

New NC members:

The below individuals have expressed an interest in being elected to the National Council for the areas indicated:

Megan Batchelor – SC

Matthew Bolton and Brett Le Cras – SC – as a joint NC Rep

Dominic Banks – NE.

Ballot 53 Results;

	Item	Vote: Y/N/Ab
1	<p data-bbox="300 412 979 510"><i>There is a minimum 3 month membership requirement in order to set any National records in the BDFPA</i></p> <p data-bbox="300 618 331 645">or</p> <p data-bbox="300 752 932 815">There is no minimum requirement of 3 months in order to set National records in the BDFPA</p> <p data-bbox="300 855 612 882">VOTE FOR ONE ONLY</p>	Carried
2	<p data-bbox="300 927 948 1088"><u><i>The President conduct a full review of the Rulebook removing aspects that are no longer relevant and updating areas that have been superseded external to WDFPF and BDFPA Ballot (eg the WADA List is out of date)</i></u></p>	Carried

Note:

There is now a minimum 3 month membership requirement to set National records. The only exception to this rule is if the National Championships fall within 3 months of the membership start date and the individual joined at the first month of the membership year.

Proposals for Voting – National Council Ballot 54, Aug 14

(Please tick as appropriate and return as soon as possible to Neil Thomas at neil.thomas848@hotmail.co.uk)

NAME.....

	Item	Vote: Y/N/Ab
1	An increase in membership fees from the current rate to £2.50 across all types of membership, less Officials who will still be free membership.	carried
2	The inclusion of 3 Regional Championship events within the BDFPA Calendar that allows individual to enter on an open basis in order to support those divisions that are currently gapped an NC member and those unable to lift at their own divisional event.	carried
3	Joe Webb's statement of appeal for the awarding of his National record. (see next page)	carried
4	The introduction of a system of membership suspended animation to meet long term absence without losing membership seniority.	Carried – to be developed with Pres/Membership and Sec
5	To elect to the National Council for the Southern Counties Division: Megan Batchelor Or Matthew Bolton and Bret Le Cras (joint NC)	Megan
6	To elect to the National Council for the North East Division: Dave heath Or Dominic Banks	Dave

Statement of Appeal by Joe Webb:

Hi Neil,

Thanks for your time on the phone yesterday, I appreciate your role as the BDFPA President may mean your time is limited.

As part of my appeal process I've provided a statement for you to use on my behalf as requested

"As a lifter who first began competing under the BDFPA in 2010, at 15 years of age, and first set National Records in only my second time competing, I feel that I have made it clear that I support the views of the BDFPA and its affiliated federations as far as providing drug free competitors an opportunity to compete against other drug free athletes. I have never competed with any other federations as I wanted to make a point that the BDFPA held true to my moral values

More recently I trained specifically for record beating lifts and competed as a T3 lifter in the All Midlands Championship, and again as a guest lifter at the South West Push/Pull Divisional Competition. The year before I had left the country to go and live with family in Australia. For this reason, I couldn't renew my membership as I left in the first week of 2013 and wasn't sure the exact date of my arrival back to the UK. In the end I returned at the end of the summer. After returning to the UK, I wasn't sure where I would be living or training so I would have been unable to provide a permanent address had I decided to renew my membership anyway. After having resolved these issues I decided in order to give myself the best opportunity to do well in competition I'd need to wait until early 2014 to compete.

I read through the BDFPA Rule book available on the BDFPA website and found no mention of any rules disqualifying me from entry or from recording breaking lifts. I also read through the specific website page and again found nothing to indicate that there were any limitation on me as a competitor. I picked a competition, run by Pat Reeves the secretary of the BDFPA and emailed her in advance explaining that I was just about to renew my membership, but wasn't yet a member. I asked if her competition was suitable for breaking national records and she said yes.

I paid travel costs, entry fees and accommodation fees to travel from where I was living at University in Leeds, to my parents' house, and then down to the competition. On the day, I explained that since I had only just registered I did not have a BDFPA membership card yet, I then explained that I was planning on breaking a national record. Both Pat Reeves and one of the judges approved this and explained to me how to go about doing so. Again, there was no mention of the fact I wasn't eligible to break records being a new member, in fact during one of my lifts I had to wait for the return of one of the judges from the toilet so the requisite three judges were present to validate my record breaking lift.

After the competition I was announced as being a record holder, and I decided to compete again in two weeks to break a single lift record. My father spoke to Pat at the end of the competition where he expressed his surprise at how low profile the record breaking lifts had been, Pat told him that they would be highlighted in the next newsletter. Travelling to my next competition, once again I paid travel costs, entry fees and accommodation fees. It was only upon arrival at this second competition, Simon Mansell's South West Divisional, that I was told about a 3 month rule, and was told that I was being treated as a new lifter because of the fact that my membership hadn't been renewed the year before. This was the first I had heard of such a rule. Despite this I went on to break the single lift bench press record by 2.5kg.

I appreciate that this is not any one particular person's fault, per say, but I feel very let down by the Federation I had supported and competed under from a young age, especially so as I felt that I had done everything I could to properly understand the rules and protocols in setting a record. When I asked Pat Reeves about this situation on the phone, I was simply told that the rule book available is not up to date. I'd particularly like to stress my concern that until the rule book is a definitive place a person can go to in order to understand the rules, this situation could potentially be repeated, and I would hate to see other lifters suffer the same consequences as I have.

I have dedicated myself to drug free powerlifting since an early age, committed myself to the federation in order to champion what we all believe. I am currently studying sports psychology at Leeds University and have a specific interest in strength development and the psychology of successful competitive lifting. I believe that I have the level of commitment and mental and moral attitude required to succeed at a national level in this sport and barring technicalities have demonstrated this now on several occasions. Instead of feeling that the Federation is behind my success and motivating me to reach greater heights, maybe for my region or even my country, I find I am fighting a fog of technicalities from the one body I thought would acknowledge the dedication and effort that my achievements require. I continue to fully support the beliefs of the federation but remain deeply disappointed that all my dedication has not been acknowledged in the way I was led by your most senior judges to believe it would be. I very much hope that you can resolve this situation."

Thanks again, I look forward to hearing the outcome of the appeal.

Joe Webb