

Report from Mark Norton Northern Qualifier - 12th December 2004 - Bentham, North Yorkshire

Once again Bentham Community Centre was the venue for the Northern Qualifier, ten more entries than last year. First up was Helen Isaac lifting unequipped going 9 for 9 an impressive 300kg total and PB's all the way. Five lifters in the 75kg class with local lad Gary Fisher in first place with a gutsy 517.5kg total, second place Dan Orwin a junior with 435kg, 3rd went to Rob Wright at 50 years of age and 4th place 15yr old Ian Cockburn from Scotland with a 300kg total. At 82.5kg Colin Harrison come up trumps with a 527.5kg total, Chris Empson in 2nd place with 440kg and young William Wright being coached by his dad John Wright came 3rd, then at 90kg Bob Cargill lifted alone totalled 440kg, his first full competition, I believe.

Spyros Matsoukis opted to only bench and deadlift with 110kg and 190kg respectively. Four full power event lifters at 100kg, the fourth place went to T3 World Champion Rob Elliott and 3rd place Tony Barker M3 (whilst reffing as well, cheers Tony) with an excellent 555kg total, George Beevers one of the many Bradford University lads, (getting advice from Gerald Pilling) in 2nd spot the total included an excellent 245kg third attempt deadlift. Mike Maloney won the class convincingly, an Olympic lifter of note, high bar squatting 252.5kg, benching 175kg and deadlifting 252.5kg for a 680kg total, he could be a good bet at the unequipped British in May. Eddie Bennett 67 years young deadlifted 200kg at the bodyweight of 91.3kg in the single event and Nigel Faulkner another newcomer benched an impressive 177.5kg at M2, 100kg class.

In the 110kg, Gareth Fender (15years old) in his first contest totalled 287.5kg for second place unequipped whilst the winner was Mike Leadbetter at 53 returning to the platform totalling 555kg, giving him qualification for May, Les Pilling the lone equipped lifter at 110kg class totalled 790kg, now at M3, world class. Brian Beesley easily qualified for single bench with 155kg. In the 125kg class, fifth place went to young Daniel Butterworth, in fourth position John Stokes, M1 with 555kg, third place went to Gerrard Matthews a first time junior lifter, just over the 110kg limit totalled 575kg, I'm sure improvement will come with more experience, second place Chris Baker suffering with a heavy cold easily qualified for the unequipped British. Mark Haydock topped the class with a massive 747.5kg total which included a 310kg British record deadlift. John Wright came along for the bench ending up with a 195kg effort, getting closer to the 200kg mark, finally one lifter in the 145kg class, Andrew Varley, plenty of raw talent accumulating a 605kg first time total. The award for the best lifter went to Mark Haydock and novice award given to Gerrard Matthews, well done.

An excellent contest, well run and enjoyed by a good audience in an ideal venue.