

COMMONWEALTH POWERLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011 - REPORT

After all the uncertainty and hassle earlier in the year I think I can safely say that these championships were an unqualified success. We finished up with 204 lifters from nine countries who entered a total of 269 events. For reasons outside of their control, the teams from Nigeria, Papua New Guinea and Trinidad and Tobago did not compete. Had they done so, we would have had another 12 lifters entering 19 events. It was also unfortunate that we had no lifters from Northern Ireland and only a small team from Scotland.

A considerable amount of effort went into the organisation and planning of these championships and I would like to thank Paul Rees, Fred Sterry, John Halfacre, Doreen Dowsett and Kevin Jane for their invaluable help. In particular, Paul was the local event coordinator responsible for the venue and did a fantastic job liaising with Bournemouth University, local suppliers, traders and organising the platform teams. I am also indebted to the valuable support provided by the EPA President Harry Turner, the SWC Division, the YNE Division and Village Trophies.

Hotel accommodation was a particular challenge, having negotiated good deals with the two hotels we were then faced with handling all the bookings. We had the additional financial risk from no shows, as we had to contract for a certain number of rooms quite early on. However, my wife Carol did a fantastic job sorting all this out and you wouldn't believe the amount of time that was spent reconciling team lists with the hotel etc. Other Parker family members contributed a great deal; Matthew organised the music and national anthems and Becky did a great job marshalling the coach transport as well as being a drug test chaperone.

The lifting itself was of a high standard with numerous Commonwealth records broken, not to mention a good haul of new World and European Masters standards. Each day was jam packed and even though we had planned for it, the late finishes each day meant we were struggling to get back to the hotel before they stopped serving food. The loaders were extremely efficient and several complements have been received on their speed. This was just as well because we were on the limit of the amount of lifting achievable over four days; food for thought for the next championships.

The Championships ended up with a presentation buffet dinner and disco at the Village Hotel with a good turnout. We just about got the best lifter awards sorted in time, although several lifters' were unable to attend and will be presented with theirs at the next suitable event. The South African team demonstrated they could dance as well as they could lift and I was impressed to see big Dean taking the floor.

So that's it for another two years and the CPF look forward to seeing as good a turn out in Auckland, New Zealand in 2013.

Best wishes for 2012 – Richard Parker, Meet Director