

# International Powerlifting Federation

## Regional Reports

Presented at the IPF Congress, Vejle, Denmark  
4 November 2003

### **A. Report from Europe**

#### **General.**

European member federations have this year hosted 4 World Championships, 6 European championships and some international cups. It is a pleasure to see that most federations have gained a lot of good experience and are able to provide high technical standard at their championships.

At the Congress in May new EPF officials were elected and a total revised EPF Constitution and By Laws were accepted. EPF is well organised and prepared to meet the challenges in the years to come.

#### **Members.**

The European Powerlifting Federation (EPF) has 31 (32\*) full and 7 (4\*) provisional member nations. The yearly EPF Congress took part in Sofia, Bulgaria in May with delegates from 18 (15\*) member Nations present plus 5 EC members.

**EPF Hall of Fame** were honoured at the EPF Congress to *Jiri Hofirek, Czech Republic* for his long and very good service to the powerlifting sport as official and *Cecile Jamin, France* for her outstanding lifting and long time active career.

**EPF Powerlifters of the Year** (-2002) were honoured to *Marina Kudinova* from Russia and *Jaroslav Olech, Poland* (top ranked lifters by points).

**EPF Executive members** and officials elected at the Congress this year were: *Arnulf Wahlstrøm, Norway* (Pres.), *Kalevi Sorsa, Finland* (Vice-Pres.), *Heiner Köberich* (Gen. Sec. and Treasurer), *Myriam Busselot, Belgium* (Technical Com. chairm.), *Dietmar Wolf* (Law & Legislation com. chairman), *Pavol Müller, Slovakia* (Finance Com. chairm. & Disciplinary Com. chairm.) and *Detlev Albrings, Germany* (Appeal Com. chairman)

*Jari Tähtinen, Finland* is appointed as Record Registrar and *David Hinchley, GB* is appointed as Internet Officer.

In July Heiner Köberich resigned as Treasurer and Ralph Farquharson, GB was appointed new Treasurer. In August Heiner Köberich resigned from all EPF offices and Ralph Farquharson was appointed new General Secretary and Jiri Hofirek (Czech Rep.) new Competition Secretary.

Heiner Köberich's outstanding work in EPF as General Secretary and Treasurer from 1986 has been of vital importance for building EPF to the high standard it has to day. Heiner Köberich's contribution is highly appreciated and the powerlifting sport owes him a big thank you!

#### **General view of activities.**

The European Region has been active in organising international championships and cups in 2003. This includes 4 out of 7 World Championships, 6 European championships, 3 Nordic championships, Danube Cup and European Union cup. The EU Cup will from 2004 change name to West European Cup as decided by the Congress.

#### **European championships 2003.**

- Senior Europ. Champ.: Sofia, Bulgaria with 90(95\*) lifters from 16(19\*) nations
- Women “ “ Laukaa, Finland (2002) with 59 (52\*) lifters from 13 (12\*) nations
- Junior “ “ Nymburk, Czech. Rep. with 42 (47\*) women and 89 (91\*) men from 17 (19\*) nations.
- Master “ “ Balatonalmadi, Hungary with 41 (16\*) women and 160 (91\*) men from 20 (10\*) nations.
- Benchpr. “ “ Lviv, Ukraine with 51 (72\*) women and 88(99\*) men from 11 (20\*) nations.
- Benchpr. Masters “ Vrsac, Serbia and Montenegro with 19 (40\*) women and 75 (154\*) men from 15 (17\*) nations.

#### **Regional Championships and Cups.**

- *Nordic Championships* were organised by Denmark (juniors and youth), Norway (open men & women) and Finland (bench press).

- Hungary hosted the *Danube Cup* and France the *European Union Cup*.

(\* ) in the text means numbers from year 2002.

*Arnulf Wahlstrøm* , Vice President for Europe

## **B. Report from Africa**

### **Alan Ferguson Vice President Africa**

Another year of frustrations in terms of trying to consolidate and structure African Powerlifting.

I am in contact with 12 African states that have some form of Powerlifting Structure however only three of these namely South African Powerlifting Federation, Nigerian Powerlifting Federation and the Mauritius Powerlifting Federation are actually registered as being official African Powerlifting Federation members.

The other nine countries are in a situation whereby they have indicated an interest however when invited to compete and send entries no further word was heard.

The Ugandan Powerlifting Federation indicated at the end of last year that they might be in a position to host the 2003 All African Championships however due to lack of sponsorship and non communication from them I was forced to abandon the project and turned to the South African Powerlifting Federation to assist and open up their championships to other nations.

The South African Championships took place on the 9th September 2003 opened to all African nations who wished to compete and invitations were sent out accordingly as well as the invitation on the IPF web site.

Unfortunately once again no one bothered to even reply and as a result it turned out to be a totally South African event.

Powerlifting is very alive and well in South Africa and the South African Powerlifting Federation is now the only Powerlifting organization in existence in the Republic after the consolidation of the WPC and IPF factions facilitated by the government at the beginning of 2003.

The SA National Championships saw 85 lifters that qualified to lift in these championships producing some very encouraging results.

25 drug tests were carried out at these championships with not one positive.

I will continue to work towards the unification and consolidation of the sport in Africa over the next year with the hope that communication and commitment from the various countries improve to enable me to do this.

Alan Ferguson

## **C. Report from Asia**

### **1. Championships**

We had the 2003 Asian Powerlifting Championships at Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 30<sup>th</sup> of April to 4<sup>th</sup> of May.

This year, we prepared 5 divisions, such as Sub-Junior, Junior, Senior (Open class), Masters 1, and Masters 2.

Total participants are 220, biggest Asian Powerlifting Championships ever.

Organizer of the Championships was Mr. Sergey Korzof, our vice-president. Hotel was international level, and the venue was wide and beautifully decorated.

Championships it self was very competitive and audience enjoyed hard battle of the each classis. This championship was televised every day and we can see the championship report on the newspaper with colour photos.

### **2. Records**

At the 2003 Asian Powerlifting Championships, 25 women's Asian records were made and 5 women's world records were made. In the men's division, 11 Asian records were made. We did doping test for 15 lifters.

### **3. Members**

This year, we welcome the Mongolian Powerlifting Federation as the provisional members. Now the number of the members of Asian Powerlifting Federation are 18 including provisional members.

### **4. OCA & other organization**

I met the one of the executive member of Olympic Committee of Asia at the Asian Games in Korea. He advised me to contact the General Secretary of OCA, Mr. Singh of India. I wrote the letter that we want to the powerlifting be recognized by OCA. He advised me to send him the activity report of our federation every year. I will keep on sending him our activity and appear the powerlifting in Asian Region.

Chinese Taipei Powerlifting Association suggested me to participate to the GAASF the controlling body of the general sports in Asian Region. I send several letters to the general secretary of GAASF but still got no good reply from him.

General Secretary of Asian Powerlifting Federation  
and Vice President of IPF, Asia  
Susumu Yoshida, 20.09.2003

#### ***D. Report from North America***

This has been an exciting year in the North American Region. We continue to make strides in terms of increasing participation by athletes at World Championships, and we have reinitiated Regional competition via the North American Cup Championships, held this spring.

Athletes from our Caribbean neighbours have returned to IPF competition with a presence of the team for Puerto Rico attending the Women's World Championships held in Chicago, in May. Our friends from the south fielded a number of excellent athletes, and began the process of increasing referee certification in their area. This will be followed up with a formal referees clinic, to be held in September in San Juan in conjunction with their National Championships. Category I referee Robert Keller will travel to this competition, provide a rules clinic, and administer 12 tests to certify Category II referees. Puerto Rico also is planning to offer a regional cup match in the near future, as details work out.

The U.S. was proud to host the first Open World Championships in the U.S. in almost two decades, with the Women's Championships in Chicago. It was well attended, and is a step to bringing back public awareness of the IPF in the North American Region, which began with the 2001 Master's World Championships (Moose Jaw, Canada) and the Master's Bench Press World Championships in 2002 (Killeen, Texas, U.S.A.). We are eagerly anticipating the 2004 World Bench Press Championships, will use the publicity generated from prior international events to build momentum.

The initial IPF North American Cup was held in March in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with attendance by two U.S. teams, and a team from Canada. The team format, with average points for the whole team made for an exciting finish. Robert Keller and his staff, with sponsorship from Inzer Advance Designs, hosted a world class event. This region ends our competitive year with the U.S. Men's National Championships, held in Rapid City, South Dakota, and televised regionally for the first time.

It has been a successful past year, both within the nations of the North American Region, and internationally, with athletes improving their individual and team placings, and greater recruitment of young athletes, and retention of gifted master lifters. We look forward to another successful year.

Larry Maile, IPF Vice President for North America

#### ***E. Region 5 (South America)***

Brief oral report given by Mr. Conrado, who has been confirmed as the IPF Board Member from South America. Mr. Conrado and his colleagues have successfully staged the South American Championships, with plans for the Regional Championships in June 2004 in Uruguay.

#### ***F. Report from Oceania***

##### **Membership**

The following nations have been active, fully paid members of the OPF and IPF in 2003:

Australia  
New Zealand  
Nauru  
Fiji  
Papua New Guinea  
American Samoa  
Tahiti  
Niue  
New Caledonia

Tonga

i.e. Eleven nations. There has also been activity in Cook Islands, Paolu, Northern Marianas and Wallis & Futuna, which can be considered 'provisional members'.

### **Oceania Championships**

Oceania Championships were held in December 2002, at Taurunga, New Zealand. These were most successful with c.60 entrants from six nations. Best lifter was Derek Pomona of New Zealand.

### **Gay Games**

This event was also held at the end of 2002 in Sydney, Australia. The Games Powerlifting event was IPF sanctioned and attracted c.40 lifters. The Gay Games themselves are one of the World's biggest sporting events, with almost 10,000 competitors. One lifter tested positive and was duly suspended by the IPF. However overall Powerlifting made a major impact at this special event.

### **South Pacific Games**

For the first time the South Pacific Games were held with Powerlifting as an official IPF-sanctioned event. The Games are the major sporting event in the Pacific region and were held in July in Suva, Fiji. The Powerlifting event had 44 lifters from 8 nations, with the best performance being 293kg BP by George Lealiifano.

This event had TV coverage and a certain world first, page one headlines in the national newspaper about Powerlifting. Drug testing was conducted by IOC officials, with all 7 tests being negative.

### **Administration**

At the July 2003 General Meeting of the OPF the following committee was elected:

President / Secretary	Robert Wilks (Aust)
Vice-President	Gerry Sannum (NZ)
Treasurer	Steve Lousich (NZ)
Record Keeper	Derek Pomona (NZ)
Committee	Tony Burley (Aust)
	Russel Kun (Nauru)

Robert Wilks.