



GIREVOY SPORT

AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION INC

Incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW)

2014 GSAA : President's Report

Since my last report , the Association has maintained its presence as a representative of the IUKL and a reference point for development of the sport. It is with pleasure that I deliver this report for 2014 , which is my last as I am retiring from the role. In 2007 I fanned the flames of an idea that had brewed in the back of my mind since attending my first official competition in Hamburg , Germany (2006). Whilst this was a veteran's competition, it included some luminaries of the sport including the legendary Fedor Fuglev & world champion Lyubya Cheherapa. As well as a number of crazy GS newbies from around the globe!

I returned inspired , though under no illusion that this was a unique & difficult sport to sell at a time when all coaching information was geared towards "hardstyle" lifting. For me , a man in his 40s occupying a desk for most of the week , my focus was geared towards training and lifting primarily for long term health . Being a competitive person , it was natural to see how my efforts might stack up against others. As the months progressed and my own ability grew exponentially , there seemed to be a groundswell of interest , and perhaps some sympathy for my crazy passion.

So in 2007 I took the plunge , wrote a charter and applied to join what I considered to be the most promising global union – the IUKL. That was the easy part! But now came the often difficult task of encouraging backyard and gym lifters to dip a toe into the pool of competition. Stage fright no doubt paralyses the individual who cannot recognise that the ego is the biggest barrier to performance and progress. Getting others to step out of the comfort zone of traditional sets and reps, high tension lifting and training to the point of failure was a labour of faith.

But over the months a few individuals made that step, and joined and supported our fledging association. We conducted some fabulous regional competitions and a handful of us found ourselves lucky enough (or driven enough) to compete overseas.

By 2009 it became necessary to introduce formal memberships , to provide for sports insurance and manage competition expenses. In 2010 we conducted our first National Championship. 2014 marks the achievement of the fifth consecutive National Championship, contests which have alternated between Sydney & Melbourne.

Various individuals and agencies have provided expertise over the years. Visits from Steve Cotter (IKFF) , Vasily Ginko (IUKL) , Valery Fedorenko (WKC) and Sergey Rudnev/Sergey Raschinskiy (IKSFA) have imparted a wealth of knowledge to athletes and coaches. Furthermore , some of us have travelled overseas for further coaching. And as many have found in the few years , online coaching provides a convenient pathway for managing one's sports career from the comfort of the home !

Thus the Association has gained a solid foundation of ability. As a not-for-profit concern it has relied on volunteers to administer decisions and conduct competitions for the collective benefit. I believe the Association is functioning well as a reference point for kettlebell sport in our country. However , rather than just acting as event director for a National Competition it is imperative that all Australian lifters support the concept of a central sports body. Population-wise we are a small country and to some extent geographically isolated ; state to state and certainly with respect to the nexus of high level lifting – the Northern Hemisphere. This is no different from other sports however , and encouragingly to date , Australians have definitely made their mark in international competition .

The Association needs to oversee more regional competitions e.g. state championships, and continue to encourage development at club level. Judging & ranking has at last reached a level of consistency that should enable athletes to move confidently from competition to competition , perhaps aiming for a position on the GSAA National team.

The 2014 National Championship of Australia is providing opportunities for qualification for the IUKL World Championships in Hamburg , Germany. For me , the circle is now complete and I look forward to handing over the reigns of stewardship to the next group of passionate and committed people. GSAA continues to receive full support of the IUKL , and in Melbourne in December we will be involved in the coordinating of the Stage 6 IUKL World Cup event .

As always I would like to thank my friends and supporters that comprise our committee , most of whom have been involved since the inception. As I have alluded to in previous communications, it is now time for new leadership and new blood to work towards achieving the next level of development of our sport. The past 7 years has been challenging , inspiring & energising. Finally I must sincerely thank all who have supported GSAA – it is your Association , and will become what you want it to be in years to come.

Cheers & Fortitudine Vincimus!
Paul Tucker
August 2014