



GIREVOY SPORT

AUSTRALIA ASSOCIATION INC

Incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW)

President's Annual Address September 2013

Dear committee and members

Again it is with pleasure and pride I submit the summary of the association's progress over the past 12 months. Globally there has been exponential growth in interest in girevoy sport . New associations and unions , new ranking tables , new commercial coaching groups , many competitions – all these point to a healthy future for the sport. There has been an athlete-driven groundswell of support for unification of the various federations and to consolidate rules and ranking systems .

In Australia we have attracted new members who provide the wind in the sails of the Association. Each year a new batch of coaches is minted , and those with prior qualifications upgrade their skills , for the benefit of all. As the sport cannot develop without officials , it is noteworthy to mention IKSFA are conducting a judging certification in Sydney in November. Judging is a tough yet rewarding task requiring great concentration and commitment to the firm but fair principle. The credibility of competitions , and the results therein is dependent upon the credibility of judges. I encourage all who are currently , or plan to be involved in the conduct of contests to acquire formal qualifications in this regard.

2013 marks the 4th financial year of GSAA and the 4th National Championship. December 2013 was the date of the last national contest (Hosted by Jad Marinovic of Kettlebell Athletica gym , Melbourne) ; it was very well attended (over 30) and novices and experienced athletes were in attendance. In May 2013 the first Sydney Open competition was staged at Primal NRG gym , another successful event notable for the performance of Antoni Stojak , Australia's first male Master of Sports (IKSFA ranking , biathlon , 32kg). His achievement was judged by Sergey Rudnev and marked 3 years of committed progressive training. Well done indeed and a great inspiration to all lifters. Thanks to Mick Valentine and Tarek Chouja (Primal NRG) for organising this contest.

June marked the inaugural Tasmanian Open , with 10 competitors aged 14-50 including 4 interstate athletes. This was the first venture for the newly formed Kettlebell Sport Tasmania , a state branch of GSAA.

This year's nationals were flagged as a qualifying event for the IUKL world championships in November . After considerable discussion amongst committee members it was decided to limit entrants to those using KB weights that reflected high amateur and professional ability. Given IUKL currently offers snatch only for women , an additional decision was made to offer both IUKL and IKSFA rankings. This is to encourage maximal participation of our best lifters.

In future years we may again allow novices , though we are potentially limited by the chosen venue and number of officials . Ideally , and as is done in all other sports , novices should compete at regional and state level and graduate to the national standard via a progressive competition pathway.

Coaches and members are again urged to cooperate and form clubs and to conduct regional competitions in 2014. I would like to see state open championships conducted prior to our national championship.

Association matters

I would like to thank Vlad Rakic for revamping our membership system . Memberships allow the association to function through accrual of funds which pay comprehensive insurance , Association fees, IUKL fees and competition expenses such as banners , medals and certificates. Vlad has worked closely with our loyal treasurer Sofia Lowe and without their input my work would have been impossible! Our committee meets via Facebook , which given our geographical dispersal seems to be the most workable means of communication. As always we encourage submission of new ideas , either for discussion on facebook or via committee members . If you have something to contribute we would love your nomination as a new committee member. If you wish to form a GSAA affiliated club , please contact me for details.

In summary , I thank you all for your interest , enthusiasm and contributions. Let's really get our act together in 2014 and pursue the lofty goals of kettlebell sport development in all states at all levels.

I look forward to meet old friends and making new ones at upcoming events . Well done to all coaches and athletes , your goodwill and support of the Association is much appreciated.

All the best & as always , Fortitudine Vincimus!

**Paul Tucker
GSAA president**