



President's Report 2014-2015

Welcome to our GSAA Annual General Meeting. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to be a part of this AGM meeting.

It is my pleasure to present my first Girevoy Sport Australia Association AGM President's Report for 2015, since being elected as President on 12th of October 2014. It's an honour to be President of 'Girevoy Sport Australia Association', and the Australian Representative of the International Union of Kettlebell Lifting(IUKL).

In 2014 the Girevoy Sport Australia Association Committee experienced significant changes, which made it a very challenging year for GSAA.

Paul Tucker, founder of GSAA, officially resigned as President and IUKL Australia Representative after seven years, along with several committee members at the 2014 GSAA National Championship AGM in Melbourne held at Kettlebell Athletica on 31st August 2014. This has been the biggest challenge for GSAA. Although we are making progress in some areas, we still have a lot of work ahead of us working together as a team to grow the sport in Australia.

Outlined below is a summary of the year 2014/2015 which includes some of our major changes and achievements over the months.

New GSAA Committee and IUKL Representative

On the 12th October GSAA officially announced the new GSAA President, Jad Marinovic, who was elected by all GSAA members; and on the 14th October, the new GSAA Committee was announced. New GSAA Committee members are: President, Jad Marinovic; Vice President, Scott Carroll; Secretary, Roger Saheli; Treasurer, Rebecca Dakers-Carroll; Membership Officer, Claire Maidment; Records Officer, Debora Gallo; IT/Website Officer, Doug Kelly; Events Co-ordinator, Jessica Pumpa; and Girevoy Sport Science Advisor, James Ross.

Following the 2014 AGM we received nominations for all but one position on the Committee, which was the compulsory role of the Public Officer which needs to be in NSW. On the 4th December one of the former Committee members, Vladimir Rakic nominated himself as Public Officer, committing for one year only.

We must thank the resigning Committee members: Public Officer, Vladimir Rakic; Records Officer, Debora Gallo; and IT Support, Doug Kelly, for all their input and support.

Paul Tucker announced in September, on behalf of IUKL, the new IUKL representative Jad Marinovic.

There are three current positions vacant including: Public Officer, IT Support, and Records Officer.

Following the announcement of the new Committee on 14th October, the main focus of 2014 was for all new Committee members to become familiar, with their new roles by liaising with former Committee members; with rules & ranking systems; and with existing structure of the GSAA Constitution document -- Team Australia competing in the IUKL World Championship in November, and support the 1st IUKL World Cup / KBA WGP event, which was held mid December in Melbourne hosted by Kettlebell Athletica in conjunction with GSAA.

In 2015 in addition to the compulsory AGM the new Committee kicked off the new year having an online meeting on the 1st Feb via Google Hangout. Also an article about GSAA, and kettlebell sport in Australia, by Jad Marinovic, was featured in the fourth issue of the American 'GS Planet' magazine. Three GSA competitions were scheduled in 2015 for July, August and December, plus additional competitions were organised by Committee members around Australia to further promote the sport of kettlebell lifting.

Membership

At the end of the financial year we had 14 members, however this is due to GSAA scheduling competitions in the second half of 2015, which is when members renew their membership. To date we have had old members renew their membership, and also new members join GSAA, following the GSAA Central Victoria Regionals in July and GSAA National Championship in August. We are also expecting more members to join in December at the IUKL World Cup and GSAA Melbourne Regional Championship which will be included in the next AGM report.

Financial / Treasurer Report

Both competitions registrations and membership renewals provided enough funds to cover our basic expenses which include renewing the IUKL membership, Sports Insurance, plus competition expenses. Refer to Treasurer's Report for more details.

GSAA : e-Communications / Marketing

A new GSAA/IUKL fan page was created for the 'public' to promote competitions, GSA Member Athletes, Coaches and students, GSA clubs, Education, Picture & Video gallery, GSA Member blogs, and to promote Team Australia athletes, etc.

The current GSAA Members page was changed from a 'Public' to 'Closed' group for current GSAA financial members only, as of Thursday 25th September. The current GSAA Members page was also setup to be the GSAA internet forum and/or message board.

New Girevoy Sport Australia Committee Members

A group was created for GSAA Committee members for online discussions.

GSAA: Google Hangout

Google Hangout was introduced for Committee members to have online GSAA meetings in addition to the compulsory AGM.

Education / International GS Coach Certifications

The list of Kettlebell Sport Certifications, Workshops & training days in Australia in 2014-2015 have included IKSA, IKSFA, KETAcademy, and Laboratory of Champions, as well as training days learning from World champions including Anton Anasenko, Sergey Rachinskiy, Sergey Rudnev, and Vasily Ginko just to name a few.

2014 GS Competitions & Event

The 2014 Girevoy Sport Australia Association National Championship

On the 31st August 2014 the GSAA/IUKL 'Girevoy Sport Australia Association' National Championship was hosted in Melbourne, at Kettlebell Athletica, in coordination with GSAA, and it marked a successful competition day for the sport of kettlebell lifting. The Girevoy Sport Australia Association (GSAA) is affiliated with the IUKL "International Union of Kettlebell Lifting" so this competition was also the IUKL World Championship Team Australia qualification event to compete at the 2014 IUKL World Championship. Athletes could compete under the IUKL Ranking Table or AKA/IKSFA/IUKL Ranking Table. The competition had 3 divisions which included Professional, Amateur and

Beginners. Events included the Biathlon, LC and Snatch Only.

This kettlebell sport meeting had 15 lifters on the day, and there was also an international participant, who was Claire Maidment who joined us from Ireland. The following athletes also qualified to get on Team Australia to compete at the IUKL World Championships: **Pro Division:** James Ross, Jad Marinovic, Claire Maidment; **Amateur Division:** Jessica Pumpa, Jason Crook, Scott Carroll, Roger Saheli, Kristian Karlson and Doug Kelly; Daniel Hutchinson also qualified to get on the Team Australia competing in Russia at the IUKL World Cup. Claire Maidment and Jessica Pumpa represented Team Australia at the IUKL World Championship, held in Hamburg Germany on November 20-24th achieving outstanding results.

The IUKL World Cup Stage 6 & Melbourne Kettlebell Athletica Championship, World Grand Prix Series Australia leg, 14th December 2014.

There were two different competitions held on the 14th of December. The GSAA/IUKL World cup Stage 6 & KBA/World Grand Prix Series Australia leg. We had lifters from all over Australia as well as international athletes Michelle Byczkow and Heath Bowman from New Zealand and Jennifer Tan Hsieh Nee from Singapore, and World champion athletes Anton Anasenko & Sergey Rachinskiy from Russia, who joined us in Melbourne to compete at the World Cup and WGP as well as lifters and teams from around Australia. There were many outstanding performances in all Divisions in both competitions with several ranks achieved including 3 Professional CMS ranks and 4 Amateur CMS ranks. 1st IUKL World Cup Professional Division in Australia professionals: Anton Anasenko, Jadranka Marinovic, and Daniel Hutchinson. IUKL World Cup and Kettlebell Athletica WGP was the first competition in Australia which introduced custom-made timers, made in Russia, and organised by Kettlebell Athletica. These custom-made timers are the same that are used in World Class events around the globe.

In addition to GSAA competitions, GSAA members including three committee members, also hosted other competitions around Australia to grow the sport, including: Kettlebell Garage (Scott Carroll), & Bootcamps Australia (Jessica Pumpa), and two international competitions: Kettlebell Athletica WGP at the Arnold Classic (Jad Marinovic) & IKMF Ultimate Girevik Cup (Hosted by Don Grant & Jad Marinovic).

In addition to date, the GSAA Central Victoria Regional Championship 4th July 2015, and the GSAA National Championship 22nd August 2015, were both a huge success with new lifters joining GSAA.

Upcoming GSAA Competitions -- 2015 2nd IUKL World Cup Stage 6 & GSAA Melbourne Regional Championship 12th December 2015.

GSAA Central Victorian Regional Championship

A huge congratulations to everyone who competed at the GSAA Central Victorian Regional Championship on Saturday 4th July 2015 at 'Rock Hard' hosted by Don Grant, in coordination with GSAA. This competition meet was conducted under the AKA/IUKL/IKSFA Ranking Table. A big thank you to Don Grant and to everyone else who supported this event, and also to Sergey Rudnev from IKSFA, conducting Coach Certification, and providing education for our members.

2015 Girevoy Sport Australia National Championship

A big congratulation to all competitors who achieved outstanding results competing at the 2015 Girevoy Sport Australia 'National Championship', hosted by Scott Carroll at 'The Kettlebell Garage' on 22nd August 2015. This event was also the IUKL World Championship Team Australia qualification event to compete at the 2015 IUKL World Championship in Dublin Ireland on November 25th to 29th 2015. Thank you to Scott Carroll and everyone else who supported this event.

Australian International Representatives / Team Australia

We had six Australian representatives in 2014 competing at international events plus three in 2015 whom have all achieved outstanding results.

2015 Qualified Team Australia Members

Congratulations once again to all the 2015 Girevoy Sport Australia National Championship participants and all members who have qualified to represent Australia at the 2015 IUKL World Championship in Dublin Ireland on 25th to 29th November 2015.

GSAA is formally affiliated with the IUKL (International Union of Kettlebell Lifting). All affiliated members and associations affiliated with the IUKL, and Australian international representatives and guest athletes who have been invited by the IUKL are eligible to compete at the IUKL World Championships.

Professional Division

Kristian Karlsen LC w/c 85 kg, Daniel Hutchinson LC w/c 105 kg, Jessica Wadd Snatch w/c 68 kg qualified at the GSAA Nationals. Jad Marinovic Snatch w/c 58 kg qualified at the IUKL World Cup of Australia. Claire Maidment is also qualifying at the AIKLF Cup of Ireland.

Amateur Division

Steph Jessup Snatch w/c 68 kg, Shannon Pigdon Biathlon w/c 85 kg, Tyrone Johns LC 68 kg, Roger Ruzzier LC w/c 85 kg, Valerie Abbott Snatch w/c 63 kg, Kristina Ramsey Snatch w/c 68 kg, Cheryl Schneider Snatch w/c +68 kg, Kate Kraschnefski Snatch w/c +68 kg.

Veteran Division

Jo Morgan Snatch 50-54 +68 kg w/c at the GSAA Nationals.

The next step is to form the official Team Australia once the athletes who qualified confirm that they are going to represent Australia. The official 2015 Team Australia member list will be posted once everyone has confirmed they are representing Australia at the IUKL World Championship in Dublin Ireland. Registration Closing Date is on Friday 30th October 2015.

Results from the 2015 Girevoy Sport Australian Association competitions will be uploaded on the new GSAA website.

Mr Olympia IUKL World Cup – September 2014

David Tabain returned to the USA for the second time in 2014 time and competed in the AKA/IUKL competition at the 'Mr Olympia' held in Las Vegas, Nevada on 20th September 2014. In the USA, David Tabain also represented Australia, competing at the 2014 'Arnold Classic Pan American Open Championship', in Columbus Ohio, setting a new Pan American Kettlebell Snatch record with 24kg, and David also took 1st place achieving 260 reps.

The IUKL World Championship Nov 2014

Claire Maidment and Jessica Pumpa represented Team Australia at the IUKL World Championship, held in Hamburg Germany on Nov 20-24th achieving outstanding results. Claire Maidment won GOLD performing 185 snatches with 16kg in her age and weight class in the Veteran Division, and she also came 6th competing in the Professional Division achieving 90 reps with 24kg in the +68kg weight class. Jessica Pumpa also competed in her very first international competition, achieving 131 repetitions with 16kg in the Amateur Division.

Finland Kettlebell Competition

Saga Wesman -- The last international representative for 2014 was Saga Wesman who competed in Finland on 20th December 2014 with 1st place, achieving a PB, performing 58 reps with 16kg in Jerk discipline.

'White Nights' St Petersburg International Festival of Kettlebell Sport, May 2014

Daniel Hutchinson & Roger Saheli represented Australia competing in Russia at the St Petersburg International Festival of Kettlebell sport 'White Nights' which included 3 competitions. Daniel Hutchinson competed in the White Nights Festival in 2 competitions: the IUKL World Cup - Stage 3 on 10/05/2014, Professional class +85kg class in long cycle with 32kg performing 45 reps, coming 3rd place; and the 'World Grand Prix' on 11th May in 95kg weight class in Long cycle with 24kg 88reps, coming 2nd place. Roger Saheli competed in the 'World Grand Prix' achieving 36 reps in Long Cycle with 24kg.

Overseas Competitions

In addition, in 2015 to date the following athletes have represented overseas: David Tabain (USA); Jad Marinovic (Belarus); Claire Maidment (Ireland); and David Tabain (USA).

Since 2009 GSAA members have been qualifying to represent Team Australia via our Nationals, plus athletes who have competed in international competitions. This year following our 2015 GSAA National we are expecting to send 11 athletes to compete at the IUKL World Championship.

Records and Results

The complete list of kettlebell sport athletes in Australia, with detailed information including records, results and ranks achieved for professional, amateur and novice lifters, and their coaches, will be published on the new GSAA website, to recognize all athletes in Australia via the results menu and athlete profiles.

GSAA keep a record of all the Australian representatives – athletes who have competed represented Australia internationally. The list has now reached 12 athletes since 2006.

Males (6) Paul Tucker, David Tabain, Roger Saheli, Edward Perrett, Josh Dean and Daniel Hutchinson.

Females (7) Emily Friedel, Jad Marinovic, Natalie Turner, Claire Maidment, Barbie Keller, Jessica Pumpa and Saga Wesman.

Five international representatives to date have also competed in the following World Championships to date. Paul Tucker—IGSF World Championships for Veterans (2006); Emily Friedel--World Kettlebell Championships (2010); David Tabain-- IKFF World Championships (2011); Claire Maidment--IUKL World Championship (2013 & 2014); Jessica Pumpa--IUKL World Championships (2014); Jad Marinovic--IKMF Kettlebell Marathon World Championship (2015).

In 2015 another milestone will be reached in kettlebell sport in Australia, with 11 athletes expected to represent Australia at the IUKL World Championship in 2015 in Dublin.

Conclusion

The year 2014 has been a very busy and challenging year, but everyone's hard work and achievements have been worthwhile, and we can look back on a successful year for kettlebell sport in Australia. This year has been highly successful year, but of course GSAA would benefit more by holding more Regional State competitions, or by affiliation with more clubs.

Thank you to everyone who supported GSAA which include all the committee members, lifters, judges, spectators, GSA members, friends and family. I would also like to especially thank both Sergey Rachinskiy and Anton Anasenko for travelling all the way from Russia to not only compete and help setup and run the competition in December, but also to give us all the opportunity to once again learn from the best so that we can become better lifters and/or coaches!

Kind Regards,



Jad Marinovic, President GSAA, IUKL Representative

27 September 2015

