



OWNZ President's Report, 2015

To all here today I extend a warm welcome. I regret that I am unable to attend due to family reasons.

Successes for 2015

While 2014 was clearly a successful year for NZ Weightlifting - that success clearly evident in both the size of the Commonwealth games Teams and the medals produced. This years' successes have been less conspicuous but equally important in moving our sport forward.

There has been a great deal of activity around the country resulting in strong growth of the number of affiliated lifters and new clubs. At latest count, some 30 clubs were affiliated to OWNZ. These clubs are no longer just located in the traditional Weightlifting centres with fully half the clubs now located outside of Auckland and Christchurch. A glimpse at the Calendar of events, shows an "explosion" in the number of competitions now held across the country and throughout the calendar year. Obviously, that growth has brought not only new lifters to our sport, but also new volunteers, new referees, new officials and supporters. To all who have made that important contribution to our sport in 2015, I offer a much deserved "Thank You" – and ask that you remain enthusiastic and continue to contribute in future years. Without you, there can be no success.

[I should say here that this increase in activity has meant a great deal more work for certain individuals! Ron Mann continues to maintain the records and various databases and I thank him for the seemingly endless hours that he puts into this work.]

At board level, the executive group continue to work in a constructive and purposeful manner to advance the sport. Much work has been done and I thank all board members for their contribution. Perhaps the most significant achievement has been in procuring funding that has allowed the appointment of a full time General Manager. With Emma joining us in that role, she has been able to take over much of the work that has previously fallen on elected volunteers. If we can maintain funding for this position, we will be able to present a more professional image, build relationships with funding organisations and continue to improve strategic planning that will grow our sport, not only in numbers but in public profile.

Future direction

In my 2014 report, I outlined the need to "consider strategies to maintain the flow of quality lifters through the key transition points: School to Youth Nationals, Youth to Junior and Junior through to elite Senior." With the growth in numbers competing at secondary school level, this must remain a priority – we need our talented youngsters to see opportunity, and a clear pathway towards realistic goals, if we are to keep them in the sport. I see the significant growth in numbers as evidence that

we are indeed on the right path. However, continued thought and input, rather than complacency, is required. Emma will present a draft strategic plan later in this meeting with input or suggestions from the floor welcomed.

Given the current, very positive, state of our sport – the increase in number of lifters, the increasing pool of volunteers, the cohesive and effective nature of the current board - I see now as the right time to signal to the membership that I am unlikely to seek re-election as President when my term expires in 2016. New vision, new passion, new drive will all be needed to take our sport to even greater success. I believe that the organisation is currently spoilt for choice in being able to fill this role with such a person.

Finally, I offer thanks to all those who have contributed in any way at all. The work of our Executive officer Garry Marshall; our record keeper/Statistician, Ron Mann; our Selectors, board members etc. is readily identifiable - so of course I thank them.

However, it is the dozens of helpers at club level who organise and run events that also deserve recognition and thanks. Maybe you kept the scoresheet at a club completion. Maybe you updated a white board, helped to setup the platform, or the warm-up area. Maybe you refereed. Maybe you loaded, or swept the platform between lifts. Maybe you went off and brought back coffee or sandwiches for others running the competition. Maybe you created atmosphere by sitting and enjoying one of our competitions. Whatever you did – thank you for doing it. You helped to make 2015 a successful year. Please do it again in 2016

Mike Reid

OWNZ President

Have a great Nationals everybody!