

World Masters Weightlifting Championships 2011

Cyprus – Limasool

Congratulations to all involved in hosting the 2011 World Masters Championships. This is my 9th World Championship and I can say that no Championship has been the same. Each has had many problems to overcome but all organizers have pulled out all stops and made it happen. As a lifter there are always lots of good memories to take away and this always overshadow little problems. This Championship I saw the organizer, Damianos and Denise take up the challenge to host this event at such short notice. Although both dealing with many issues, never once did I not see a smile on their faces as they went out of their way to insure all lifters could walk away having experienced a great Championship. After very tiring days, Damianos extended his hospitality to others, sharing, the absolutely amazing food and wine Cyprus had to offer. This is something very special that Masters Lifting encourages and offers.

A special bond between a group of people from all nations sharing their one desire “to compete on the platform and do their best” is indescribable and so inspiring. Age becomes no barrier, language is not the means of communication, you are an athletic and this is your chance to show your best. In the warm up area, everyone from each country are making sure their lifters, whom they might only see once a year, are taken care of and have the assistance they require. How special is that!! The tears of those who don't manage to achieve their expectation are felt by all. This is the special bonding between Masters.

With all Championships you have the official driving body that makes all possible. When all others are out sightseeing or enjoying that extra late rising you know someone is taking care of the early morning weigh in, sweeping those floors, making sure the kettle is on for a much needed hot coffee, paperwork is ready, etc etc etc.....this is done because they love and have passion for masters weightlifting. For me, I have been privileged to seeing all aspects of hosting such an event. I have been a lifter, coach, official, friend and a representative for my country. All hats I have worn have had made me feel

proud to be part of this amazing experience. To see the newest to the seasoned lifters do their best on the platform is so rewarding. At times we forget to recognized the whole picture and need that little reminder. Thank you to the Board, the organizers, the lifters, the special friends and to all those new friends I made at these championships.

I look forward to my next Championship, as I am sure many others do, to another memorable lift, special experiences, new friendship, and best of all being able to see that special ??? Again.

Coral Quinell

Australia