



2024 EMWA CHAMPIONSHIP

Haugesund, NORWAY

15th – 23rd June 2024

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year's of 2023 to 2024 have been exceptionally busy for all committee members. Having registered the EMWA (previously EMC) and the IMWA (previously the IWF MASTERS) as non-profit companies it was necessary to modify all our websites and ensure there was no reference to previous committee names.

Having completed this work and having been European Masters Chairman since 1999, I decided to step down as Chairman. I had discussed this with Denise Offermann and with Harold Pijcke and in 2021 Alkmaar, Nederland, Harold became European Masters Chairman. For the previous year I had discussed taking over this position and knew he was capable because of all his hard work organising the championship in Alkmaar. The original site event was his home town of Den Helder but Covid had put a stop to that and dealt with many difficulties until he finally found the venue in Alkmaar.

There is no doubt in my mind that the number of Masters coming back to weightlifting and to our championships is steadily rising and I believe this because of the success of the 2021 championship in Alkmaar.

Around Christmas of 2023 Harold informed Denise and I that he had made a big life changing decision to emigrate to the Philippines with his wife Adela and daughter Diana. He was also stepping down as the EMWA Chairman. I am certain that you will all join me in wishing him a good journey and a happy future in his new home. He and Adela intend to open a gym and I am certain we will see them again and Adela will be competing and representing her new country in future championships.

It was agreed that I would step back into the Chairman's position and taking up all necessary workload and duties. Having said that, I can assure everyone this is only for 2024 and I will step down and leave the position vacant.

The EMWA Executive Board is made up of good and capable people all dedication to Masters weightlifting. The passion for the Masters is the reason it survives and goes from strength to strength overcoming many obstacles through the years. The standards of weightlifting continue to improve and the EMWA strive to make the best possible championships and find the best possible venues to stage the championships. We always manage to find enough volunteers necessary to help us run the championships because without them it would not be possible.

I wish everyone a good championship in Haugesund, Norway, organisers, TO's, Loaders, the EMWA executive, and most importantly all you lifters and coaches. I hope it is possible to go through this championship without any injuries to athletes, but remember we have our excellent USA Medical Team who travel here at their own expense and are always on hand to help athletes with their injuries no matter how slight or serious. This is the reason our Registration System asks if you will voluntarily answer a few Minor questions which could help save a life on the platform.

My good luck to all.

Bill Barton