

IAWA 2008 World All Round Weightlifting Championships

Tamworth and Burton, Staffordshire, England - Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October

Promoter, MC and Recorder: Steve Gardner

Assistant Recorder: Chris Bass

Drug Testing and Technical Officer: Frank Allen

Referees: Denny Habecker, Dennis Mitchell, Al Myers, John Gardner, Andy Goddard, Graham Saxton, George Dick, William Wright, Frank Allen

Music and Lighting Director: James Gardner

Refreshments: Susan Stubbs and Karen Gardner

Loaders: Ian Murphy, Glyn Lawrence and Hayden Smith

Best Male Junior: Mathew Mansell **Best Female Junior:** Mandy Hughes

Best Female Open: Mandy Hughes **Best Female Master:** Karen Gardner

Best Open, Best Master Lifter and Best Overall Lifter: Rick Meldon

Champion of Champions: Rick Meldon

Winners of the International Challenge Cup: 1st England 2nd USA 3rd Scotland

A word from the promoter

The setting for the 2008 World Championships venue could not have been better, the Belgrave High School at Tamworth did a wonderful job and I thank them for allowing us the use of the School premises, it made a very good competition venue, so thanks again Belgrave high School and in particular my son James who was the liaison organiser and also drove the school mini bus. I was at first somewhat concerned at having to bus people from their accommodations in Burton to Tamworth and back each day, but in the event it all worked smoothly and like a dream, and thanks also must go to the 22nd Burton Scouts who also made their mini bus available for me to help bus the lifters and supporters around. The AGM was held on the Friday evening at the Holland Sports Club, and members were reminded that the World Championships are set for early October in 2009 in USA, and 2010 in Scotland, and the Gold Cup was set for early November in 2009 in Scotland. With 36 lifters on the platform I wondered whether I would get away with just the one platform, but it worked well, and with an earlier start on the Sunday we got finished in good time for everyone to get ready for the presentation dinner at Branston Golf Club in Burton which turned out to be an excellent meal and a generally super night. The 21st IAWA World Championships went with a bang, some great lifting and some great performances too by some of the newer lifters to IAWA circles. It was great to see all of the foreign lifters who travelled considerable distances to be here, but special comment must be made on the performances of two lifters, both in the 80+ age categories: Art Montini from the USA and Bill Chapman from Australia, Gentlemen you are examples to us all! From the eldest to the youngest of our competitors, the Mansell Trio of 10 year old Conner, Heather12 and Mathew 14, who were also just as tremendous, and we hope to see them all again.

Well done to Rick Meldon who took the honours for overall best lifter, and won the Champion of champions Challenge for all former Overall Best Lifters, with Al Myers from the USA taking second place. The International team event was won by England, the team comprising: Rick Meldon, Steve Andrews and Mark Haydock, with USA in second place represented by Denny Habecker Al Myers and Chad Ullom, ahead of Scotland in third place represented by William Wright, George Dick and David McFadzean. I would like to say a big thank you to the Refreshment staff: Karen and Susan, and the hard working loading trio: Glyn, Ian and Hayden, who all did a marvellous job. Finally, a thank you to everyone who was involved in the whole weekend event, lifters, helpers, supporters alike, you are the people that make IAWA the great organisation that it is today, it may be small, but it is perfectly formed, and we will always try to nurture growth, keep up the good work, and encourage others to get on the lifting platform, **LONG LIVE THE IAWA and Happy 21st Birthday!!!**