**SOUTH WEST POWERLIFTING ASSOCIATION**

 **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR 2020**

2020 will be a year to remember for all the wrong reasons! We started off well with a qualifying competition run by Mark Rattenberry in Tiverton and we also held our AGM. Then COVID-19 exploded on us and we had the first lockdown. That meant that both the SW Men’s Classic and Women’s Classic championships had to be cancelled along with nearly all other competitions. Paul Rees did manage to run a qualifier for the British Juniors under Social distancing rules, but all to no avail unfortunately as the British also had to be canned. As well, sadly falling by the wayside was our Divisional Referees Course and hopefully we will be able to run one in 2021.

However, despite everything we finish up with the highest membership of all the English divisions at 377. It remains to be seen if we can get any where near this in the coming year. We will certainly have a good chance if the pandemic restrictions ease in the not too distant future.

At a personal level things were just as bad. Firstly, our General Secretary tragically lost his wife to a terminal illness then later in the year our Coaching Secretary was diagnosed with a serious illness. Our thoughts are with both their families and friends.

Kevin Green stepped down as General Secretary and it was very gratifying that Emily Greenway volunteered to take on the role, at least until the AGM. I’m please to say that she has made an excellent start.

My best wishes to everyone in the SW for a 2021, which we all hope is not as dire as 2020.

**Richard Parker**