



**British Judo Association
Annual General Meeting
27 September 2003**

MINUTES

1. Role call and Apologies

Clubs Present

Abbey College (Midlands)	Dartford JK
Aberdeen JC	Derby JC
Alfreton JC	Dollis JC
Anwick & Ruskington JK	Dorking JC
Arena Judokwa	Dorking JC (Friends Prov)
Arnold House School JC	Down Manor JC
Arrowvale JC	Dowty JC
Austin Longbridge JC	Droitwich Spa JC
Azami Falkirk	Dundee JC
Bingham JK	Ealing
Blue Coat School JC	East March JC
Bondi JC	Edgewood JC
Bradley Stoke JC	Edinburgh JC
Bradley Stoke Special Needs JC	Enfield JC
Bretton Woods School of Judo	Evanton JC
Bridge of Allan	Fairholme JC
Brighton JC	Ford JC (NHC)
Bristol Judokwai	Friary Grange JC
Bushido Judokwai Ford	Goshindo JC
Canterbury Judokwai	Hampstead School JC
Castle Judo Kwai	High Wycombe JC
Chalkhill JK	Highland Budokan
Cherry Willingham JC	Hillsborough JC
Chichester Ronin	Huddersfield JC
Codokwai	Invergordon JC
Coleraine JC	Japan Arts Centre JC
Court Lane JC	Jhigashi JK
Craiglockhart	Jo-Dan
Crawley JC	Kelmscott JC
Croydon JC	Kendal JC

Kin Ryu JC
Kodokan JC
Kumiuchi
Kyu Shin Ryu
Latchmere JK
Lichfield JC
Littleborough JC
Long Eaton JC
Longnake JK
Manchester Univ JC
Meopham JC
Metropolitan Police JC
Moberley JC
Norwich JK
Nottingham Univ JC
Oak Park JC
One on One JC
Osaka Kwai
Parkside JC
Peterlee JC
Pinewood JC
Pirelli JC
RAF Coltishall
Renzoku JC
Rochdale JC
Ross JK (Alness)
Royal Commonwealth Pool
Ryecroft Judokwai
Ryu Genki
Samurai Liverpool
Samurai Liverpool

Sea Mills (Landseer JC)
Sheffield JC
Shepherds Bush CC JC
Shiatani JK
Shishi Kai
Shogun Montrose
Skegby Royal British Legion JC
Soveriegn JC
St Hildas School JC
Stokenchurch HC
Stourport JC
Taunton UMCA
Tayside Perth
Tayside Strathallen
The Hill JC
Tonge JC
Tony Newton JC
Twyford Sports Centre JC
Univ of Bath JC
Univ of Wales Swansea
Urmston JC
USJC (Edgware)
USJYC (Hendon)
Wandsworth Lightning
Wellingborough Shudan
Wellington SC JC
Werrington JC
West Alder JC
Whitburn JC
Willesden JC
Windsor JC
Wolverhampton JC
Wolverhampton Yth JC
Wrekin Star JC

Members Present

Crumpton Peter	McCarthy Scott - BJA CEO
Davis Brian - Board Member	Moore Kevin - UK Sport
Davis Fitzroy	Moore Julie - BJA Head of Member Services
Davison Reuben Board Member	Mortimer Gordon - Vice President
Draycott Colin - Vice President	Newitt Robin - NIJF Chairman
Duff Jo - Events Manager/PA	Penfold Dennis
Duffy Dave - BJA Development Officer	Quellmalz Udo - BJA Performance Director
Ekins Joe	Reed Emma - BJA PRO
Fanko-Rooks Sheldon	Rivers Martin
French Karen	Rowe Phil
Hall Wendy	Sweeney Tony
Kenney Richard - Board Member	Waddington Kath
Lesik Steve	Webb Bill
Lingham Jean	Wilkins Barrie
Mayberry Maggie	Winkworth Jo
Mayberry Phil - Wiltshire County Chairman	

Apologies for absence

Blakemore Peter
Collins Malcolm
Evans Brian - Ferndale JK
Gold Andy - Marlborough JC
McNaughton Jean
Webber Ken

2. Introduction by the President

2.1 George Kerr opened the meeting and thanked all those present for attending. He stated that the Council the night before had discussed the idea that the BJA split its AGM into two parts. The AGM in its present format was a long day and by the time it came to discuss resolutions of a technical nature, which are at the heart of our sport, people were getting tired and discussions were rushed.

Having a technical conference on one day followed by the business AGM the following day would give the proper time to discussion of technical resolutions.

2.2 Mr Kerr welcomed UKSport representative Mr Kevin Moore to the meeting and thanked him for his continued work with the BJA and for attending the meeting today.

2.3 Mr Kerr congratulated the players for their performance at the recent World Championships and was pleased that four weight categories had been qualified for next years Olympic Games.

2.4 Mr Kerr informed the meeting that at the IJF Congress in Osaka, Japan that the election for General Treasurer of the IJF had been contested between a South American and the incumbent Treasurer from Kuwait. He commented that it had been a shame that the Kuwaiti had been defeated as he was well supported by the Kuwaiti government who had covered the costs of running the General Treasurers office. The costs of the new office would have to be born entirely by the IJF.

2.5 The first members of the IJF Hall of Fame had been approved and Mr Kerr was pleased to announce that Mr Charles Palmer OBE, former BJA Chairman and President along with Mr Anton Geesink had been voted into the Hall of Fame to join founder member the founder of Judo Mr Jigoro Kano.

Britain received another IJF accolade in the form of a Silver Medal for services to World Judo, which was presented to Mr Kerr in Osaka.

2.6 Mr Kerr was pleased to see such a strong contingent of British players at this years World Masters Championships, which were also held in Japan, and was pleased to note that BJA Vice President Mr Colin Draycott had been one of the Brits to return home with a medal. Masters judo in general and this tournament in particular were becoming more important to the sport.

2.7 Mr Kerr was saddened to report to the meeting the deaths of some of judo's great contributors, Peter Nutter, Sue Hammond and Kamura, World and Olympic Champion. He asked the meeting to stand for one minute's silence.

2.8 Mr Kerr reported that the Council was very happy with the Annual Report and Accounts and felt that the Annual Report was the best produced for some time. The lack of submission of some Area reports was however noted.

3. Previous AGM Minutes

3.1 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC – requested that in point 5 the (*like this!*) should be removed.

3.2 Mr Seth Birch – Huddersfield JC – ask that in minutes 6.10 of the 2002 AGM Minutes he raised the question that the figure £10,244 had been replaced in the republished accounts. He asked was he correct in the assumption that the original figure was incorrect.

Brian Davis – Board member – Stated that nothing was wrong with the original figures they had just been represented in a different format.

3.3 Ray Topple - Ryecroft JC – In one point in the 2002 AGM minutes he asked about NCF insurance and asked if the status had changed at all.

Mr Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO - Stated that he and Mr Topple had gone over the issue last year and it was agreed that there was little the BJA could do. Mr Topple agreed with Mr McCarthy.

3.4 Simon Hicks – Wandsworth Lightning asked if the work on the Memorandum and Articles mentioned in last year's minutes had been done.

Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO – When we looked at the articles we realised it was a much bigger project. Now with a structural review in progress it makes sense to re-write the articles in line with the changes that will happen as a result of the structural review.

3.5 Simon Hicks – Wandsworth Lightning – Had the Association progressed the matter of employing someone in a fundraiser role?

Densign White – BJA Chairman. The Sports Council will not specifically fund the role of a Fund Raiser but Scott McCarthy had fought hard and got them to agree to fund the post for a Public Relations Officer.

3.6 Simon Hicks – Wandsworth Lightning – Give the success in terms of entry for the 2003 British Open Championships at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre why had the decision been made to move the event to the Triangle at Burgess Hill.

Dermot Heslop – Board Member. CPNSC's future was very unclear after the end of March 2004 and that this point they are not taking bookings for events past that date. The Competitions Commission visited the Triangle venue and found it to be a good replacement.

Simon Hicks - Wandsworth Lightning – If the Open gets fewer entries next year will we go back to CPNSC?

Dermot Heslop – Board Member – If CPNSC sorts out its problems then possibly.

Alan Rickard – Croydon JC – As CPNSC is important to our sport the BJA need to make more representations to Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London. The BJA was having no input into the discussions regarding the future of CPNSC.

Densign White – BJA Chairman – The venue for Judo in the bid for the 2012 Olympic Games has already been decided and it is going to be the Excel Centre in the Docklands not CPNSC. Mr White also added that finding suitable venues for some of our National Judo Events was very difficult.

Simon Hicks – Wandsworth Lightning – Agreed with Mr Rickard's points and suggested the BJA must make more representations to the relevant people regarding the re-development of CPNSC.

3.7 George Kerr President – With there being no more points on the 2002 AGM Minutes he asked for a propose (Mick Leigh – Kin Ryu JC) and a Seconded (Alan Rickard– Croydon JC) for the vote on the 2002 AGM Minutes.

3.8 AGM 2002 Minutes unanimously agreed

4. Previous EGM Minutes

4.1 Jill West, Skeby RBL Judo Club – Her club was listed as being in attendance at the EGM yet she was not present nor did she submit a proxy for that meeting.

Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO told Ms West that he would double check the role call and get back to her.

4.2 Seth Birch – Huddersfield JC– Regarding minute 3.4. As there was not a UKSport representative at the EGM where Mr Donald Steel stated that the charge back amount to the WCPP for insurance costs was correct. Also could Mr Moore confirm that it was correct that equipment bought for use by Performance Staff could be entered into the accounts as expensed items and not capitalised.

Kevin Moore– UKSport - Mr Moore had brought along three letters, which were written to Mr Birch from UKSport on these two matters as he felt the question might arise at today's AGM.

UKSport were fully satisfied that the figure as noted by Donald Steel fairly represented the insurance costs in relation to the risk posed by BJA's Elite Judo Players.

The equipment expenses either partly or wholly attributed to the WCPP had been agreed by UKSport. UKSport are completely satisfied by the accounting procedures of Mr Donald Steel, BJA Head of Corporate Affairs.

4.3 Seth Birch – Huddersfield JC – Asked where was Mr Donald Steel to answer these questions.

Peter Holme – Kendal JC – Stated that someone should be here to answer these financial questions raised by the AGM.

Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO – Donald Steel stated that DS is on annual leave, attending his daughters wedding followed by a long planned family holiday. The BJA did arrange for the Senior Auditor from Newby Castleman Accountants, Mark Scarate, to be in attendance today, however Mr McCarthy had been informed by Mr Scarates wife that Mark was very ill and would not make the meeting. She arrived in person during the break to relay this message.

4.4 George Kerr - President – With no more points on the EGM minutes. The vote to accept the 2003 EGM minutes was proposed by Colin Mclver – Moray Hse JC and seconded by John O'Brien High Wycombe JC were requested.

4.5 EGM Minutes approved unanimously

5. Chairman's Address

5.1 Densign White– BJA Chairman – Thanked everyone for attending. Mr White was pleased to report the appointment of Scott McCarthy as the Associations Chief Executive Officer. An appointment he stated at the start of his term as Chair that he would make. Scott was appointed the interim CEO in March 2002 and become the CEO in September 2002. The work Scott had carried out so far was excellent and the transformation of the As socation was astounding but was still have a long way to go and should not be complacent with the progress made so far.

5.2 Mr White went onto to report that the British Open Championships in April 2003 had had the biggest entry for some years and he was pleased with some of the new features of the event, new technology was tried to run the event itself and live web updates were available from Ippon.org. The venue looked good and the atmosphere was great.

5.3 British Judo had had a successful European Championships and good turn around from being 2nd from bottom of the medal table in 2001. Craig Fallon was setting the World on fire at present and great things were hoped from Craig in the future.

The women's team achieved a good silver medal in the European Team event but unfortunately failed to complete the performance with a result at the World Teams.

5.4 The Commonwealth Games in Manchester was a great judo event where all the tickets sold out. The success of the event was due in part to the great work of our officials lead by Peter Holme.

Unfortunately Judo will not be included in the next Commonwealth Games however the Commonwealth Judo Tournament would be held in New Zealand.

5.5 Bisham Abbey has had a successful year and continues to provide a central residential training base for some of our up and coming judo players. The Academy gives our youngsters access to some of the best facilities and support services, top coaching and fantastic sports science back up from Gary Anderson as well as offering college and university places for their educational needs.

5.6 The Association has made some other appointments.

Mac Abbots – Senior Men's Team Coach
Loren Bartley – Performance Manager
Richard Kenney – Olympic Team Manager

After 14 months with the Association Loren is unfortunately leaving us to return to her native Australia where she is due to have a baby in January. I would like to thank her for her hard work and wish her and her family all the best for the future.

We have advertised another post, that of Coaching Officer and the lack of judo people applying for the position has been disappointing.

5.7 Our Development Team continue their fantastic work at grassroots level and the figure for grants to judo clubs now stands at a staggering half million pounds.

Mark Beecher and his team have produced some wonderful work this year including the Facilities Strategy document, which I am sure most of you will have received on disc.

5.8 This year we tasted some success at the Junior European Championships however Britain still lacks the depth in talent that other countries seem to have. Our work on our new Long Term Athlete Development Programme (LTADP) hopes to rectify this problem by helping to identify potential future world and Olympic medallists.

The LTADP does not just concentrate on competitions but also places emphasis on technical development and sports science. The LTADP will be a strong part of our Start Programme, which has been funded to the tune of £163k per annum.

5.9 Unfortunately we were not represented at the 2003 World Judo Championships by any referees and this meant that there would be no British referee eligible to attend the 2004 Olympic Games.

George Kerr - President For the first time the referees that will be used at the Olympic Games were selected by the IJF from those attending this years Worlds. In previous years referees had been selected by their Continental Union.

5.10 Densign White – BJA Chairman Despite a good year financially for the Association money was still tight and my election to the position of Sports Director of the European Judo Union has helped as my travel expenses to attend events is covered mostly by the EJU and the rest paid from our International Representation grant.

We have this year appointed an Events Manager in Jo Duff and we are already starting to see the benefits of her appointment. In the last month Emma Reed has joined us as our Public Relations Officer and already the amount of press coverage and TV appearances for judo has dramatically increased.

5.11 In conclusion I feel we have had a good year and made excellent progress in certain areas. We have an excellent team of staff in place we are still looking to add aspects to our team – We are concentrating on the areas of increasing revenue with the possibility of a Commercial Manager being looked into.

We are looking to develop our corporate training area of the BJA and are looking to maximise the potential income from our grading schemes.

We are hoping to make our competitions more exciting to watch and have changed our ranking system to make the system more meaningful.

I would like to thank all members of the Board for their hard work this year and all members of the Association for their continued support.

5.12 Peter Holme Kendal JC – Has the Association approached fundraisers offering them a % of any monies raised.

Densign White BJA Chairman – That is always on offer but Judo at this point in time is just not attractive to fund raisers.

5.13 Peter Holme Kendal JC – There is a general misconception about ranking events, only the top three results actually count towards your ranking position.

5.14 Roger Bostock - If the IJF continues to select the referees for the Olympics is Britain ever likely to be represented.

Densign White – BJA Chairman Referees are selected for the Worlds based on performances at EJU A Tournaments. The IJF then select Olympic referees from those present at the Worlds.

George Kerr – President European Referees are assessed at each A Tournament they attend. In reality there are most likely 20-24 European Referees good enough to go to the Worlds however the EJU can only send between 10-12 so they have to make cuts. The EJU refereeing Commission can be political and it does help Britain's chances having Densign as an EJU Sports Director. The IJF was hoping to raise refereeing standards at the Olympics with this new selection process.

5.14 Alan Stanbra – Higashi JK – Mr White stated in his address that the BJA got nothing from the grading scheme. The BJA gets the licence money and the Board needed to consider the implications carefully before taking any more money away from the Areas.

5.15 Peter Barnett – Chichester Ronin - On the subject of referees there just are not enough of them around.

Reuben Davison – Board Member – A lot of the problems is with referees receiving abuse from people. They don't want to give up their free time to receive abuse.

Peter Barnett – Chichester Ronin There seems to be a real culture of either being a referee or a coach.

George Kerr – President There is recognition of the shortage of officials and in particular referees at IJF level as they have increased the age at which a referee retires internationally from 50 to 55.

Ray Topples – Ryecroft JK – We just don't treat referees correctly. A referee is a vital member of the team and should be treated as such. The Board does not have enough knowledge of how referees qualify for major tournaments.

John O'Brien – High Wycombe JC – Are we so tied up with the rules, should referees not be allowed to referee in tracksuits?

Bob Willingham – Bristol Judokwai – There are regular contributions from Referees in the World of Judo Magazine. In a recent British Team Photo five of the members are current or ex-referees.

6. CEO Report

6.1 Scott McCarthy did a Powerpoint presentation, keyed to his Annual Report submission, on the overall state of affairs within the BJA. He covered the Littlejohn Fraser Management review and the status of our modernisation actions to date, the Staff restructuring, the move to Loughborough University, the Status of the Structural Review, and gave updates on Member Services, Corporate Affairs, Income Generation, Development, Communications, Events and Complaints and Conduct. He then turned the stage over to Udo Quellmalz who delivered the High Performance portion of the presentation. The full presentation can be viewed at: www.britishjudo.org.uk/communications/ceo_report.php or by reading the 2003 Annual Report.

6.2 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club – Asked if the BJA had put in place a doping control officer and if the BJA was aware of latest procedures regarding doping control.

Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO Replied that Joanne Duff had been given the job as Doping Control Officer for the Association and was working with UKSport on the latest requirements and regulations for Doping Control.

7. Annual Report 2001/2002 circulated Oct 2002

7.1 George Kerr - President suggests that questions and comments on both the Annual Report for 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 and the Annual Accounts 2002/2003 be taken together.

7.2 Mr Kerr reported that the Council was happy with the 2001/2002 and commented that the 2002/2003 Annual Report was the best produced by the Association for some time. The lack of certain reports, which were not submitted, was noted.

The Council had no questions to ask on the 2002/2003 Annual Accounts.

7.3 Peter Holme – Kendal JC In the Competitions and Referees Commission report it was suggested that the BJA had not selected the officials for the Commonwealth Games 2002. This was not the case and the BJA had selected the Officials.

7.4 George Kerr – President With there being no further questions on either Annual Report and no questions regarding the accounts Mr Kerr ask for the AGM to approve the Annual Reports 2001/2002 & 2002/2003 and the Annual Accounts for 2002/2003

7.5 Approved by unanimous vote.

8. Appointment of Auditors

8.1 Mr Kerr – President The BJA Board of Directors were requesting the re-appointment of Newby Castleman as the BJA auditors for a further year.

8.2 This was unanimously approved.

9. Election

9.1 Mr Kerr - President was disappointed with the low number of clubs that bothered to vote. And suggested that the Board should look into why clubs don't vote.

9.2 Results – Malcolm Limrick & Eddie Awford were elected to the Board.

9.2 Mr Kerr - President - two long standing members of the Board had this year decided to step down, Mr Richard Barraclough and Mr Chris Hunt. Mr Kerr thanked them for their work and wished them well in the future.

9.3 Mr Kerr informed that meeting that at the Council meeting the previous night the Council had unanimously agreed to invite Mr Richard Barraclough to become a Vice President of the Association.

9.4 Mr Barraclough – Board Member Thanked the Council for their decision and stated that he would be delighted to take the position.

10. Resolutions

*Resolutions 1 – 5 were proposed by **Lesley-Anne Alexander**, Willesden Judo Club and seconded by **Leigh Davies**, Parkside Judo Club:*

10.1.1 Resolution One - *It is proposed that the current structure of the BJA Board of Directors be changed to reflect the Association's Regional / Area structure. For the avoidance of doubt the Regional / Area Associations of the BJA are set out at the end of this resolution.*

This resolution has five parts, which are numbered i, ii, iii, iv and v below.

It is proposed that:

- i. Article 26 of the BJA Memorandum and Articles of Association be deleted and replaced with the following new Article 26:
'The number of Members of the Board of Directors shall be thirteen comprising twelve Members and the Chairman. The Members of the Board (excluding the Chairman) shall be made up of one nominee from each of the twelve Regional / Area Associations recognised within the BJA constitution. Each of the twelve nominees will represent only one of the Regional / Area Associations and will have been elected by the BJA member clubs that they represent. The Members of the Board (excluding the Chairman) shall remain as Members of the Board until such time as the Regional / Area Association that they represent rescinds their nomination or offers a replacement. The Board of Directors shall have the power from time to time to elect one of its members as Vice-Chairman to serve for no longer than two years and to act as Chairman in the event of the death, incapacity or absence of the duly elected Chairman.'
- ii. The current Board of Directors (with the exception of the BJA Chairman) are removed from Office on 31.3.2004.
- iii. The members of the Association approve the appointment of the new Board of Directors, nominated in accordance with the new Article 26, with effect from 1.4.2004.

- iv. Articles 35, 35, 37 and 38 of the current BJA Memorandum and Articles of Association be deleted and that article 14 has the words '...and members of the Board of Directors...' deleted.
- v. The Articles are re-numbered to reflect the impact of the changes and deletions set out above.

The BJA Regional / Area Associations are: West, London, East, Northern Ireland, Yorkshire and Humberside, North, South, Northern Home Counties, Wales, Midlands, North -West and Scotland.

Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC – The reason that this resolution had been put forward was to foster debate on the future structure of the Association. However if the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer could give assurances to the AGM that they would put forward a timetable for consultation and debate to move this issue forward then the resolution would be withdrawn.

10.1.2 Mr Densign White– BJA Chairman Assured the AGM that the Board would move this issue forward.

10.1.3 RESOLUTION ONE WITHDRAWN

10.2.1 Resolution Two - *It is proposed that band 'A' of the Junior National Championships be held on the same weekend and at the same venue as bands 'B', 'C' and 'D'.*

Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC This resolution was not about whether we should have a Band A in the Junior National Age Banded Championships as this had already been passed at a previous AGM. This resolution was to move the Band A back into the competition with the other age bands.

Lesley-Anne Alexander asked that the resolution move straight to a vote.

10.2.2 Resolution Two carried by a majority vote

10.3.1 Resolution Three - *It is proposed that each Regional / Area Association of the BJA be given the opportunity to hold a Senior Ranking Tournament each year.*

10.3.2 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC Since this resolution was submitted the issue of Area Ranking events had been resolved and a new proposal for ranking events and been put forward. She was happy for this resolution to go straight to a vote.

10.3.3 Dermot Heslop – Board Member said that there are too many ranking events many of which are cancelled due to lack of numbers and the quality of competition varies. This has been proven this year already when you look at the strength at competition, for example at the Northern Ireland Open.

10.3.4 Peter Holme – Kendal JC Area Senior events were now being cancelled due to lack of entries. He felt that the Board were missing the point of the ranking system. You need area-ranking events to give the players below elite level encouragement. The ranking lists help players get local sponsorship that they would otherwise never get.

10.3.5 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC Areas are taking financial hits from all different angles, lower % of rebates, the grading system and now with the removal of the ranking events the London Area Open has made a loss for the first time in years.

10.3.6 Due to the debate there was some confusion on what the AGM was voting for. Top 1-2 or 4 players from the ranking events to the National Grand Finals.

Mr Kerr - President The AGM is voting purely on Resolution 3.

10.3.7 Resolution 3 carried by a majority

10.4.1 Resolution 4 - *It is proposed that any changes to the BJA's grading systems (including but not limited to syllabus, format, structure and operation) be brought before an AGM for prior approval and before implementation.*

10.4.2 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC This resolution is very straightforward and asked that it be moved straight to a vote.

10.4.3 Dermot Heslop – Board Member Stated that he was totally opposed to the resolution and in fact felt that it was dangerous. The floor may have questions on the resolution before it goes to a vote.

Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC With all the drafts and changes that were being proposed, trailed and it seems implemented there is huge confusion in the rank and file of the membership.

Andrew Haffner – Samurai Kidderminster – Stated that he felt the will of the members was not being listened to with these proposed changes to the grading structure.

The novice to 6th Mon scheme was in disarray when implemented and it took a resolution at the following years AGM to sort it out. The AGM is the place where these matters need to be heard, discussed and voted upon.

10.4.4 Resolution 4 carried by a very large majority.

10.5.1 Resolution 5 - *It is proposed that English Area licence rebates (payable to English Areas from the BJA) should be 22% of individual membership revenue unless the majority of English Area Chairmen agree, in writing, to any such changes.*

10.5.2 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC - Stated that she as concerned about the reduction in the rebates as this was a primary source of income for areas. The reduction to 12% was a large difference.

Mrs Alexander appreciated that the rebates had been a huge headache for all previous Chairmen of the BJA. She stated that a practical solution to the rebate issue needed to be found and was happy to withdraw this resolution if the Board would give the AGM their assurance that a full and frank meeting with the English Areas would be arranged to find the best solution for all concerned.

10.5.3 Brian Davies – Board Member - Agreed with Mrs Alexander that a % payment needed to be found that was both fair and achievable.

Mr Davies stated that a system needed to be put in place so that the English Areas know what payments to expect and when. One of the problems is that 22% has not been added to each % increase in membership fees and now 22% gross payment on each licence fee was just not practical.

10.5.4 Lesley-Anne Alexander – Willesden JC Was pleased to receive the Boards assurances but stressed that this resolution would be back if the Board did not make positive progress in this matter.

10.5.5 Resolution 5 withdrawn

10.6.1 Resolution 6 - *The BJA shall immediately revert to a competitive grading system for 5th mon and 6th mon; that is, the non-competitive system shall be up to 4th mon only. The current theory requirements for 5th mon and 6th mon shall remain but players will also need to attend a grading to be assessed by an examiner in the usual way to gain the grade.*

Resolution 6 is proposed by Sarah Newbury, Chairman Samurai Judo Club, and seconded by Andrew Haffner, Secretary Abbey College Judo Club:

10.6.2 Peter Holme – Kendal JC Felt that the current system works for NCP players. Club Coaches need to prepare their players better for the competitive element of grades 7th mon +.

10.6.3 Dermot Heslop – Board Member This is a coach education issue. Coaches should withdraw children from gradings if they are not ready to compete.

10.6.4 Kirk Isichei – Chalkhill JK Stated that it was a bit late to pull a child from a grading after they had been put through the floor.

10.6.5 Dermot Heslop – Board Member Areas should be running tournaments for novices to prepare them for the contest gradings for 7th mon plus.

10.6.6 Colin McIver – The system should really be left alone. Changes in grading schemes take longer than a couple of years to really show the benefits. The current system is not against competitions players in the novice to 6th mon scheme need to be entered into small mini mons as their introduction to competitions.

10.6.7 Billy Kelly – Wolverhampton JC Thanked Andrew Haffner for the number of novice competitions his club runs.

10.6.8 Andrew Haffner – Samurai Kidderminster We do run lots of red belt rumbles. I am not against Non-Competitive system; the problem is for players making the jerk from 6th to 7th mon.

10.6.9 Mr Kerr called for a vote on resolution 6 - DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Any other business

11.1 Simon Hicks -- Wandsworth Lightning The Government funding has too many restrictions. Very few athletes are funded via the lottery. I have three fighters that are having to self-fund to attend A Tournaments.

Scott McCarthy – BJA CEO The issue of funding is always an issue and the BJA wants to find new ways of raising funds that are not ring fenced by UK Sport and Sport England. With our own money we could fund all sorts of projects currently outside the restrictions imposed on Lottery funds.

We would like to look at a couple of ideas including a British Judo Foundation – A capital investment could be made and the interest used to fund projects.

George Kerr - President A Foundation could make use of tax incentives and breaks for this sort of organisation.

Brian Davis – Board Member This Foundations needs to be discussed and research thoroughly and at length to make sure it is set up to take advantage of the tax rules and regulations.

11.2 Roy Court – In the Annual Report every commission had submitted a report. There was no mention in the report of the Special Olympics, which were held 19-29 June 2004. I find it quite sad that no one has done a report from the management side.

Member of the Board should come to the Special Needs Tournament in Clacton in October to see dedication. It's humbling.

Mr Barraclough – Board Member - Stated that he had mentioned the event in his report.

With no further business Mr Kerr Closed the meeting at 17.32