

DRAFT

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER AT 10AM
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, WOLLATON STREET, NOTTINGHAM, NG1 5RH

Present:

Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB
Tony Sweeney	Vice-President	TS
Brian Davies, JP	Vice President	BD
Rowena Birch	Vice-President	RBir

Council Members:

Peter Blewett	Judo England	PB
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area	GI
Marion Woodard	Southern Area	MW
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	DO
Alan Stanbra	Yorkshire/Humberside Area	ASt
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK	MC

British Judo Association:

Ronnie Saez	BJA Chair	RS
Andrew Scoular	BJA CEO	AS
Colin McIver	Sport Director	CMcl
Joyce Heron	Deputy Sport Director	JH
Justine Lynch	Executive Assistant	JL

Apologies:

Dr George Kerr CBE	President	GK
Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice-President	CD
Mick Leigh	Vice President	ML
Bill Berry MBE	Judo Scotland	BB
Jim Crompton	UK Armed Forces	JC
Jim McKenzie	Army Judo	JM
Roger Houston	Midlands Area	RH
Harry Holt	North West Area	HH
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
John Thacker	Royal Navy Judo	JT
Nadia Minardi	London Area	NM
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD

In the absence of both GK and CD, RB chaired the meeting.

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 September 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record of events.

These minutes were proposed by GI and seconded by BD.

2 Matters arising

All the actions and matters arising had been actioned.

3 Presidents Remarks

With GK absent from the meeting, there was no opening Presidents Remarks.

4 Chair's Report

RS started by expressing well wishes for both GK and CD.

RS informed the Council that good progress had been made on this financial year's strategic objectives and that his report would focus on three areas: Governance; Participation; and Performance.

Governance: In compliance with UK Sport Code, there were three tasks being carried out: external evaluation of the Board; Director evaluations simultaneously; and roll out of revised area constitution. The constitution had been drafted in line with governance guidelines with the North West Area to be an early adopter and other areas are to be encouraged to have an EGM in the near future.

With regard to funding, RS updated that early stage meetings had already taken place with regard to the next funding cycle. RS added it would be challenging as UKSport (UKS) and SportEngland (SE) are taking a longer term approach and looking at talent development on a two cycle basis. Also, a clear message that we are now expected to generate more of our own funding via membership and commercial activity.

Participation: RS updated membership had gone up but gradings are slightly below where expected adding there is a need to engage the clubs and coaches to generate more gradings.

With regard to Destination Judo RS updated that numbers had now increased.

RS then raised the Commonwealth Judo Championships where there had been 1100 athletes from 21 countries participating, which made it the biggest event to ever take place in the UK. Positive feedback had been posted on social media along with excellent feedback from the Commonwealth Judo Association Committee Members. Also, the nations involved had felt the championship was a success. Added bonus that it had also made a small surplus.

Performance: RS advised that it was now six years since the Performance Programme relocated to the Centre of Excellence, and currently has 39 athletes on the full time programme. With consistent medalling over the past two years, RS was optimistic for the Tokyo Olympics. Nigel Donohue, Performance Director, had reported to the Board he was

hopeful we will qualify five athletes in the top 8 with a total of 8 to 9 athletes competing which will be the biggest team ever entered, since the new qualifying system was introduced.

With RS's update completed, he asked the Council Members if they had any questions.

AS raised a query with regard to how many new clubs had registered this year and if they don't register, do they receive a reminder. CMcl responded that there were 660 new clubs this year but does not include satellite clubs. AS added registration letters are sent on 1 December.

BD commented that there is an issue with the amount of bureaucracy and if there was a way to simplify. AS responded that the funding partners are asking for more bureaucracy and enforcing that every club has a Club Welfare Officer adding, it is something that is reviewed constantly with the aim of making it easier.

RB then raised that there had not been sight of the Complaints & Conducts Commission review of the North West Area which infers there has been dishonesty. AS responded that it was not possible to publish the full report, it would need to be heavily redacted, but could share findings and recommendations.

ACTION: AS to produce a summary to be presented at the North West Area EGM

MW then referred to the Referees table within AS's report, stating that some of the information was inaccurate.

ACTION: JH to speak to Keith Merrick and refer back to the National Referees Commission

MW then enquired on where information could be found on fighting statistics, eg: how fights are being lost, same penalty etc and if this information was being captured. CMcl informed that Nigel Donohue would have all these statistics.

Discussion then moved to the constitution document. AS advised that all areas had received the document and it had been presented at 3 England Area meetings. MW said she had believed the process was to have a further meeting to raise concerns and any changes that might affect all the areas. RS commented that some elements can be changed but the core element is a standard constitution and must contain the correct level of governance. There was then a short discussion on certain points.

With there being no further points raised, RB moved the meeting to the next agenda item.

5 Business Plan Quarter 2 Review

AS summarised that there five key milestones reported against and at the moment all are on track and gave short summary on each.

World Class Performance Centre & What It Takes To Win: All athletes have now completed their Individual Athlete Plans and how they are performing is being monitored. In conjunction UKS, there is a focus on athlete on and off the mat including mental health. An athlete from the Athletes Commission will be attending a Board Meeting in 2020 to provide an update.

AS continued that the Talent Plan is in place with a stronger alignment between home countries, following the lead of UKS.

Other activity includes coach development and the Walk The Floor process alongside UKS which has had excellent feedback so far. Also looking at cross sport development with sports such as Boxing, Wrestling, Taekwondo and Archery. Sport Science and Sports Medicine is also more of a focus aiming to make adaptable, independent and resilient athletes. GB Judo Way is to promote the mentality of always getting things done and forms part of the Walk The Floor programme. Also, have the Performance Advisory Group, head by Mark England the British Olympic Association Chef de Mission for Tokyo.

AS concluded this section by informing the Council that the Performance Centre was being refurbished and extended which would provide better facilities for the athletes but also for supporting bids to run events such as a UK European Cup.

Membership/Participation: AS talked through the tables included in his report and highlighted a few points:

Membership: slightly down, expect to hit target by the end of the year

Dan Grading: on track but still requires some development

Mon Grades: starting to give different colour belts for Mon Grades

Kata: slight upshift in gradings

Destination Judo: targeting low socioeconomic areas; looking at going into primary schools; applying for grass roots funding

DO then mentioned that people receiving Sho Grades are only getting a card in the post, not a booklet.

ACTION: JH to investigate

AS then moved on to summarise the income slide informing Council that there was a new Judo Store opening online before the end of the year; International Sports Consulting, a sponsorship company had been engaged who would provide a service to elite athletes.

There has also been a push on social media with positive comments from the IJF and we have a much higher profile than a lot of other sports. General relations with the IJF are stronger and looking to get a Grand Prix Event next cycle. Other positive news is that Ben Pollard had been appointed to the BPA Media Team for the Paralympics which is a fantastic achievement. AS also advised the Council that RS had been appointed as General Secretary on the Commonwealth Judo Association Executive Committee, which provides good contact and influence both there and with the IJF. Also received funding to commenced a development programme in South Africa, that will commence in January 2020.

With regard to coaches, revalidation on target with 59 CPD courses run in the last 12 months. Also, Lisa Rivers has obtained her international referee badge. CMCI added that we are currently working with First4Sport to provide all coaching courses online. With regard to the DiSE programme, now have 70 places split over the two years.

On Finance, AS updated that we are ahead of budget with a record membership income in November of nearly £80k.

RB then thanked AS and asked the Council if they had any questions.

RBir commented that it would be helpful to receive the presentation in advance of future Council Meetings. AS agreed this would be done in future.

MW queried if there was a guide to all the acronyms used.

ACTION: AS and JL to produce this and circulate to Council Members and publish on BJA website

MW then raised whether NLP training had been considered. AS advised that Performance had engaged Adie Sharif. MC added that this had been done previously but under a different title. JH further commented that it had been delivered in one course, now looking to deliver it in smaller chunks.

RB confirmed with the members that there were no more questions.

6 Notification of people who have passed away

A moment was taken to remember those lost in 2019: Craig Fallon, Tony McConnell, Bill Webb

7 Any Other Business

BD updated that the British Judo Trust (BJT) is still going well and giving a lot of support to athletes. BD added that the BJT is always looking for new ideas or suggestions of local businesses that might want to get involved and would welcome any help in this area from the Council Members.

With their being no other business, RB thanked the attendees and closed the meeting at 12:27.