

**THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 30 MARCH 2019**

**GEORGE KERR SUITE – BJA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON, WALSALL CAMPUS, WS1 3BD**

**AT 10.00 A.M.**

**Present:**

Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice-President	CD	Chair
Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB	
Tony Sweeney	Vice-President	TS	
Rowena Birch	Vice-President	RB	
Brian Davies, JP	Vice-President	BD	
Mick Leigh	Vice-President	ML	

**Council Members:**

Alan Stanbra	Yorkshire/Humberside Area	ASt
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Harry Holt	North West Area	HH
Jim McKenzie	Army Judo	JM
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK	MC
Marina Dain	Midlands Area (for Roger Houston)	MD

**British Judo Association:**

Ronnie Saez	BJA Chair	RS
Andrew Scoular	BJA CEO	AS

**Apologies:**

Dr George Kerr CBE	President
Bill Berry MBE	Judo Scotland
Jim Compton	UK Armed Forces
Roger Houston	Midland Area
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation
Denise Oates	Eastern Area
John Thacker	Royal Navy Judo
Graham Turner	Southern Area Rep
Dave Stanley	Southern Area
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area
Nadia Minardi	London Area

**1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2018**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record of events with the exception of a request from Graham Turner by email on 27 March 2019 to amend Graham Turner, Southern Area (observer) to Southern Area Rep.

These minutes were proposed by Jim McKenzie and seconded by David Allen.

## **2 Matters arising**

All the actions and matters arising had been actioned.

## **3 Chairman's Remarks**

Ronnie Saez, BJA Chairman gave a brief summary of the year 2018-19. There have been difficult challenges but also significant steps forward.

The Association had run two major events and one new event. The European Veterans event was a huge success in respect of participants, however, it was at a significant cost to the BJA due to high hotel charges and unexpectedly high attendance from the European Judo Union ('EJU').

We relocated the office from the East Midlands to the West Midlands and this caused some significant change in staff and service offered to the members. We also took the opportunity to improve the office environment and IT servers etc. Whilst this was expensive this year, we will save in future years due to cheaper rent and better IT. As part of the strategy to keep British Judo up to speed with new technologies, we instigated a new customer relationship management system (CRM). This has been very difficult to implement and there have been some introductory problems. However, the future benefits that the members and clubs will have will outweigh the initial problems. Membership income over the first part of the year were difficult however, this is now recovered and is back in line with last year's financial position.

In performance, we have had a good year and the projections for Olympic qualification look as though we will qualify between eight and nine athletes for the Tokyo Olympics. In addition, our VI athletes are performing well and we are on target to qualify four or five athletes for the Tokyo Paralympics.

The future is that we would need to continue to reduce costs with less money being available from government sources both UK Sport or Sport England and it is hoped that with the CRM up and working to its full capacity will be able to better promote the sport and retain more members in the future.

There followed some discussion and questions regarding the CRM and membership issues that had arisen over the last few months with the installation of the new CRM. It was felt that the BJA office should have communicated more about the issues and how they were being resolved in relation to the membership and gradings.

Another question was raised around the role of the Council in relation to the governance of the organisation and it was made quite clear that the Council should be able to 'check and challenge' the Board and the activities being delivered on behalf of British Judo.

There were also some questions over the length of time it took for the membership cards to be produced and the fact that some people were not being allowed to participate as they did not have a membership card and therefore no insurance to take part. This was highlighted again during the recent AGM for the London Area; that individuals had not received a licence after paying the licence fee. Andrew Scoular informed the meeting that as of 29 March 2019 all the memberships were up-to-date and processed.

A further issue raised was around people not answering the office telephones. Andrew Scoular stated that he would address this within his presentation (covered under more detail below).

#### 4 Chief Executive's Presentation

Attached are the slides from the presentation made by the Chief Executive to the Council which covered the main aspects and progress against the Business Plan for the year.

A number of questions and issues were raised from the presentation as follows:

- Questions regarding the age profile of Referees and that the Association, together with the Areas, need to look to grow and develop awareness of the situation and encourage Areas and Clubs to generate more Referee Table Officials and Volunteers;
- Questions regarding the charges to Referees for exams and qualifications. It was felt that we should do everything to remove this barrier and actively encourage individuals to take these qualifications. It was suggested that the Areas could potentially assist with the process with the rebate monies and in fact some Areas already do;
- Some discussion around the statistics and information surrounding the telephone calls and it was agreed that Andrew Scoular would provide information on the unique numbers of calls that were missed and the detail of calls returned for that day (attached). **Action: AS**
- A question regarding the welfare of athletes transitioning off the World Class Performance Programme and DISE Programme and how the BJA will manage this. It was felt that between the Lifestyle Management support and the Welfare Manager support, the athletes have the appropriate guidance, direction and support if they are transitioning off the programme or retiring from the programme.
- Alan Stanbra raised the issue regarding Judo as a way of life rather than just purely focused on competition and fighting. He circulated some handouts based on Jigoro Kano's Philosophy In Forming The Art of Judo From Jujutsu.
- Jim McKenzie asked if the CRM could ensure that Army Judo was a Club as well as an Area so that Army members can join British judo through the Army as a club and therefore it would highlight and support Army Judo **Action: AS**
- Brian Davies for the British Judo Trust reminded the Council of the excellent work of the Trust in supporting athletes and Clubs across the country.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 13.30 hours.

Date of the next meeting: to be confirmed.