

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 10AM
GEORGE KERR SUITE – BJA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON, WALSALL CAMPUS, WS1 3BD

Present:

Dr George Kerr CBE	President	GK	Chair
Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice-President	CD	
Tony Sweeney	Vice-President	TS	
Brian Davies, JP	Vice-President	BD	
Mick Leigh	Vice-President	ML	

Council Members:

Bill Berry MBE	Judo Scotland	BB
Peter Blewett	Judo England	PB
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Harry Holt	North West Area	HH
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area	GI
Marion Woodard	Southern Area	MW
Raymond Taylor	Eastern Area (for Denise Oates)	RT
Jim Crompton	UK Armed Forces	JC
Jim McKenzie	Army Judo	JM
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK	MC

British Judo Association:

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

Apologies:

Richard Barraclough	Vice President
Rowena Birch	Vice President
Alan Stanbra	Yorkshire/Humberside Area
Roger Houston	Midlands Area
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation
Denise Oates	Eastern Area
John Thacker	Royal Navy Judo
Nadia Minardi	London Area
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association

1 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2019 were agreed as a true and accurate record of events.

These minutes were proposed by GK and seconded by ML.

2 Matters arising

All the actions and matters arising had been actioned.

3 Presidents Remarks

GK opened by providing the Council with a summary from the Tokyo World Championships. GK remarked that the Japanese had hosted a fabulous event and it was a good dress rehearsal for the organisers and athletes ahead of the Olympics next year, adding that the British team had performed well.

GK then handed over to RS to present his report.

4 Chair's Report

RS started by informing the Council that membership was now stable after last year's issues and was predicted to grow this year. Gradings are also up. The CRM system is fully operational just still some bug fixes which are now being resolved as they arise. It has also been noted Club Managers are now using the system more.

BJA are looking to schedule engagement workshops around the country to highlight the work we are doing. These should be starting in the next quarter and running for 12-18 months to ensure all areas are included and aim to tie the workshops into events or area competitions.

The athletes have performed well with 2 medals and 2 top 8 places at the European Games in Minsk. This now means medals have been won by 7 different athletes over the last 14 months which is an excellent statistic. Also, a lot of the young fighters are coming to the fore from the WCPP.

With regard to the World Championships, the level of the competition was extremely high and we had not done as well as expected partly due to being drawn against previous medal winners. RS had spoken to Nigel Donohue (ND), Performance Director, following the Championships and ND is confident we will have 5 fighters seeded by the time of the Olympic Games and as 75% of the medals go to seeded fighters, in his opinion we are in a good position.

Commonwealth Games Championships are taking place from Wednesday 25 to Sunday 29 September. Currently there are 22 countries and 1,100 athletes participating. This will be the biggest Judo tournament to be hosted in Britain with all categories competing. There is a high level of enthusiasm around the event and RS urged the Council members to attend if they were able to.

The BJA has returned to profitability this year and now back to the same position as at the start of this funding cycle. RS, AS, CMcl, ND & JH had attended a seminar last Thursday with regard to the Paris funding cycle. UKSport and Sport England are changing their outlook with regard to funding. Whereas previously the focus had been on medals and short term, it is now split between medals and talent and this is now the way BJA plans to frame itself. Funding level may change but we will get clarity on this by December 2020.

RS then asked the Council if they had any questions following his update.

MW queried if the funding was only for players or if some was to cover referee costs. RS responded that the funding is received by UKSport and would not cover Olympic referees.

5 Business Plan Update

AS showed the Council the Business Plan summary as at the end of Quarter 1 which shows we are on track with only one amber with regard to JudoStore which is covered later in this update.

AS then talked through his presentation which would be forwarded to members following the meeting.

Few key points AS noted are:

General

- Assurance: Review will be carried out in November, seen as a positive and expecting to result in some good recommendations for improving. Update to be given at the next meeting.
- Safeguarding: BJA have changed their DBS supplier to GB Group. More streamlined and efficient process with applicants documents checked and processed at a Post Office. Currently working with Sport England and LimeCulture on a case review due to be completed in November. Now also linking in with Child Prosecution Support Unit.
- Areas: New model constitution document is to be agreed with the areas with the North West being an early adopter.
- Centre of Excellence: Working with the university on an extension to provide better changing rooms, medical area and a lounge for the athletes.

Events:

- Commonwealth Judo Championships: As previously stated by RS, good participation levels. Also, ticket sales are above expectation. Event will breakeven with no investment needed from BJA.
- GP April 2020: This has now been signed off and UK Sport have invested £40k. This will take place in Nottingham University and is the last ranking event prior to the Olympics.
- London GP: Currently working on the scope for a London GP in 2021. It will be a 4 year contract. In discussion with the IJF who are very keen on us hosting this and looking at it being held at Copperbox Olympic Stadium.
- AGM: The papers and Annual Report will be dispatched by the end of September/early October.

Commercial:

- International Sports Consulting (ISC): We have engaged in an agreement with ISC who are creating a sponsorship deck to generate income.

- Judostore: Currently in final stages of negotiation with a new company to provide us with branded merchandise, including bespoke individual items.

Finance & Operations

- Budget: Just under £9k ahead of budget. Summer has been quiet but expected to pick up later in the year.
- Telephone Calls: Number of calls now reduced with the new CRM system working better.

Marketing & Communications

- Social Media: Getting good feedback on our social media platforms and the IJF gave positive feedback following the coverage from Tokyo.
- Commonwealth Judo Championships: Got 500 England participants, also a schools programme running with support from volunteers and the university.

Performance

- Judo Way: Working with UKSport and getting good feedback on our Walk The Floor process with a debrief scheduled for October.
- VI: Very strong team. Got 3 medals and all athletes are in the top 8. Also good juniors coming through.
- Post Tokyo: Pathway Programme very important and working closely with UKSport and Sport England. Meetings still to be held with the Home Countries.

AS then handed over to CMcl for a Sport Directorate Update. Again CMcl advised his presentation would be shared with the Council members.

Few points highlighted:

- Membership: In a good place, marginally down by 380 but should hit cycle target of 50,000
- Participation: Struggling a little to hit targets.
- Destination Judo: SportEngland are investing £70k following the restructure and it is now showing a small profit.
- Social Economic Groups: Making good inroads in this area but need to improve.
- England Talent Development: On track.
- Governance: Good benefits for areas and now accept they will have to apply for grants and funding.
- Financial Sustainability: Amber but will be a lot of cost cutting this year. Board have agreed a fee increase to commence on 1 October. Work with NEST who have commented that out of all the martial arts they work with, Judo is still the cheapest. Funding could reduce in the next cycle. Sport England happy with BJA's proactive approach and keen for us to share the DJ model with other sports.
- Gratings: Little disappointing. Changing the rebate model and now will be rebating the clubs directly not the areas.

CMcl added that SportEngland are switching to digital processes and communications and BJA need to buy into these changes and follow their lead.

MW asked CMcl if there was resource material available on mental health etc for the areas so that they were all using the same language. CMcl responded that this was not completed yet. JH added that there had been attendance on programmes looking at mental health but a better process for cascading this to coaches was needed. There is education available but need to engage and sell this to coaches. Starting to work with

Papyrus and will then be running workshops and look at measuring the benefits. Process looks reasonably easy.

JC queried where the rebates for the Forces were going. CMcl advised at the moment they would be going to the Areas for the Forces but could be changed if the individual forces clubs could be identified.

There was then a general discussion around the use of social media. CMcl advised that the recently introduced Intervention Policy for DJ, made use of targeted Facebook campaigns. Also, new member of staff, Jarryd Dunn, has been employed to focus on this area.

GK thanked CMcl for his update and the meeting moved to discussion of the Hall of Fame criteria document.

6 Hall of Fame Criteria

AS commenced by informing that the Rewards & Recognition Panel had approved the criteria document and it would be the panel that selected the recipients. There would be 2 categories – 1 for athletes and 1 for an official/volunteer/administrator. These would be selected by the President and the Vice Presidents.

Some discussion followed around how you decide who gets recognised and if there should be tiers – a bronze, silver & gold system. Agreed, posthumous nominations would be considered.

AS then gained approval from the Council that they were happy with the criteria and a medal system.

7 Any other business

BD updated on Judo Trust and that it still continued to support many people in Judo, helping about 600 young people in the last year. The Trust tries to split the support between competitions and grass roots Judo. BD added that the Trust welcomes applications from Areas if they are looking for assistance to take athletes away. Happy to discuss at any time.

With there being no other business, GK thanked the attendees and the meeting closed at 11:28am.