

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 21 AUGUST 2021 AT 10:00 VIA ZOOM

Present:

Brian Davies	Vice President	BD (Chair)
Rowena Birch	Vice President	RBi
Tony Sweeney	Vice President	TS

Council Members:

David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK	MC
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	DO
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area	GI
Marion Woodard	Southern Area	MW
Rick Kenney	Judo Scotland	RK
John Thacker	Navy Judo	JT
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Federation	DD
Jim McKenzie	Army Judo	JM
Stephen Watson	Navy Judo	SW

British Judo Association:

Ronnie Saez	Chairman	RS
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS
Joyce Heron	Deputy Sport Director	JH
Justine Lynch	Notetaker	JL

Apologies:

Dr George Kerr CBE	President
Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President
Richard Barraclough	Vice President
Mick Leigh	Vice President
Chris Milward	North West Area
Nadia Minardi	London Area
Alan Stanbra	Yorkshire & Humberside Area
Dave Allen	Western Area
Roger Houston	Midlands Area
Stephen Milne	Armed Forces
Colin McIver	BJA Sport Director

1 Welcome

In the absence of the President and Senior Vice President, RS requested BD to take on the role of Chair for this meeting.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2021

Attendees section of the previous meeting minutes to be amended to state that CMcl and DD were at the meeting.

With this amendment noted, Minutes from the previous meeting on 24 March were accepted as a true and accurate report of the meeting.

Proposed: GI

Seconded: RBi

3 President's Remarks

BD thanked everyone for attending and handed over to RS for his report.

4 Chair's Report

RS opened by acknowledging Chelsie Giles' (CG) fantastic performance at the Olympics, noting that this was the start of an international career for CG and bodes well for the future. RS continued that CG's medal was especially amazing given the run up to her arriving in Tokyo and she had shown personal resilience, fortitude and maturity. RS added that the Performance Team had faced a lot of challenges to get a team to Tokyo, doing an excellent job behind the scenes. The full story would be told at the AGM.

RS moved on to the Paralympics where we have a team of 4 travelling to Tokyo – Chris Skelley, Elliot Stewart, Dan Powell and Jack Hodgson. RS advised that the medal target for the Paralympics is 1 to 2 medals. The team are well prepared and in good spirits, so he was positive they could achieve this.

In regard to changes in the Board, RS advised that Ryan Wilkinson retired in 2020 and both Malgorzata Grzyb and Fred Prosser had retired this year at the end of their second Board terms. The three vacancies on the Board have been filled by Athena Witter (AW), Diana Hunter (DH) and Marc Longhurst (ML). AW and DH are the two new INEDs and bridge the skills gaps identified in the Board of Digital and Commercial, whilst ML is the new Board representative for Wales and he is also the new Welsh Judo Chairman as well as a judo coach. ML works in global strategy with Atticus and brings excellent business experience to the Board.

RS then raised the AGM and Annual Awards Dinner which would be held at the Coventry Campus of Warwick University this year on Saturday 6 November and accommodation would also be at the same venue. RS continued that the Awards Dinner would have a different focus this year, celebrating getting the judo community back together and the awards categories would reflect the efforts of the community throughout the pandemic as well as recognising those people that have dedicated a lot of their time to judo throughout the years. In regard to nominations for awards, two would be sought from each Area, the Home Nations, Police and Armed Forces with a maximum of 30 awards and spread over the whole of the UK. RS added that he hoped each of these areas would also take a table at the Awards Dinner.

With regard to judo activity returning, RS advised that there were now over 60% of clubs reopened with events starting to be organised again. The next important thing is to assist the officials and referees in getting back to competition and offering any help they may need in order to facilitate this.

RS then moved on to membership, advising that although income for membership is ahead of budget, it will still be challenging to get this back to 100% with the last 20% being the most difficult to engage due to many factors including clubs not reopening. The Regional Support Officers are working closely with the clubs to assist them reopening, getting lapsed members back and attracting new members. RS informed that the impact of Covid-19 has been discussed with our

fundings, UK Sport (UKS) and Sport England (SE), highlighting that this will have a three year impact on Judo. Both UKS and SE have been very supportive and flexible with our funding and RS hoped this would continue.

The next point RS raised was the President who having now turned 84yrs old, had decided it was time for him to step away from the President role. However, with GK being such a global citizen of judo and a tremendous ambassador for the BJA, it had been agreed with GK that he would take on a new role of BJA Life President Emeritus. This role would entail GK mentoring the new President but would take the pressure off in regard to travelling and attending meetings. The process for the election for the new President would commence in September alongside the recruitment for the two Board positions that would become vacant when Loretta Cusack-Doyle and Andrew Haffner reach the end of their second terms later this year.

Lastly, RS raised recent negative comments on Facebook, and that he was saddened and disgusted by the criticism targeted at staff. These comments have been made without the knowledge of the struggle that the Performance Team went through to get to Tokyo with all the protocol, that was strictly adhered to unlike some other nations, and the personal sacrifices made. RS added that one purpose of the Council was to provide a link into the BJA membership and he urged Council members to communicate how difficult getting to Tokyo had been for both the fighters and staff should they become aware of any criticism. Also, highlight the positive news that even though we have fewer chances of medals, as well as a small talent pool, judo has medalled at the past three Olympic Games. To conclude, RS advised that as happens after every Olympic/Paralympic Cycle, there would be a review including looking at what other international nations are doing.

BD thanked RS for his update and opened the meeting up for questions.

MW queried how the make up for the Tokyo Cycle review panel will be selected to which RS responded there will be two Board members, one or two people from another sport and a UK Sport Representative, adding that there was no need for any HR representation as this was a Performance matter.

BD commented that he fully supported the President Emeritus role that GK would take and was sure that all the Council members would also support this.

5 1st Quarter Business Plan Review

AS shared the Strategic Overview as at the end of Q1.

Action: Strategic Overview to be sent to Council Members with the draft Minutes

6. Year to Date Update

AS shared his presentation, highlighting key points.

Action: Presentation, Wellbeing Action Plan and Monthly Dashboard Update to be sent to Council Members with the draft Minutes

BD thanked RS and again opened the meeting up for questions.

SW enquired about the eligibility for the British Championships as if this was only for the top 16 a lot of judoka would not be able to compete and therefore get into the top 16 as well as some moving from junior to senior. AS responded that the Seniors competition will be open.

7. Any Other Business

RBi advised that she would be standing for President and felt she could bring a different set of skill to the role and a new energy. RBi continued that she believed she could make a difference as well as increasing British Judo's visibility with both the EJU and IJF as a lot of the people now working in these organisations were peers that had competed at the same time as her. RBi concluded that she would be extremely honoured to hold the President position.

With there being no further items for AOB, BD thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 11:16am.