

**THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 13:00 THE SCARMAN CENTRE,**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, GIBBET HILL ROAD, COVENTRY, CV4 7SH**

**Council:**

Rowena Birch, President  
 Tony Sweeney, Vice President  
 Brian Davies, JP, Vice President  
 Marion Woodard, Southern Area  
 Denise Oates, Eastern Area  
 David Rance, Northern Home Counties  
 Rick Kenney, Judo Scotland  
 Chris Milward, Northwest Area  
 Stephen Watson, Armed Forces

**Board:**

Ronnie Saez, Chair	Neil Fletcher
Peter Blewett	Diana Hunter
Paul Ajala	Athena Witter
Marc Longhurst	Ben Quilter

**In Attendance**

Andrew Scoular, Chief Executive (via Zoom)  
 Sajid Hussain, Finance & Operations Director  
 Justine Lynch, Executive Officer

**Other Attendees:**

Dave Clark	Cath Clark	Sara Hayes
Martin Rivers	Andrew Scott	Raymond Taylor
Rosalind Edwards	Stewart Collings	Paul Ajala
Jim Crompton	Andrew Haffner	David Edmonds
Bruce Newcombe	Adrian Holt	Peter Holme
Laura Edmonds	Fiona Chan	Chris Milward
Nikki Adams	Warren Schofield	

**Clubs Represented:**

Budokwai	Coventry Judo Club	Dowty Judo Club
Harrow Judo	Irlam & Cadishead Judo Academy	John Dearden Judo Club
Kendal Judo Club	Kin Ryu Judo Club	Kinsa Judo Club
Kumo Judo Club	Linkai Judo Club	Littleport Judo Club
Neil Adams Effective Fighting Ltd		Perham Down Judokwai
Pinewood Judo Club	Pudsey Judo Club	Renzoku Judo Club
Rochdale Judo Club	Royal Navy Judo	Samurai Judo Club

**1. Welcome**

In George Kerr's (GK) absence, Brian Davies (BD) chaired the AGM and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## 2. Apologies

BD advised that apologies had been received from the following people:

Dr George Kerr CBE	President
Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President
Richard Barraclough	Vice President
Mick Leigh	Vice President
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area
Nadia Minardi	London Area
Alan Stanbra	Yorkshire & Humberside Area
Roger Houston	Midlands Area
Stephen Milne	Armed Forces
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Federation
Colin McIver	BJA Sport Director
Dave Allen	Council
Karen French	Secretary Chichester Ronin Judo Club
Jad Harris	St Albans Judo Club
Brian Moore	Bacup Judo Club

## 3. Respects for friends and colleagues who have passed away

BD then requested the meeting attendees observe one minute's silence in remembrance of those judo friends who had passed away through the year.

## 4. President's Address

BD noted that it was unfortunate GK was not able to attend the AGM, however he was delighted to welcome Rowena Birch who would commence her Presidency during the AGM.

## 5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2020

Amendments as noted below to made to the Minutes:

- Correct the spelling of Petherbridge
- Osaka Judo Club was represented
- Reading Judo Club was not represented
- Kinsa Judo Club was represented

With the above amendments made, it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that the Minutes were an accurate record of the AGM.

**PROPOSED:** Peter Holme, Kendal Judo Club

**SECONDED:** Denise Oates, Eastern Area Chair

## 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 November 2020

No matters arising.

## 7. Reports

### 7.1 Chairman's Report

Ronnie Saez (RS) thanked everyone for their attendance.

RS then provided an overview of highs and lows of the previous year:

- Very difficult period due to Covid-19 but we are now entering a recovery phase. Need to support our clubs in reopening and building up their membership again
- There have been 6 changes to the Board membership, which equates to 50%. Also, thanks to be noted to the departing/departed Board Directors who have served on the Board for 7/8 years and provided excellent support and advice to RS as Chair
- Our funding partners, UK Sport and Sport England, are being extremely supportive and allow us flexibility with allocating our funding across the Association
- Congratulations to be noted for our Olympic and Paralympic medal winners and to the clubs and coaches that have supported them along with the whole Performance Team
- Personal tribute to GK for his services to judo and to British Judo in his Presidential role and wished him a long and happy retirement. However, GK would be remembered in a President Emeritus role

RS then introduced RBi as the new BJA President.

RBi thanked RS and the rest of the judo family present for their support not only through the election but throughout life, adding that she was extremely honoured to be taking on the President role. RBi added that she looked forward to engaging with clubs and members and would serve British Judo to the best of her abilities.

### 7.2 Chief Executive's Report

Andrew Scoular (AS) opened that he was disappointed to not be in attendance at the AGM or Awards Dinner due to Covid-19.

AS shared his presentation and highlighted the following points:

- Work is continuing on the Strategy for 2022 to 2025 which will be accompanied by an action plan with clear targets
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group has been established
- Performance Team returned to competition in January 2021 and focused on qualifying for the Olympic & Paralympic Games
- Both Sally Conway and Alice Schlesinger retired
- Due to Covid-19, 15 staff were furloughed and had to close the Destination Judo programme
- Membership income was down by 77% and gradings by 96%
- Ran a series of social media campaigns to keep members engaged and created a Covid-19 Hub on the website
- Online education and training courses were run for referees and officials
- Extensive guidance was produced for clubs for "A Safe Return to Judo"
- Launched SE Club Support Grant to provide financial support for clubs to reopen

**8. Resolution**

No resolutions to be voted on.

**9. BJA Consolidated Accounts 2021/22**

Annual Report & Accounts included in the Annual Report

**PROPOSER:** Andrew Haffner

**SECONDER:** Neil Fletcher

**10. Appointment of Auditors**

**PROPOSER:** Neil Fletcher

**SECONDER:** Denise Oates

AS advised that there were 2 new elected Board members, Paul Ajala and Ben Quilter and passed on congratulations to them. Also there have been 2 new Independent Directors join the Board with specialism skill sets in Digitalisation, Athena Witter, and Commercial, Diana Hunter.

**11. Any other Business**

No matters for any other business.

**12. Close**

RBI thanked everyone for attending and that she was looking forward to celebrating be able to be together again at the Awards Dinner,