

FINAL

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 13:00 THE SCARMAN CENTRE,
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, GIBBET HILL ROAD, COVENTRY, CV4 7SH

Council:

Rowena Birch, President	Brian Davies, Vice President
Mick Leigh, Vice President	Rick Kenney, JudoScotland
Robin Newett, Northern Ireland Judo Federation	Sarah Newbury, Midlands Area
Ben George, Yorkshire & Humberside Area	Andrew Scott, Western Area
Dave Rance, Northern Home Counties Area	
John Gibson, Northern Area	Jim MacKenzie, Army Judo
Stephen Watson, Armed Forces	Matthew Clempner, Police Judo
John Thacker, Navy Judo	

Board:

Ronnie Saez, Chair	Marc Longhurst	Claire Lish
Garth Illingworth	Neil Fletcher	Paul Ajala
Ben Quilter		

In Attendance

Andrew Scoular, Chief Executive
 Sajid Hussain, Finance & Operations Director
 Karen Roberts, Development Director
 Joyce Heron, Head of Technical & Education
 Justine Lynch, Executive Officer

Other Attendees:

Lisa Rivers	Martin Rivers	Peter Holme
Simone Callendar	Helen Moody	Fiona Chan
Colin McIver	Warren Schofield	Dave Duffy
Martin Rance	Cath Clark	David Rance
Tony Penfold	Peter Blewett	

Clubs Represented:

Kin Ryu Judo Club	Pinewood Judo Club	Kendal Judo Club
Samurai Judo Club	Kodokwai	Pudsey Judo Club
Budokwai	Linkai Judo Club	Kinsa Judo Club
Middlesbrough Judo Club	Carnegie Judo Club	Rochdale Judo Club
Harrow Judo Club	Renzoku Judo Club	Just-Judo Yoshin
Sheffield University		

Apologies Received:

Colin Draycott	Dave Allen	Denise Oates
Richard Barraclough	John Malkinson	Dave Martin
Andy Scott		

1. Welcome

Rowena Birch (RBi) welcomed everyone to the 2022 British Judo AGM and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

2. Apologies

RBi also advised of the apologies received noted above.

3. Respects for friends and colleagues who have passed away

RBi then requested the meeting attendees observe one minute's silence in remembrance of those judo friends who had passed away through the year: Mac Stevens; Ruben Davison; Lionel Hibbert; Jim Gillespie; George Glass; Roy Francis; Derek Sidney Webster; and Sue Lawcock.

4. President's Address

RBi reflected on a recent conversation she'd had with a newcomer to judo at her club and that this person had commented that, unlike with other sports this person had tried, when she first entered into the dojo she felt welcomed and accepted immediately. RBi continued that this is something as a judo family living our judo values we should be very proud of.

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 November 2021.

One amendment to be made to page one, correct "Clarke" to Clark.

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

PROPOSER: Peter Holme, Kendal Judo Club

SECONDER: Warren Schofield, Rochdale Judo Club

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 November 2021

No matters arising.

7. Reports

7.1 Chairman's Report

Ronnie Saez (RS) thanked RBi for her welcome and address.

RS then reflected on the year 2021 to 2022 which had been very challenging especially as in April 2021 there was still a lot of uncertainty with Covid on the way out but still no contact judo allowed. Throughout this period, we always had the support of our stakeholders and managed to sustain the Association.

As restrictions lifted in May 2021, Joyce Heron produced club guidance documentation and Covid packs for clubs and praise should be noted for the excellent work she did. This guidance not only provided excellent advice but also gave coaches the confidence to return to contact judo. However, Covid resulted in the loss of a number of our competition officials.

The domestic competitive season kicked off with the British Championships in December 2021 and Area Championships also began again. Elite Performance was also now up and running with a full International Judo Federation calendar.

Following that in March 2022, the Russia and Ukraine war erupted which brought it's own challenges. This has also had an impact on the cost of living

crisis with family budgets tightening and a potential impact on the number of children able to continue with judo.

Despite all these challenges, and with thanks to the Chief Executive, staff and the Board, the Association is in a strong position and able to declare a slightly better than breakeven position at the end of the year.

In regard to the Board, there have been a lot of changes during the year. Loretta Cusack-Doyle and Andrew Haffner have been replaced by Ben Quilter and Paul Ajala; Bill Taggart has been replaced by Russell Brown; and Marc Longhurst has replaced Fred Prosser. Alex Slade has now stepped up to be Senior Independent Non Executive Director and two new Independent Non Executive Directors have joined the Board, Athena Witter and Diana Hunter, bringing much needed Digital and Commercial expertise. Finally, the Vice Chairman and Board member for 10 years, Peter Blewett, has come to the end of his second term with Garth Illingworth taking on the new role as England Area Chair.

In regard to High Performance, we were successful in medalling at both the Olympics and Paralympics with a Bronze for Chelsie Giles Gold for Chris Skelley and Silver for Elliot Stewart. There was a celebration event for the medallists and team as a whole, all of whom are very grateful to British Judo and the support they have received.

We have also been extremely successful in the promotion of our referees. Lisa Rivers has now joined the IJF tour and is the first referee to do this for many years. We also have 3 other referees who are making excellent progress and receiving recognition at international events.

In conclusion, RS said that it is fantastic to see how we have all come back together as a community. It was clear to see how much people had missed judo, and RS has every confidence that we will continue to make excellent progress.

Peter Holme raised at this point that he would like appreciation for Colin McIver's 60 years plus dedication to judo to be noted.

7.2 Chief Executive's Report

Andrew Scoular (AS) shared a presentation and highlighted the following key points:

- Changes to the Memorandum & Articles of Association would be discussed in more detail later in the meeting but all changes are fairly standard and to ensure we comply with the revised UKS Code for Sports Governance
- Strategy for 2022 to 2025 has been finalised along with a vide. Received good feedback both from external stakeholders and the internal judo community
- Membership did increase in April 2022 however since then there has been some flattering due to the cost of living crisis. This is being constantly monitored and managed
- An extension to the National Training Centre with improved facilities has been completed. Also, Head Office has relocated to the University Campus
- In regard to international relations, RS has been successful in being elected on to the EJU Executive Committee; we will be putting forward a candidate for the IJF General Secretary position becoming vacant early 2023; we have secured our first EJU Junior European Cup and we will be bidding to host the EJU Congress in 2024 as well as a European Masters.

- Positive financial year end. Still slightly down on membership figures pre-Covid but is improving. Cash position remains healthy.
- The coaching support in Performance undertook a review and we have now appointed a National Training Centre based coach to assist when coaches are away. Also, coaching has been split out to men and women
- Costs for attending international camps and competitions has increased significantly post Covid
- The GB Judo Way cultural work has made a significant change to the culture in Performance and athlete survey results are improving year on year
- Commenced a feasibility study in to getting our own facility
- England Talent Programme also returned to full training
- Looking to provide increased support for members from IMDD areas 1 to 5
- To develop the sport looking at using our USP that judo is “more than a sport”
- Looking at learnings that can be made from “professional” clubs as well as from amateur clubs that have grown significantly
- 117 clubs benefited from the SE Tackling Inequalities Fund. Now received additional funding, Together Fund, with grants available up to £10,000
- Excellent take up for coaching and education and training courses
- Appointment of Sami Smithson as Head of Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing has meant that we can focus on Diversity & Inclusion with an Action Plan produced and Advisory Groups established
- Wellbeing actions for staff include a Wellbeing Action Plan, Employee Assistance Programme, two wellbeing days, mental health awareness and first aider training
- Passed NSPCC annual review and stakeholders have confidence that we are a safe sport. We will also be signing up to the Martial Arts Safeguarding Code
- The Japan themed coverage of the Olympics and Paralympics received good engagement and feedback
- 4Global who had been our CRM provider, gave us 60 days notice of withdrawal of service. This meant we had to quickly identify a new supplier and develop a new system. NEST have been engaged to do this. Working through Phase I of the development and hoped new CRM will be launched in the next few weeks. AS acknowledged that communication to members should have been better.

8. Approvals

- **BJA Annual Report & Accounts included in the Annual Report**
Proposer: Dave Clark
Secunder: Dave Duffy
 No votes against or abstentions
- **Appointment of Auditors**
Proposer: Peter Holme
Secunder: Jim MacKenzie
 1 vote against and 1 abstention
- **Amendments to the Memorandum & Articles of Association**
 In response to a point raised by Dave Clark, AS provided clarification around the time the current Chair has spent in post and discussions are currently ongoing with UKS in regard to extending his tenure to 2024.
Proposer: Dave Allen
Secunder: Peter Blewett

9. Notification of new Elected Board Members

RBi advised that Garth Illingworth had been elected and Neil Fletcher had been re-elected for a second term.

10. Any Other Business

Brian Davies (BD) advised he was happy to take any questions in regard to the British Judo Trust. BD added that it was gratifying for the Trustees that people who are now winning key medals have at one time in their career benefited from the Trust.

In response to a query from Dave Allen, BD confirmed that the trust aimed to focus on young people but this could also cover those undergoing hardship.

11. Close

RBi thanked everyone for attending and that she was looking forward to celebrating judo later at the Awards Dinner.

14:40 Meeting closes