

British Judo Association
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 24th September 2005



Beckwith Lecture Theatre
Loughborough University

Clubs Attending

3 K'S SANDWELL JUDO CLUB
A.Y.A.C JUDO CLUB
ABBAY COLLEGE JUDO CLUB
ABERDEEN JUDO CLUB
AINSLIE PARK JUDO CLUB
AIREBOROUGH & WHARFDALE JC
ALTON JUDO CLUB
ANWICK & RUSKINGTON JUDO KWAI
BINGHAM JUDO KWAI
BROMSGROVE JUDO KWAI
BUDOKWAI
CHICHESTER RONIN
COMMANDOKWAI
CROYDON JUDO CLUB
EDGEWOOD JUDO CLUB
EXMOUTH VIKINGS JUDO CLUB
GLOSSOP JUDO CLUB
HEYWOOD JUDO CLUB
HIGASHI JUDO KWAI
HIGH WYCOMBE JUDO CENTRE
HMS HERON JUDO CLUB
KENDAL JUDO CLUB
KIN RYU JUDO CLUB
LANCASTER UNIVERSITY JUDO CLUB
LAUNCESTON JUDO CLUB
LITTLEBOROUGH JUDO CLUB
LONGNUKE JUDOKWAI
MEOPHAM JUDO CLUB
MOLD JUDO CLUB
PINWOOD JUDO CLUB
RAF INNSWORTH JUDO CLUB
RENZOKU JUDO CLUB

RIVERSIDE LANCASTER JUDO CLUB
ROCHDALE JUDO CLUB
ROSSENDALE JUDO CLUB
RYECROFT JUDOKWAI
S.K.K. JUDO CLUB
SKEGBY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION JC
STOKENCHURCH JUDO CLUB
STOWMARKET JUDO CLUB
UNIVERSITY OF BATH JUDO CLUB
UTD SYNAGOGUES YTH (EDGWARE)
WARRINGTON WARJUKWAI JC
WOLVERHAMPTON JUDO CLUB

Clubs via postal vote

COLERAINE LEISURE CENTRE J C
CRAIGLOCKHART JUDO CLUB
DEVIZES BUDO CLUB
DEVONSHIRE SCHOOL JUDO CLUB
DEWSBURY JUDO CLUB
DOLPHIN JUDO CLUB
DOUGLAS JUDO CLUB
DRUMBRAE LEISURE CENTRE JC
DUDLEY JUDO CLUB
E.I.S. JUDO CLUB SHEFFIELD
EDINBURGH BUSHIDO JUDO CLUB
ELITE JUDO CLUB
FERNHURST SCHOOL JUDO CLUB
FIVE SIX SEVEN DURNSFORD
FIVE SIX SEVEN FORTISMORE
FORDLEY JUDO KWAI
GRENVILLE COLLEGE JUDO CLUB
HALTWHISTLE JUDO CLUB

Clubs via postal vote contd..

HEXHAM JUDO CLUB

HILLSBOROUGH JUDO CLUB

HOLBROOK JUDO CLUB

HOLBROOK JUDO CLUB

HOLBROOK (SARISBURY GREEN) JC

JAPAN ARTS CTR-POLICE SPORT UK

KELMSCOTT JUDO CLUB

KINGSCOURT SCHOOL JUDO CLUB

KODOKWAI JUDO CLUB

KYU-SHIN-KWAI

LAMBTON JUDOKWAI

LANGSTONE SCHOOL PORTSMOUTH

LONG EATON JUDO CLUB

MAESTEG JUDO KWAI

MARCHON JUDO CLUB

MATSUMACHI JUDO CLUB

MATSUMACHI JUDO CLUB

MAWNAN SMITH JUDO CLUB

MILL HILL JUDO CLUB

NEWBURY JUDO CLUB

NORWICH PREMIER JUDO CLUB

NUNSFIELD JUDO CLUB

OAKWOOD JUDO CLUB

OLYMPIC JUNIOR JUDO CLUB

OXFORD UNIVERSITY JUDO CLUB

O'NEILLS JUDO

PEN-Y-BRYN JUDO KWAI

PETERLEE JUDO CLUB

PORTSMOUTH JUDO CLUB

PRIORY JUDO CLUB

RAF BENSON

RAF COLTISHALL

RAF INNSWORTH JUDO CLUB

RAINHAM JUDO CLUB

RAMSEY JUDO CLUB

READING JUDO CLUB

RENROKAN

RETFORD JUDO CLUB

SAFFRON WALDEN JUDO CLUB

SAMURAI (KIDDERMINSTER) J C

SHIATANI JUDO KWAI

SOUTHEND JUDO CLUB

SOUTHWICK JUDO CLUB

SOVEREIGN JUDO CLUB

STAMSHAW SCHOOL JUDO CLUB

SURREY POLICE JUDO CLUB

SWINTON JUDO CLUB

TAMAR JUDO CENTRE (SALTASH)

TAUNTON 2000 (TRIDENT)

TERMINUS SHOGUN

THETFORD JUDO KWAI

TIFFIN JUDO CLUB

TORAKAN JUDO CLUB

TORRY JUDO CLUB

TURRIFF JUDO CLUB

TYLDESLEY JUDO CLUB

WELLINGBOROUGH SHUDAN

WEST CALDER JUDO CLUB

WILLESDEN JUDO CLUB

WIMBOURNE SCHOOL PORTSMOUTH

WINCHESTER JUDO CLUB

WINDSOR JUDO CLUB

Individual Members in attendance

Eddie	Awford	BJA Director	Colin	Mclver	BJA Performance Director
Dave	Barnard		Julie	Moores	Head of Member Services
Richard	Barraclough	BJA Vice President	Andrew	Moshanov	BJA Technical Director
Graham	Bayley	Club Dev Officer	Bernard	O Hara	
Mark	Beecher	BJA Head of Operations	Emma	Reed	BJA Head of Communications
John	Bramall	BJA Ass. Performance Manager	Steve	Rennie	
Pat	Byrne		Alan	Rickard	
Dave	Clark	BJA Director	Martin	Rivers	
Jean	Cleere		Steve	Stanley	
Ron	Cleere		Donald	Steel	BJA Head of Corporate Affairs
Marina	Dane		Tony	Sweeney	
Fitzroy	Davies		Darren	Warner	Performance Coach
Brian	Davis	BJA Vice Chair	George	Weir	
Reuben	Davison	BJA Director	Densign	White	BJA Chairman
Carol	Doherty	Schools Dev Officer	John	Wright	
Colin	Draycott	BJA Vice President	Sonia	Wright	
Dave	Duffy	BJA Coaching Officer			
Jo	Duffy	BJA Commercial Manager			
Karen	French	Club Dev Officer			
Yvonne	Froggett	BJA Events Manager			
Barry	Gibson	Schools Dev Officer			
Ray	Harrington	WJA Chairman			
Lisa	Harrison				
Simon	Hicks				
Harry	Holt				
Alan	Ingram				
Jean	Ingram				
Roy	Inman	BJA Director			
Barry	James	BJA Director/SA Chairman			
George	Kerr	BJA President			
Wayne	Lakin	Schools Dev Officer			
Stephanie	Leigh				
Mick	Leigh				
Malcolm	Limrick	BJA Director			
Anne	Lucas				
Joyce	Malley	Schools Dev Officer			
Scott	McCarthy	BJA CEO			

Prior to Meeting

Presentation of the Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport

Gill Joyce, National Development Officer from the NSPCC – Child Protection in Sport Unit gave a brief introduction on the meaning of the award.

In 2000 it was decided by Sport England that NGB's receiving Sport England funding should start to work towards the Nine Standards for Safeguarding & Protecting Children in Sport.

The standards provide a national benchmark of good practice for sports organisations to work towards. Their implementation by an organisation helps to raise awareness among staff and volunteers and minimise avoidable risks. When the standards are fully implemented, this is likely to increase confidence among parents and carers about their children's safety.

The Preliminary Level is the first step towards achieving the Nine awards and is given to NGB's who have put in place a Child Protection Policy and an Implementation Plan for delivery of the Policy.

Gill acknowledged the tremendous work done by the British Judo Association and stated that the positive attitude towards Child Protection in the Sport of Judo had not gone unnoticed and was a credit to the sport.

In presenting the award Gill congratulated Julie Moores – BJA Lead Child Protection Officer – for her hard work but was quick to point out that Julie herself had stressed that this award was due to teamwork and support she had received from the BJA Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer Scott McCarthy and members of the Association. It was stated that other NGB's who's Lead Officer's worked just as hard found that their progress was severely hampered by a lack of support from most areas of their sport.

Gill presented the plaque to Densign White, BJA Chairman who was proud and pleased to accept the award on behalf of the British Judo Association.

1.0 Introduction of the BJA President

1.1 George Kerr opened the meeting and thanked all of those in attendance. As always at AGM's it was his sad duty to report on the members who had passed away during the year. In 2004/05 the Association lost Mr Gordon Mortimer, BJA Vice President, Barry Strettle, 6th Dan respected Referee and Coach from the North West Area and Errol Carnegie an ex-British International and huge character within the sport.

George asked the meeting to be upstanding for one minute's silence in memory of those no longer with us.

2.0 Presidents Address

2.1 Mr Kerr reported on the proceedings at the previous nights Council Meeting. The Council were very impressed with this year's Annual Report and felt that it was even better than the prior years.

2.2 Mr Kerr wanted to highlight just one or two areas of the report. It has been levelled at Design White over the past months that he spent too much time abroad, he stressed though in the report the number of domestic events and meetings that the Chairman had attended. And that Densign's EJU workload as a Sports Director was high but that the position and esteem with which Mr White was held in Europe could only do tremendous good for British Judo.

- 2.3 The Council were pleased on the Annual Accounts and were happy to see the reserves of the Association were continuing to grow and thanked Donald Steel, Head of Corporate Affairs for his work in this area. It was still noted that with a turnover of £3,000,000 the Association really needed reserves in the region of £500,000.
- 2.4 On the resolutions again the Council stressed the need for a Technical Conference. Technical resolutions put forward to the AGM did not on the whole get the discussion time that they merited. Resolutions came at the end of the AGM when people are tired.
- 2.5 It was suggested that a technical conference the day before the AGM to discuss technical matters should be seriously considered by the Board.

3.0 Those Present (see list above) and Apologies

Apologies

Darren Challis, Comberton Judo Club
Les Davies, Austin Longbridge Judo Club
Ruth & Tony White, Newbury Judo Club
David Perez, Truro Judo Club & Cornwall Judo
John Dearden, Bretton Woods Judo Club
Janice Graham, Kyu Shin Kwai (Edinburgh)
Graham Thacker, Ramsey Judo Club
Jean Newman, Shiatani
Sam Smithson, Benson Judo Club
Jane Hawkins, Long Eaton Judo Club
Eddie Melen, WJA
Phil Mayberry, Wiltshire County Judo
John Cottis, JSC Judo Club
Roger Houston – Midland Area Chairman – Bushido Judokwai
Malcolm Collins – BSJA Chairman
Ken Webber - BSJA

4.0 Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting

- 4.1 Mac Abbotts stated that he had been in attendance at last years AGM but his name did not appear on the list. Mr Kerr agreed that Mac had indeed been present.
- 4.2 With no other amendments Mr Kerr asked for approval of the minutes.

Proposed by Bill Berry – Aberdeen Judo Club
Seconded by Dave Allan – Exmouth Vikings Judo Club

The minutes were unanimously approved.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous AGM

- 5.1 **Mr Simon Hicks** asked has any progress been made on the British Judo Trust?
- 5.2 **Scott McCarthy** responded that all the preliminary research and ground work had been completed and now the Association was at the stage of tasking a solicitor to draw up the actual formation of the Trust. He expected the work to be completed by the end of 2005.
- 5.3 **Mr Simon Hicks** stated that following the successful London 2012 Olympic Bid that the Association should join forces with other Combat sports to lobby for a purpose built Combat Arena. Generic Arenas would not be built to deal with specific needs of Combat Sports like a raised podium, weight control areas, adjustable lighting rig etc. Mr Hicks felt that if the combat sports came up with the spec for the Arena and lobbied as a group they would have a much higher chance of success.

- 5.4 Scott McCarthy** – There were plans in London for a configurable Arena where the walls of the main arena could be configured to a 3k, 5k or 7k seater venue. He agreed that getting together with other combat sports to produce a joint plan certainly had merit and would look into the project. **ACTION SCOTT MCCARTHY**
- 5.5 John O'Brien** – He was pleased to see the introduction of the members magazine Matside as promised at last years AGM in minute 6.2.

6.0 Reports

Chairman's Report

6.1 Densign White opened his report by stating that the results from Athens had been disappointing and on the whole players performances were below expected. He stated that Winston Gordon had performed magnificently and in Densign's opinion Winston had been the victim of a tough refereeing decision in the fight with the Georgian.

6.2 Britain qualified 8 players for the games and whilst this was less than the previous Olympics it was acknowledged by the EJU that the European players were disadvantage against players from other continents by the qualification process.

The EJU were restructuring the European qualification process to make it fairer for European players.

6.3 The European Championships in Bucharest was better with 2 Silvers and a Bronze.

6.4 The High Performance Directorate had been restructured but Mr White intended to leave the details of this for Colin McIver to report to the meeting.

However it was noted that following the Olympics UKSport intended to cut funding to many sports including Judo. At one point a new formula had been suggested which would have meant the BJA only receiving funding in the region of 90k per annum. After our plan was submitted which actually secured the figure of 500k per annum.

UKSport are happy with the way British Judo has bounced back following the Games. Following the success of the London 2012 bid we have been guaranteed funding until 2012.

Whilst the results from the worlds this year were very pleasing it was of some concern that yet again all of our World medals were produced by 2 players, Craig and Karina. We need to gain depth in the squad in all weight categories.

6.5 On the domestic front the new Wolverhampton Dojo at the EIS was opened. This was a fantastic facility and the centre was getting a lot of use by Judo including activities such as Masters Squad Training which Mac Abbotts is leading, the trials and the Midland Area hold a lot of events at the centre.

Praise has to be given to Mike Chamberlain a judoka who works for Wolverhampton University whose tireless efforts contributed significantly to the dojo coming to fruition at Walsall.

The BJA is committed to putting a certain number of hours of judo into all the EIS centres and I would encourage BJA Areas to utilise these facilities also.

6.6 The work of Mark Beecher and his development team continues strongly with the addition this year of the Schools Development Project, it is hoped that the work done in this area will go some way to bringing the private operators in schools under the BJA's umbrella. Congratulations to Dermot on his appointment as Schools

Development Manager he wished him well in the post but stated that it was sad that we had lost one of the hardest working Board members when Dermot was appointed.

Mark Beecher is continuing to work towards realising the BJA Facilities Strategy and some new wonderful dojos were now coming online in Dartford and Kendal, with two more due in the next 12 months.

6.7 This year the EJU in conjunction with Bath University have introduced a Foundation Degree Course in Judo Coaching. We are the first country in the world to have this course. Mike Callan's work in bringing this course to reality has been fantastic.

6.8 Great Britain has finally got its own World Cup Event (previously called A Tournaments) we are the last big country in Europe to gain a World Cup Event.

The calendar for the World Cups is very tight and for next year April was the only date available. This has meant that the British Open has had to be moved to December which was not ideal but unavoidable.

The World Cup event in 2007 should be a lot later in the year, which should mean the British Open returning to its historic date in April. The event will be an Olympic Qualification event, which will give our players to opportunity to meet the best players in Europe on home soil.

6.9 On the financial side we have had a great year. Our reserves are at the highest level since 1989 and payments to areas with the rebate system were up again this year.

The BJA recognises its debt to areas and we have agreed that this on the whole cannot be repaid. The BJA will have agreed this year a level and schedule for regular payments to help the areas budget and plan better.

6.10 The new merchandising was going well with a strong turnover this year. This is one area of the BJA that I see going from strength to strength this year.

6.11 The central registration of gradings had commenced with no problems and was going well. It was great that at last the records of players achievements were being centrally recorded.

6.12 We have just announced our Volunteer Award Scheme and hope this the start of recognising the hard work that is done week in week out by our volunteers at all levels of the sport. Certain people within the Association should be highlighted for the support they have given to players and volunteers during the year.

6.13 Colin Draycott had made significant financial contributions to players and sponsored the European Senior Men's Teams Championships and the Annual Referees Course.

6.14 Brian Davis via the Terence Donovan Trust had awarded grants to over 100 young players. All BJA areas were invited to submit applications for players, it was of some concern that not all BJA areas bothered to submit applications.

6.15 I am very pleased that I have been re-elected by the members and feel that I have the energy and drive to continue the work I feel still needs to be done. The Board and I have had to make some hard decisions over the last four years and I feel the huge majority of my re-election has given me the mandate to continue.

I have visited many clubs and areas over the last 6 months and I intend to continue to make regular visits to each area.

6.16 I would like to thank the Board and all the Commissions for their hard work and efforts, and would encourage more people to get involved with our Commissions.

Last year only three new people applied for positions and some of our Commissions are currently short of members.

- 6.17 Finally a huge thank you to all our volunteers without you the Association would grind to a halt. I don't feel there is enough money to pay you all for your contributions given the huge amount that you all do for your sport week in week out.

6.18 CEO Report (Scott McCarthy)

- 6.19 CEO outlined the One Stop Planning process that dominated the earlier part of the year. The one Stop Plan was a comprehensive planning process that included Home Country input. The end result was a lengthy plan, divided into 9 main sections; Executive, High Performance, Membership, Technical, Events, Competitions, Development, Communications, and Commercial. This plan will be the blueprint for the strategic direction of the Association for the coming 4 years.

The ultimate target for the Association is to be one of the top five judo nations in the world by 2012. This will be measured in six key categories; elite performance (men & women), membership, technical programmes, events, profile, and governance. L2012 will be a springboard for this target to be achieved.

- 6.20 During the period a number of new staff appointments were made. Karen French and Graham Bayley were appointed as Development Officers. Jo Duff was appointed as Commercial Manager. Andrew Moshanov, all the way from Moscow, was appointed as Technical Director. Claire Newman joined the Membership Section, and Yvonne Froggett was appointed as Events Manager. The HP Directorate was also re-structured and it was noted that with this level of change it was important to manage the dynamics of this change carefully.
- 6.21 CEO then noted that the proposed resolutions for the current AGM had been put on to discussion forums on the BJA website so members could hold frank discussions in advance of the meeting. This was a key option to facilitate voting by mail for those unable to attend the AGM.
- 6.22 CEO stated that the work on the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) was progressing nicely and that judo was on target to meet our objectives in a timely fashion. A new Coach Education course licensing scheme had been introduced, along with credit card style license cards. The level 4 Coaching Foundation course at Bath University was a great new initiative that was very well supported.
- 6.23 On the communications front, we had a successful Olympics from a media standpoint. We also launched the Enjoy Judo brand to promote the BJA Schools Development Programme. The key launch of the year was Matside – our membership magazine. This has been well received and compliments our website and e-newsletter perfectly.
- 6.24 We secured the rights to host the first annual GB World Cup during the period and we are looking forward to making this event, in April 2006, one of the top events on the circuit.
- 6.25 Development initiatives continued to move forward at pace. We had 11 Bronze Club Recognition scheme award winter and have another 50 in the pipeline. 200 of our clubs have now received Awards for All totalling over £800,000. The Volunteer Strategy was launched and this important piece of work will provide a real plan to recruit, train, manage, reward and retain our thousands of fantastic volunteers. We received over £1,000,000 in funding for Community Clubs to build or renovate permanent dojos. Also during the year the Enjoy Judo Schools development plan was launched with a target of visiting 10% of the schools each year and to create

sustainable judo programmes, both curricular and after-curricular, in activity clusters. We were also active participants in the PESSCL (school – club links) programme.

- 6.26 We had another good year financially with a surplus of £42,863 to increase our reserves to £116,426. We are on the road to financial stability but are not fully there yet. We need to triple this level of reserves in the next five years. Area rebates continued to grow and Head of Corporate Affairs Donald Steel must be commended for his steady hand on the controls of our financial programmes.
- 6.27 On the Membership front, we are adding new member benefits all the time to make our membership more compelling. Matside, members' only area of website, and enhanced insurance benefits are only some of the offerings. The No Licence No Judo campaign heightened awareness to the importance of membership.
- 6.28 On the Commercial side, the appointment of a dedicated officer (Jo Duff) should add to the urgency in this area. We have a comprehensive plan to increase central funds based on sponsorship, advertising, merchandising, the Trust, corporate training, and membership/gradings. The merchandising is off to a strong start and this can be increased quickly. The target is a new £100,000 of centrally generated funds each year.
- 6.29 The CEO closed by saying it has been a great year, and that he looked forward to working with everyone to reach the ambitious targets we have set for the Association. With energy, vision and teamwork – we can hit any target.

6.30 Colin Mclver, Performance Director: High Performance Report

- 6.31 Colin Mclver began his presentation informing the members that it was his intention to only cover few of the main issues during his presentation as the 2004/05 Annual Report contained a detailed report on all aspects of high performance activity.
- 6.32 On behalf of the Association he congratulated Kate Howey MBE, who had been given the honour of carrying the British Flag and leading the British Team at the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, and Ian Rose who had won a silver medal in the Paralympic Games.

He spoke briefly about the disappointing results in Athens and the impact that it would have on the future of high performance judo. Support from UK Sport and the British Olympic Association had been excellent but judo had failed to deliver.

He thought that the preparation for the Games had been good, but suggested that there was a need to focus more on winning medals at the Games and less on qualifying more players. On reflection, he felt that the concentration on the qualifying process and, the desire to qualify as many players as possible, had resulted in less attention being given during the main preparation phase to the players who had qualified at the previous World Championships.

- 6.33 The World Class Performance Plan for the period 2005 – 2009 had been prepared and presented to UK Sport but the under performance of the players in Athens had resulted in significant reduction in the high performance budget and reduction in the number of players that could be supported. Hard decisions regarding the performance structure and staff had been made as we reduced the size of high performance directorate and this had led to an extended period of unrest and disruption.
- 6.34 During the year a review of the National Judo Academy, based at Bisham Abbey, found that the fundamental objective of combining education with full-time judo training was not being met. It was also found that the cost/benefit ratio to be poor

value for money and this, along with several serious behaviour issues, led the review panel to recommend replacing the Academy with a regional set-up.

- 6.35 Looking to the future, Mr McIver gave a brief overview of the BJA's new high performance strategy and performance matrix. He stressed the importance of winning medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2008 and 2012 and the need to 'sharpen the focus' of the performance programme to develop a world class attitude and culture within the Association.

Four new Olympic squads were being created and the World Class Start Programme, currently under review, would be modified so that it could be better integrated with performance pathway and dovetail with the long-term player performance model.

- 6.36 To conclude his presentation he emphasised the need for coaches and support personnel to put aside their personal agendas and to work together to ensure that Olympic and Paralympic medal targets would be achieved.

7.0 Annual Report

- 7.1 Mr Kerr stated that he had already commented on the Annual Report in his address and asked if the members had any comments or questions on the Annual Report.
- 7.2 Mr McIver asked for a correct the results section of the High Performance Report be noted: Craig Fallon did not compete in the 2004 Senior Europeans and Sophie Cox won a silver medal at the same event and not bronze medal as stated.

8.0 Annual Accounts

- 8.1 **Donald Steel – Head of Corporate Affairs** – The surplus made this year was satisfactory. The BJA's financial outcome is always difficult to forecast as the surplus is always made in the final quarter when a high proportion of the Associations revenue is received.
- 8.2 As there were no questions or queries on the accounts Mr Kerr asked for a proposer and seconder for acceptance of the accounts.

Proposed: Kendal Judo Club
Seconded: Portsmouth Judo Club

The accounts were passed unanimously

9.0 Re-Appointment of Auditors

- 9.1 Mr Kerr asked for a vote on the re-appointment of Newby Castleman as the BJA auditors for the coming year.

Vote passed unanimously.

10.0 Election Results

- 10.1 Mr Kerr read the result of the election:

Number of ballot papers distributed 828
Number of ballot papers returned 517
Turnout 62.4%

Number of ballot papers found to be invalid (blank/spoilt) 3
Number of ballot papers found to be invalid (unsigned) 17

Therefore, total number of valid ballot papers to be counted 497

RESULT (1 to elect):

ALEXANDER, Lesley-Anne..... 162

WHITE, Densign 335 ELECTED

There were three Directors positions up for re-election this year and three candidates put themselves forward. As such no ballot was needed.

Mr Brian Davis and Mr Reuben Davison retain their positions on the Board. Mr Kerr welcomed new Board member Mr Dave Clark and wished him well in his new position.

- 10.2 Mr Kerr commented that he had been saddened and dismayed at the level and content of some of the letters and material that had been circulated during the election.
- 10.3 Mr Kerr felt that the members had given Densign an outstanding mandate.
- 10.4 Mr Kerr stated that in 1993 he put forward a resolution to the AGM to change the periods that the Chair and Directors were elected for. The Directors went from two to three years and the Chairman's term was increased to four years.

At the same AGM Mr Kerr also proposed that any Chair could only stand for two consecutive terms. In light of the London 2012 Games and the fact that Densign was not only very popular as a Chair within the membership but also with many external agencies including the British Olympic Association, Mr Kerr stated that he would be putting forward a resolution to next years AGM that Densign be allowed to stand for a further term should he so wish.

Densign had done a tremendous amount of work to help bring the Games to London and would be heavily involved in the next four years to working towards making the Games a success. It was unacceptable that just 3 years before the Games he should not be given the opportunity to place himself up for election to see the Games through.

11.0 Resolutions

- 11.1 Mr Kerr informed the meeting that there were 46 clubs present however 5 had previously postal voted (as they were unsure if they would be able to attend) this meant that there were 41 clubs in the room.

Resolution 1

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Directors

The Board proposes that the full authority to control all technical matters should be returned to the Board.

Board Comments:

At a previous AGM a resolution was narrowly passed that withdrew the power from the Board of Directors to make any changes to the grading schemes without AGM approval. This has obviously made it very difficult for the respective commissions and the Board to effectively manage and improve technical programmes in a timely fashion. The BJA Articles of Association state that the Board shall be responsible for the supervision and control of all technical matters. Technically this resolution simply re-affirms the Article,

which has never been legally changed. The Board is always open to input from the membership and all input will be factored into future decision making. The Board believes that the membership must have a degree of trust in the elected officials in order for the BJA to function as a modern and progressive governing body of sport. This resolution would supersede all previous resolutions involving all technical matters.

- 11.2 John Lucas – Launceston Judo Club** – Asked if this resolution had been in place last year what effect would it have had on the proposed new Kyu Grade Scheme which the members so unanimously apposed.
- 11.3 Roy Inman – Board Member** – This resolution was not about any specific grade or other technical issue at this point. It was asking the members to give the Board back their authority under the duties listed in the constitution to make decisions on technical matters.
- Currently the Promotions Commission had 32 items that they felt needed adjusting within the grading system and they could not implement any of them. Mr Inman asked did the AGM really want to spend hours discussing each of the 32 items.
- Also during the year if people came up with some good common sense ideas the Commission and Board were powerless to be able to implement any of these ideas.
- 11.4 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club** – He was under the impression that promotions to 5th Dan and above went to the Board for approval anyway.
- 11.5 Ray Toppie – Ryecroft Judo Club** - He felt this problem had come about due to the feelings surrounding the proposed Kyu Grade Scheme consultation. He certainly had been at a few meeting in the Midland Area where concerns and unhappiness at the scheme had been clearly expressed and then traveled to consultations in other areas where it was stated that the Midland Area (and others) were perfectly happy when in fact this was not the case.
- 11.6 Jill West - Skeby RBL Judo Club** – stated that the Board really needed to listen to the members and why should the members not have a final vote on these technical matters.
- 11.7 Alan Stanbra – Higashi Judo Club** – felt that the Board could not work under the current circumstances and that the membership should allow them to make technical decisions.
- 11.8 Alan Lingham – Canterbury Judokwai** - He thought that a resolution had been passed at a previous AGM where you needed to be a competitive 3rd Dan in order to eventually gain a 6th Dan.
- 11.9 Densign White** – A resolution subsequently to that resolution had over rode that criteria and in fact at this point in time a person could get an unlimited number of non-competitive promotions.
- 11.10 Alan Rickard – Croydon Judo Club** – Felt that the Board had brought these problems on themselves. Recommendations for promotions used to go via the area, which ensured that certain criteria were met. Since the Board got rid of the criteria this chaos had ensued.
- 11.11 Densign White** – Prior to Dermot carrying out work on the non-competitive system there was no criteria.
- 11.12 Alan Rickard – Croydon Judo Club** - Disagreed with Densign White's comment.

- 11.13 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club** – Suggest that maybe a referendum should be held for technical matters.
- 11.14 David Julian – Anwick & Ruskington Judo Club** – Surely the Area should stop some of the weaker applications getting to the Board. There was not much point having a Board to make decisions if we had to have a referendum on all matters.
- 11.15 Paul Smith MBE – Royal Air Force** – This resolution is not specifically about grades its about all technical matters. It's the articles that really need changing not just this part.
- 11.16 Derek Webster – United Synagogues (Edware) Judo Club** – Asked which non-competitive grade system we were actually voting for as he had got confused.
- 11.17 George Kerr** – We are not voting on any specific technical issue. Mr Kerr re-read the resolution prior to asking for a vote on the matter to ensure that members present were sure what they were voting on.

32 for
4 against
3 abstentions

Postal Ballot result:

51 for
39 against
4 abstentions

Resolution one passed.

- 11.18 Paul Smith MBE – Royal Air Force** – As Resolution one had been carried which gave technical control back to the Board, surely all the other resolutions, which were of a technical nature should now not be voted on?
- 11.19 David Julian – Anwick & Ruskington Judo Club** – Did resolutions passed at an AGM become effective immediately or was there a period of waiting?
- 11.20 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club** – Until the minutes of the meeting are approved resolutions were not confirmed.
- 11.21 George Kerr** – The resolutions were effective immediately.
- 11.22 Colin Draycott – Vice President** – This kind of issue was discussed at the Council the previous evening and it was to deal with these sorts of issues that the Council felt that a Technical conference was vital. Could the rest of the resolutions be moved to a technical forum?
- 11.23 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club** - As these resolutions had been sent to all clubs the AGM had no power to remove them. They either had to be voted on or the proposer and seconder had to withdraw them.
- 11.24 George Kerr** – Asked if Samurai Judo Club (Kidderminster) and Abbey College Judo Club would be prepared to withdraw resolutions 2-7 and have them tabled at a technical conference.
- 11.25 Sarah Newbury – Samurai Judo Club (Kidderminster) & Stefan Newbury – Abbey College Judo Club** – Agreed to withdraw the resolutions.

11.26 David Etchells-Butler – Stowmarket Judo Club – Felt that resolution 8 was not technical and was about representation and therefore felt it should be discussed.

Resolution 8

PROPOSED BY: Stowmarket Judo Club (David Etchells-Butler, Chairman)

SECONDED BY: Burwell Judo Club (Jane Blunt, Secretary)

That the individuals attending the Junior Nationals should be nominated by their respective Areas, with a maximum of two individuals per weight group per age band, effective from 2006.

Board Comments:

The Board strongly recommends that you vote against this resolution. The change to the Junior Nationals was implemented this year for a variety of reasons. The Competitions Commission and Board will be closely monitoring the event this year and complete an after event review to determine if the new format is better or worse than the old one – or if there may be a better alternative. The Board recognises that a number of individuals have similar views to the proposers of this resolution and we are open to change if the old format was superior. The Board needs to retain the flexibility to make changes to competitions to make them better for all interested parties – players, officials, coaches and spectators alike.

Proposer Comments:

None.

11.27 David Etchells-Butler – Stowmarket Judo Club – Area Level representation was the highest level that some players were likely to achieve and the Association should not deny them the opportunity to represent their area at the National Junior Championships. Also with no filtering of players through the area squad systems the event would now attract a low ability range of players.

Many members in the room asked for the result of the postal ballot before the AGM spent time discussing this resolution.

George Kerr read out the postal ballot results

19 for
64 against
11 abstentions

As the members present could not change the result of the postal vote no vote from the floor was taken.

12.0 Any other business

12.1 Simon Hicks – The TV coverage following Craig's World title had been appalling. There were no pictures in the national press and very little text on the subject. Whilst Simon acknowledge that this had not been Emma Reed's (Head of Communications) fault as she had worked hard to get press coverage, members really needed to pressure the paper they read and write to the BBC/ITV/C4 etc and press their desire to see better cover of judo in the media.

Simon stressed that a written letter had more impact than an e-mail as it was not as easily ignored.

- 12.2 Densign White** – Agreed to write an official letter on behalf of the BJA. **ACTION DENSIGN WHITE**
- 12.3 Peter Holme – Kendal Judo Club** – Remembers trying to get coverage of some of Sophie Cox's medals in the North West press and was told "If its not Football, Rugby or Cricket its not sport"!
- 12.4 Simon Hicks** – The BJA should publish information on our web site and in the Matside magazine to encourage members to lobby the BBC and the media in general for more coverage. **ACTION EMMA REED**
- 12.5 Sarah Newbury – Samurai Judo Club (Kidderminster)** – She felt that resolution seven was not a technical resolution and therefore should be discussed. She requested the results of the postal ballot on this resolution.
- 12.6 Scott McCarthy** – Suggested the resolution was not a resolution at all and in fact was more of a personal statement.

George Kerr read out the postal results:

25 For
50 against
19 abstentions

- 12.7 Ron Cleere – Stokenchurch Judo Club** – Two years ago at an AGM he asked about what was being done for Special Needs Judo.

He asked if any of the Board members knew that the Special Olympics had been held last month in Glasgow. He asked why at all the significant Special Needs events this year no BJA Board Member had been present.

He stated that inclusion was not just Visually Impaired. He stated that the BJA Inclusion Commission had achieved exactly nothing since its formation.

Mr Cleere stated that he had put his name forward for a position on the Inclusion Commission last year and had not even had a reply. He felt Malcolm Limrick had tried but had not really got to grips with the subject and that Barry James had not even tried.

Mr Cleere had resigned as the Refereeing Representative for the BJA NHC in order to try and take Special Needs Judo forward and he had had no help or support from the BJA.

- 12.8 George Kerr** – Following such a passionate statement felt sure that the Board would do something about the situation.

With there being no further business the meeting closed 17:10