



Candidates' Election Statements

**The British Judo Association
Election of Directors of the Association**



Mac Abbotts

My current term in office is drawing to a close therefore I intend to seek re-election for a further term in office, as a Director on the BJA Board.

I am sure that you are all aware that I am a dedicated life long active Judo Coach, member and supporter of the BJA and a true judoka.

My Personal coaching history involved me as British Mens Coach at three Olympic Games, Los Angeles, Seoul and Athens, and also Mens Coach at several World and European Championships. I was proud that the majority of the British Mens team at the time were Home grown players from Wolverhampton Judo Club where I was head coach.

I care passionately about our coaches who I sincerely and honestly believe form the very backbone of our association and are therefore one of the most valuable assets of our association. They are like me, the people who continually run Judo clubs and provide Judo coaching for all levels of the membership of our sport.

I firmly believe that the strength of our association comes from the grass roots club membership of which I have over four decades of firsthand knowledge. This experience I have drawn from and used during the past three years as a BJA BOD and Chairman of the BJA National Technical Officials Commission where I have done my utmost to guide and coordinate the ongoing status of our volunteers.

Everyone understands that the Board of Directors are a team who have a role to ensure that the affairs of the BJA are properly managed, this is also my belief and I am incredibly keen to continue to serve as a BJA Director.

With sincere thanks

Mac Abbotts 6th Dan BJA.

Senior Coach.

Chair of National Technical Officials Commission.



Rowena Birch

nee Sweatman

6th Dan

Nominating Area: North West

Judo has been a major part of my life for over 34 years and I am passionate about it. My roles have been varied - international competitor, national coach and manager, referee, examiner, club coach, director of a schools judo business, recreational player and most recently parent. I am currently working with a variety of sports in the area of high performance coach support/development and programme management.

WE NEED A BOARD WITH NEW ENERGY, REAL EXPERIENCE, UP TO DATE KNOWLEDGE AND MOTIVATIONAL MANAGEMENT

If elected, I will bring

In depth experience of high performance sport gained through

- 14 years as a Senior International (European Champion 1994, Olympian 1996)
- 10 years with National Cadet/Junior squads as coach and later manager
- Commonwealth Games 2002 as Women's Head Coach
- Learning from other high performance athletes and coaches from within judo and in other sports
- Continuous study of relevant evidence based research

International success is important for British Judo as a whole. It raises our profile, helps to ensure continued funding, and certainly adds a feel good factor!

A drive to ensure that judo can be enjoyed by all

One of the great things about judo is it is not just for the elite or the competitive and can be enjoyed by all. In the past, I have spent time in Japan studying "Judo for the non-elite" and also in Japan and Korea looking at how they integrate judo into the educational system. Judo's many aspects which attract people from all walks of life must continue to be recognised and opportunities developed.

Strong Business and management skills

The management skills, which I have developed through my previous working activities, are complimented by my study for a Masters in Business Administration. I consult and listen, set direction and then empower, allowing room for creativity and innovation. This is essential if we are to be able to react quickly to enforced changes in circumstance and ensure continuous improvement.

VOTE FOR ME, so I have the opportunity to give back to the sport that has given me so much. I will use my skills and experience to ensure The British Judo Association continues to grow and develop into THE leading National Governing Body. I will work to ensure our organisation provides the best support and opportunities for all our members, including my own children who are only just discovering our sport, and myself who wishes to continue to enjoy its many different aspects into my old age.



John Black

Nominating Area: Western:

I wish to put my name forward for the forthcoming elections for the Board of Directors of the BJA, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know me very well.

I have been a Judoka for 54 years, commencing in 1956 at the age of 10 at Harlow Judo Club (which at that time was affiliated to the BJC). After joining the Royal Navy, I moved to Portsmouth Judokwai (Dennis Penfold), and was a member of the first Royal Navy/Royal Marines Judo Team, where I retained my place until I left the Forces in 1970. I gained my 1st Dan in 1969. My licence

number (still current) is 019612.

Later, I joined Guildford Judo Club (Ellen Cobb), became a 2nd Dan, a Senior Club Coach, and eventually a Southern Area and then a BJA Referee (following gentle pressure from Dave Stanley and others).

My family and I moved to Kenya in 1989 with my job in ICL Computers, and I continued coaching and practising at Kenya Judo College and at the Police College. Judo in Kenya at this time was under the control of Korea. In 1989 I was asked by the Chairman of the Kenya Judo Association to become the temporary National Coach. This was a voluntary post which I held until 1991 when we returned to England. Before leaving Kenya in 1991, I was awarded a 3rd Dan, although I have never asked the BJA to recognise this grade. We returned to Kenya in 1993, where we stayed until 1999. During this time I remained active in Judo, coaching at the Police College, again on a voluntary basis.

I made a final return to UK in 1999 and now belong to Bradley Stoke Judo Club (Pete Douglas).

For me Judo is our family passion, and both my children and my 5 grandchildren are also active. My daughter and her 3 children belong to Bradley Stoke; my son is a 1st Dan and coaches at Camberley and one of his daughters (Jessica) is now on the England squad, aiming at 2016.

I currently run my own business as a business consultant and spend my working time training and coaching managers, mainly in multi-national companies. My CV shows that I have had a long and successful management career in international business, culminating as the Chief Executive of a group of companies. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and a Member of the Institute of Business Consulting.

My interest in joining the Board of Directors of the BJA is to help drive the organisation forwards, increase both the popularity and the standard of Judo in Britain, and to use my business experience and expertise to further the aims of the BJA. Having already enjoyed 54 years in the sport that I love, I would now like the opportunity to give back and to serve the wider Judo community. I believe that I meet all of the criteria for this post and exceed the requirement in some. I am in this for the long haul.

I shall be grateful for your support.

John Black



Loretta Cusack Doyle

Address Scotland
Age: 47
Occupation Director, Cusack School of Judo 1990 - present
 Head Coach, Cusack School of Judo 2005 - present
 Lecturer in Sport, James Watt College, Largs
Qualifications EJU Foundation degree in Sport, University of Bath

Area Scotland
Nominating Area/Incumbent Northern Home Counties
Number of years continuous membership to date 37 years
Judo Grade 7th Dan
Judo Qualifications

- WORLD, DOUBLE EUROPEAN AND COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION
- INTERNATIONAL COMPETITOR 1979 - 1992
- NATIONAL CADET AND JUNIOR COACH 1993 - 2005
- LIFE MEMBER OF BJA and JudoScotland
- EJU JUDO TV COMMENTATOR
- EJU LEVEL 4 COACHING AWARD

I would beg for your support in my desire to become a director of the British Judo Association board of directors.

I am passionate about judo, and am dedicated to endorsing it through everything that I do, as I sincerely believe that judo is a sport in which everyone can enjoy and be a part. We must continue to invest in our members, coaches, clubs, officials and volunteers, as these are essential to the success of our sport. These people need to be rewarded for their dedication, the time they donate and the work they do.

I want to encourage more women, disabled people and people from different cultural backgrounds to become active in judo and to promote equality within our sport.

To keep building on the progress that the BJA has made to date, we must strive to be better in all areas of the business. Change is necessary for us to achieve, and I believe that my understanding of the sport, along with over 38 years experience in a variety of roles, can help promote that.

Managing my own business, and being national coach, has allowed me to develop the management, and leadership skills that I believe a Director of the BJA should have. I also have a vast network of colleagues and friends in judo, not only in Britain, but throughout the world.

We must continue to build on our strong relationship with the International Federations, EJU, IJF and IBSA judo, to ensure that the BJA influences the direction of our sport outwith the UK.

I am proud of the fact that I am a dedicated member of the BJA, and that I am active every week on the mat. Coach education is an area to which I am committed, as I consider excellent technical skills and knowledge to be an important, but not the only, part in teaching judo. The importance of well qualified, and most of all, enthusiastic coaches to the development of British Judo cannot be underestimated.

As a former world champion and national coach, I know that British judokas can produce results, at the highest level, and at every age group, in both judo and visually impaired judo. From my experience as a competitor, and, having returned to education as a mature student, I would encourage young athletes, embarking on their performance career, to consider combining education with a full- time judo training programme.

This will not be an easy role, but rather an interesting challenge, propelling my drive to ensure the comprehensive success of our sport.

Loretta Cusack Doyle 7th Dan



Barry James 5th Dan B.A., Cert. Ed., A.M.I.Mech. E.

Although I have a full and varied life it has been JUDO which has been my principal focus for 40+ years and I would like to continue my central involvement with the Board.

Just a brief history of my association with the sport: Began with Baker-Brown as my sensei and, after serious injury, I was advised by my consultant to limit my practice to lighter players, so I decided to focus on coaching, refereeing and committee work.

I joined the SA committee as secretary in 1970 and have been Vice- chair and now Chair {since 1986}.

I founded and ran two clubs, for 25+, years at Woolwich and Meopham, running all sorts of events and refereeing on many occasions, [Senior club coach (level 3) and National, C].

My board involvement began with Mick Leigh and continued with every subsequent BJA chairman up to the present. During those 20+ years I have been Company Secretary and Chair of several commissions [Education and European, Marketing, English Areas, Inclusion, Masters (current)].

I have been England Chef de Mission/ Team Manager for the commonwealth Judo in Canada, Manchester, New Zealand, N. Ireland, Mauritius and Singapore.

Other highlights for me: V.I. Chef de Mission at the Sydney Paralympics and Sports Director for the Commonwealth Judo Association.

Outside of Judo I have a great family and grand-children.

I am Chair of Governors for my local secondary school and Chair of a Choral Society.

As I speak fluent French and have rebuilt a ruined cottage in Brittany I have many good memories of trips with family, students, Judo players, etc. in France (not to mention several other countries).

Originally trained to be a Chartered Mechanical Engineer I later became a lecturer in Physics and Mathematics, eventually becoming Head of Science and Mathematics spending the last 25 years before recent retirement working for the University of Greenwich as a Teacher/Lecturer/Tutor to student teachers and lecturers

The engineering origin, I keep going with my building and the 80 year old Austin 7, I have had for 50+ years.

By continuing my grassroots contacts and applying commonsense to the many and varied situations in our activities I believe I have had some beneficial effects.

Most of all, I would love to continue the development of the BJA, and my Masters Commission work.

SO----- PLEASE VOTE FOR ME TO BE RETURNED !!!!

Barry James