

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Friday, 5 November 2011

At 3.30 pm

Forest Suite

Yew Tree Lodge Conference Centre, Kegworth, Derbyshire

PRESENT:

Council:

Dr George Kerr, CBE, President
Richard Barraclough, Vice-President
Colin Draycott, Vice-President
Mick Leigh, Vice-President
David Allen, Chair, Western Area
Peter Blewett, Chair, London Area
Nick Fletcher, Technical Director, Northern HCs
Denise Oates, Chair, Eastern Area
Alan Rickard, Southern Area Representative
Ronnie Scott, Chair, Northern Area
Simon Smith, North West Area Representative
Alan Stanbra, Secretary, Yorkshire/Humberside Area
Bill Berry, MBE, JudoScotland Representative
Darren Dean, Technical Director, Welsh Judo Assn
Ricky Sloane, NIJF Representative
John Thacker, Royal Navy Judo
Tony Sweeney, Universities Judo
Barry James, Chair, Southern Area

Board:

Densign White, Chairman
Brian Davies, Vice-Chair
Mac Abbotts
Roy Inman, OBE
Reuben Davison
Dave Clark
Eddie Awford
Rowena Birch
Malcolm Collins
Keven Williams, Chair, Welsh Judo Assn
Ronnie Saez, Chair, JudoScotland

Staff:

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive
Sally Hurman, Executive Assistant to CEO
Andrew Scoular, Chief Operating Officer
David Strain, Financial Controller
Daniel Lascau, Performance Director
Colin McIver, Technical Director
Joyce Heron, Education and Training Manager
Mark Beecher, Development Director
Karen French, London Development Manager

Clubs Represented:

1882 Judo Academy, William Taylor
3Ks Sandwell Judo Club, Malcolm Collins
Aberdeen Judo Club, Bill Berry, MBE
Budokwai, Brian Davies
Budokwai Junior, Peter Blewett
Capital London Judo Club, Karen French

Clondermont School Judo Club, Jim Toland
Croydon Judo Club, Alan Rickard
Cusack School of Judo, Loretta Cusack
Exmouth Vikings Judo Club
Ford Judo Club, Bill Taylor
Fort Purbrook Judo Club, Tina Penfold
Fountain Primary School Judo Club, Jim Toland
Foyle View Special Needs School Judo Club, Jim Toland
George Kerr Junior Judo Club, George Kerr
Good Shepherds Judo Club, Jim Toland
Green Haw Primary School Judo Club, Jim Toland
Groarty Primary School Judo Club, Jim Toland
Hardy Spicer 83 Judo Club
Higashi Judo Kwai, Alan Stanbra
Horncastle Judo Club, David Julian
Kumo Judo Club, Denise Oates
Kumo Judo Club (Crowfield), Denise Oates
Lancaster University Judo Club, Simon Smith
Long Tower Judo Club, Lisa Bradley
Lumen Christi College Judo Club, Jim Toland
Meopham Judo Club, Barry James
Murakwai Judo Club, Ricky Sloane
Redcar Judo Club, Jim Mackenzie
Ren Sei Kan Judo Club, Ronnie Scott
Renzoku Judo Club, Dave Clark
Retford Judo Club, Chris Skelton
Samurai Judo Club (Cardiff), Paul Williams
Southlands School Judo Club, Ronnie Scott
St Paul's School Judo Club, Tony Sweeney
Stratford Judokai, Michael McCarthy
Stonehaven Judo Club
University of Bath Judo Club, Mike Callan
Wickford Judo Ryu
Windsor Judo Club, Nick Fletcher
Wolverhampton Judo Club, Bill Kelly

APOLOGIES:

Arthur Tomkinson, Vice-President
Robin Newett, Honorary Treasurer, NIJF
Marina Dain, Chair, Midlands Area
Colin Cleavin, Chair, Yorkshire/Humberside
Matt Clempner, Police Sport UK
Ken Webber, Chair, British Schools Judo
Ronnie Saez, Chair, JudoScotland
Marc Preston, Vice-President, JudoScotland
Keven Williams, Welsh Judo Association
Dave Martin, Felixtowe Judo Club
Graham Thacker, Ramsey Judo Club
Les Davies, Austin Longbridge Judo Club
Phil Mayberry, Chair, Wiltshire

The President welcomed all to the 2011 Annual General Meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1 MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY

The President announced the name of colleagues who had passed on during the year and a minute's silence was held in their honour:

Percy Sekine
Elvis Gordon
Anne Kokotaylo
Mel Davies
Bill Coffey
Phil Jones
Helen Thompson

2 PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

2.1 Report on Council Meeting: 4 November 2011

2.1.1 Ratification of Bye-law 1.3: Cub Membership – Voting Rights

Concern was expressed regarding the wording of this resolution which will be considered when this item is raised later in the meeting (please see item 9)

2.1.2 Postal Votes

Concern had been expressed in that postal voting does not encourage BJA member to attend the AGM to discuss and debate topical matters in detail.

2.1.3 Role of Council

Concern had been expressed in that the responsibilities of Council appear to have diminished somewhat. However, Council members were encouraged to comment on the overall performance of the BJA, as were Area representatives, as well as to raise matters of concern. It had been agreed that Council would have a second meeting during the year.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2010

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 17 October 2010 were APPROVED as a correct record subject to the following amendment.

Apologies: Eddie Awford, had given apologies

Proposed: Brian Davies, Budokwai
Seconded: Jim McKenzie, Redcar Judo Club

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Densign White thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting. He explained that the Annual Conference had been cancelled due to lack of support, probably associated with the current economic climate and financial situation.

High Performance:

First EJU Olympic Training Camp: Support is given in the sum of €60 per day for the top three European athletes. A second list of athletes provides opportunities for those who have the potential to win medals and also those athletes from smaller countries. Last year there were eight Olympic training camps, the first one was held in Dartford.

Senior European Championships, Vienna: Euan Burton and Karina Bryant both took bronze medals; a very good result for GB.

Senior World Championships, Tokyo: Euan Burton was outstanding taking his second World Championship bronze medal.

Olympic Qualifying Standard and BOA Meeting: A qualifying standard has been agreed and athletes must give consistent and credible performance. It is hoped that, although still weak in some areas, GB can put in a full team of 14 representatives.

Government Spending Review: Cuts have been evident across all Government departments, however, the sporting programme continues to be funded until 2013 in order that it can complete its aims and objectives and in particular, can achieve medal targets.

Domestic:

British Open, K2 Crawley: There was good attendance and this was the first time this competition had European Cup status.

Referees and Officials Seminar: This had been a fantastic weekend and was very well attended. Thanks were extended to Reuben Davison and Mac Abbotts and in particular, the keynote speaker, Henk *** from the Netherlands who had been an Olympic referee in Beijing.

Clubmark: The Chair continued to visit clubs during the year. More and more clubs are starting to achieve Clubmark standards. It was noted that Holbrook Judo Club has been the number one club for fundraising in the last three years.

Sporting Equals Conference: The mission of the Conference is to encourage diversity and equality in sport and they are targeting groups which are underrepresented. The Chair stated that there are many groups who are underrepresented and the BJA needs to be proactive to encourage take up of sport, particularly with those children/young adults who are disadvantaged and face difficult circumstances; Judo could change their lives. The Chair appealed to all present to try to find ways to target these groups.

Home Countries: The BJA continues to have good relationships with Home Countries, indeed Home Country Chairs sit on the Boards of Directors and have voting rights. This is always work in progress and it is important that the BJA communicates with Home Countries and Areas in order that the Association, as a whole, is stronger by working together.

Areas: Area relationships are also important. The BJA cannot achieve its goals without the commitment of Areas. Sport England and UK Sport plans set targets for the whole Association and everyone has to take part to deliver the final objectives. The Chairman invited all Areas to forward their plans for period 2013 to 2017 in order to take the Association forward.

GB World Cup, Birmingham: This event was indeed successful in terms of organisation, however, it was disappointing in terms of the women's team performance.

Volunteer Awards, Birmingham: This had been a fantastic event with more than 300 people in attendance. The dinner provided a good opportunity to meet volunteers and recognise the work they do throughout the year. Without volunteers, the BJA, Home Countries and Areas could not function as it does and more volunteers and young people need to be encouraged to take part in all aspects of Judo.

AGM/Technical Congress: This was a successful event last year which again offered the opportunity for clubs, coaches and referees to feedback on the future direction of the sport.

International Affairs: The Chair continued in his role as Head Sports Director for the EJU with responsibilities for Olympic Training Centres and the European Championships. Colin Draycott and George Kerr both sit on the EJU Ethics Commission and Sheldon Franco Rooks continues to be the voice of Judo on the internet. Mike Callan works with the EJU on coach education for Levels 1, 2 and 3, particularly with the online coaching system which is in development. Overall, the BJA is well represented and well respected internationally. It has taken a long time to build up this level of trust and influence and it is hoped that this level of representation will continue.

It is also essential to ensure representation and BJA support for Kata, Masters, European Championships, Combined Services EU, Special Needs Championships and VI Judo. VI Judo has been particularly successful over the last two years with Ben Quilter as World Champion and Lesley Reid taking the silver medal. Indeed, the VI Championships are taking place in the UK next week.

Financial Stability: The Chair confirmed that the Association had healthy reserves in the sum of £425K. Area rebates had achieved record status and merchandising and the income from technical gradings were also going well. It was pleasing that the Association at the year end 31 March 2010 showed a surplus of £68K as compared with a deficit of £16K in 2001 when he became Chair.

Closing Remarks: The Chair congratulated the President on the award of CBE from Her Majesty The Queen in the New Years Honours and the award of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Government, as well as the IJF's Lifetime Achievement Award. These were indeed great achievements and recognised his contribution to the sport of Judo as well as his personal commitment. He stated that the Association was very lucky and very proud to have a President of such calibre and dedication and he thanked him not only for his support for the BJA but also to him personally as Chair throughout his term of office. The Chair also thanked all present for their continued support of the Association, he thanked staff for their professionalism and continued hard work and the Board of Directors who were working together to move the Association forward.

During the Chairman's address, it was announced that Ben Fletcher had taken the bronze medal at the Junior World Championships.

6 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive emphasised the changes that had occurred over the past two years in that the level of funding provided by Sport England and UK Sport, had enabled the BJA to grow rapidly and expand its field staff. The Association is in a period of transition and the infrastructure currently being consolidated will provide for better delivery and progress in the coming year. He added that the BJA is a strong and vibrant body which this year has shown resilience against the challenges it faced.

Relationships with funding partners and key stakeholders are good with two satisfactory audits having taken place.

In terms of finance, the BJA achieved a turnover of £6.7M and shows healthy reserves. The current economic climate is tough and funding for 2013-2017 is somewhat uncertain with Government cuts looming, however, it is hoped that the sports budgets will achieve 90% of current levels. The need to achieve Olympic medals is the target against which funding will be judged.

Governance is a topic at the forefront and funding partners are being directed by Government to ensure that all NGBs become professional, corporate bodies and the onus on the BJA to conform.

Communications

Engagement with stakeholders is important and it is essential that the Association sends the right messages to the target audience for maximum impact and to this end, strategy and tactics must improve. The BJA has been successful in offering OnSport to clubs through its website giving clubs the opportunity to produce professionally designed, quality marketing materials. This offer has been very well utilised.

Technical

Technical gradings have increased by 5% this year. There has been an increase of 21% in qualified instructors/coaches with an additional 212 Level 2 UKCC coaches. The second Annual Women and Girls conference was successful. Many more initiatives on youth development and preparation for performance as well are in development.

Development

There is now a 30 person team in the field. Clubmark had 18 new and 29 renewals. There are 600 school club links through the Schools 2 Dojo programme. £120K has been awarded direct to clubs through the small project grants. Premier League 4 Sport has been extended and now has two full-time coaches who are funded by PL4S. The student vouchers scheme has been very successful with 3000 new licences and 30 university clubs.

London Development

This major intervention has demonstrated consistent growth. Interactive partnerships have been very important in its development. Karen French and her team continue to work hard to promote good relationships with clubs and partner organisations.

Membership

The BJA now provides an active membership team at events. New training diaries have been produced, TeamCard was launched, membership has increased over 10% giving an income of £31K. There are now in the region of 900 clubs in the BJA.

Events

The GB World Cup was a very successful, professionally organised and run event. The process to bid for the 2015 European Championships has commenced and the Association is actively seeking a City partner. The 2013 World Championships bid was won by Rio (\$6M). The Awards Dinner was a very successful event; it was suggest by Council and agreed that the 2012 Awards Dinner should take place on the weekend of the AGM in view of the fact that there is no GB World Cup competition next year.

Commercial

Judostore was launched and achieved £265K of goods sales. The BJ Trust continues with its good work to benefit a lot of people. The Association still seeks a corporate sponsor, particularly now that the London 2012 Olympic Games are in sight.

High Performance

High Performance has had its share of success but in general the overall medal results were poor. Lesley Reid took silver at the 2011 IBSA World Championships and Ben Quilter took his second World Championships title. Euan Burton took bronze at the 2010 World Championships.

Closing Remarks

The Chief Executive thanked volunteers and the membership for their help throughout the year. He stated that the BJA constantly acknowledges the fact that it is volunteers who run the clubs and who coach and referee and enable the Association's programmes to run as smoothly as they do. He also thanked the Board of Directors, Sport England and UK Sport for their continued support and enthusiasm for Judo.

The President thanked the Chair and Chief Executive for their reports and referred to the agenda. He complimented the Association on the presentation of the documentation.

7 APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010

Proposed: Barry James

Seconded: Bill Berry

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Postal Vote	66	0	8
Vote from the floor	38	0	0

8 RESOLUTION: DIRECTORS' TERM OF OFFICE – TERM LIMITS

Mike Callan, University of Bath, queried the term 'generally' as in "Therefore all terms shall generally be four years in duration." The Chief Executive explained that this referred to terms of office that may not last for four years, ie if the Board receives a resignation mid-term and at the time of election/re-election the longest serving Director may not have served a full term of four years.

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Postal Vote	71	1	2
Vote from the floor	37	0	1

9 RESOLUTION: RATIFICATION OF BYE-LAW 1.3: CLUB VOTING RIGHTS

The President stated that the wording of this particular Resolution had caused concern at Council. Ronnie Scott outlined Council's concern in that the Resolution stated a requirement for Judo clubs to be practising on a weekly basis as this implied 52 weeks per year. As it stands, the Resolution does not provide for schools, universities, police and armed services which run for fewer than 52 weeks per year. The Chief Executive had undertaken to seek legal advice if the Resolution was passed.

Following discussion, it was AGREED that the wording should be amended to read: 'regular' rather than 'weekly'.

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Postal Vote	72	2	0
Vote from the floor	38	0	0

10 RESOLUTION: RE-APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Brian Davies, as Chair of the Finance Commission, recommended the re-appointment of Hayes McIntyre as Auditors.

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Postal Vote	69	0	5
Vote from the floor	38	0	0

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**11.1 Congratulations (Alan Stanbra)**

Alan Stanbra requested that congratulations to the President be recorded on his achievements last year.

The President thanked Daniel Lascau, Performance Director, for his presentation and thanked all for attending.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.49 pm.

DRAFT