



British Judo Association

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27th September 2003

Cope Auditorium
Loughborough University

Agenda

1030 hrs Registration for Open Forum & AGM

1100 hrs Open Forum

- 1. Welcome by BJA Chairman**
- 2. Presentation – by Julian Critchley, UK Sport**

‘Investing in Change’ – Modernisation Programme for National Governing Bodies of Sport. The presentation will cover the findings of the Deloitte & Touché report on the modernisation of NGB’s and the process that all NGB’s will be asked to undertake to modernise structures and operations. A full copy of the D&T Report is available on the UK Sport Website.

- 3. Discussion Topic – Kata Proposals by Mick Leigh**

The following proposals were originally submitted by Mick Leigh as resolutions, but they were received after the deadline and therefore it was agreed that they would be discussed at the Open Forum:

Proposal 1 – The Kata working party to be responsible for certifying competence in Kata and in examining Kata. Kyu Grade Nage No Kata (first three sets) examiner cards to be produced and only those examiners holding such cards to examine Kyu Grade Kata demonstrations.

Proposal 2 – All future and continuing provisional senior examiners and senior examiners should be proven to be competent in the Kata section of the Dan Grade syllabus (County Level certificate in Nage No Kata and Katame No Kata).

Proposal 3 – All Dan Grade Kata examinations to be held in public (national, area, county gradings).

Proposal 4 – From 1st January 2005 all Dan Grades to obtain a minimum of club level Nage No Kata certificate from a certificated Kata examiner or national judge.

Proposal 5 – The Kata working party shall be responsible for the appointment and revalidation of Kata examiners. Only members with good working knowledge of the seven major Kodokan Kata to be considered for Kata working party recognition or national Kata judging.

Proposal 6 – The Kata requirements for Senior Club Coach to be immediately put back into place.

4. Question and Answer Session

1300 hrs Conclusion of Open Forum

1400 hrs Annual General Meeting

- 1. Introduction of BJA President**
- 2. President's Address**
- 3. Those Present and Apologies**
- 4. Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting**
- 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous AGM**
- 6. Minutes of Previous Extraordinary General Meeting**
- 7. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous EGM**
- 8. Reports**
 - Chairman's Report
 - CEO's Report
 - Annual Report 2002 (circulated in October 2002)
 - Annual Report 2003 (circulated in August 2003)
 - Annual Accounts (circulated in August 2003)
 - Appointment of Auditors
- 9. Election Results**
- 10. Resolutions**

*Resolutions 1 – 5 were proposed by **Lesley-Anne Alexander**, Willesden Judo Club and seconded by **Leigh Davies**, Parkside Judo Club:*

RESOLUTION 1

(Please see attached statement from Board of Directors)

It is proposed that the current structure of the BJA Board of Directors be changed to reflect the Association's Regional / Area structure. For the avoidance of doubt the Regional / Area Associations of the BJA are set out at the end of this resolution.

This resolution has five parts which are numbered i, ii, iii, iv and v below.

It is proposed that:

- i. Article 26 of the BJA Memorandum and Articles of Association be deleted and replaced with the following new Article 26:
'The number of Members of the Board of Directors shall be thirteen comprising twelve Members and the Chairman. The Members of the Board (excluding the Chairman) shall be made up of one nominee from each of the twelve Regional / Area Associations recognised within the BJA constitution. Each of the twelve nominees will represent only one of the Regional / Area Associations and will have been elected by the BJA member clubs that they represent. The Members of the Board (excluding the Chairman) shall remain as Members of the Board until such time as the Regional / Area Association that they represent rescinds their nomination or offers a replacement. The Board of Directors shall have the power from time to time to elect one of its members as Vice-Chairman to serve for no longer than two years and to act as Chairman in the event of the death, incapacity or absence of the duly elected Chairman.'
- ii. The current Board of Directors (with the exception of the BJA Chairman) are removed from Office on 31.3.2004.
- iii. The members of the Association approve the appointment of the new Board of Directors, nominated in accordance with the new Article 26, with effect from 1.4.2004.
- iv. Articles 35, 35, 37 and 38 of the current BJA Memorandum and Articles of Association be deleted and that article 14 has the words '...and members of the Board of Directors...' deleted.
- v. The Articles are re-numbered to reflect the impact of the changes and deletions set out above.

The BJA Regional / Area Associations are: West, London, East, Northern Ireland, Yorkshire and Humberside, North, South, Northern Home Counties, Wales, Midlands, North-West and Scotland.

RESOLUTION 2

It is proposed that band 'A' of the Junior National Championships be held on the same weekend and at the same venue as bands 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

RESOLUTION 3

It is proposed that each Regional / Area Association of the BJA be given the opportunity to hold a Senior Ranking Tournament each year.

RESOLUTION 4

It is proposed that any changes to the BJA's grading systems (including but not limited to syllabus, format, structure and operation) be brought before an AGM for prior approval and before implementation.

RESOLUTION 5

It is proposed that English Area licence rebates (payable to English Areas from the BJA) should be 22% of individual membership revenue unless the majority of English Area Chairmen agree, in writing, to any such changes.

*Resolution 6 is proposed by **Sarah Newbury**, Chairman Samurai Judo Club, and seconded by **Andrew Haffner**, Secretary Abbey College Judo Club:*

RESOLUTION 6

The BJA shall immediately revert to a competitive grading system for 5th mon and 6th mon; that is, the non-competitive system shall be up to 4th mon only. The current theory requirements for 5th mon and 6th mon shall remain but players will also need to attend a grading to be assessed by an examiner in the usual way to gain the grade.

Comments by proposer: The current system has a major flaw. Many clubs are not giving their players any competitive experience before their first contest grading. As a result, examiners are faced with a dilemma when players clearly not of an appropriate standard for orange belt enter a grading: either fail the player at their first grading, or promote to orange a player who is clearly not worth the grade. Both are happening; as a result, players are dropping out and also the grading standards have unquestionably dropped. We believe that if a player comes to their first competitive grading at 4th mon, an examiner could grade a player to 5th mon, which does not result in a change of colour, irrespective of performance. This would allow a breathing space and would also ensure that players reaching orange belt have had some contest experience and actually won some contests or shown enough skill to be assessed to orange.

People may argue that it is the fault of the coaches for grading players to 6th mon and putting them into a grading for orange belt without ensuring they have adequate competitive experience. This may be so, but it is the players who are losing out. The Board may argue that the current system is financially successful for the BJA: this may also be, but again it is the players who are losing out. We believe that this amendment would be better for the players, and the players should come first.

11. Any Other Business

Statement from the Board of Directors – Resolution 1

26 August 2003

Dear British Judo Association Members:

On behalf of the Board of Directors I am writing to each of you to express our extreme concern regarding Resolution 1, as outlined in the Agenda for this AGM. This concern is shared by UK Sport, our main funding partners.

Resolution 1 (you can see the full text on the Agenda) basically proposes that the current format for the Board of Directors (Chairman & 7 other elected representatives) should be replaced by a Board of Directors comprised of an elected Chairman and 12 nominees, one each from each English Area and Home Country.

The Board of Directors **STRONGLY** recommends that this resolution should be withdrawn prior to the AGM and if in fact it does go to the AGM then it would encourage every member who has the best interests of the BJA in mind to vote against it.

This resolution is fundamentally flawed and represents a simplistic attempt to address a complicated issue by reverting back in time to the failed system of some years ago. This total nominee Board system has been tested and it failed in the past within our own Association.

There is little doubt that our current Board structure needs review and possible updating. There is also strong evidence that a Board structure that includes a mix of elected officers with specific skills, complemented by nominees, is probably the best structure for a member Association like ours.

We are in the process of completing a comprehensive review of BJA structures with a view to making substantial changes to create a British Judo Association that is prepared to move into the future without the structural anomalies that have created substantial issues on the past. The review of our current Board structure and recommendations for change will form a large part of this review.

We have been asked to incorporate the findings of the UK Sport commissioned Deloitte & Touche Report on the "Modernisation Programme for Governing Bodies of Sport" which was released in July 2003, into our planning review.

The Report provides templates for the model NGB of the future and also touches on important issues such as model Board structures (I should note that the model structures are nothing like this resolution proposes) and the relationship between UK NGB's and Home Country affiliates.

UK Sport's Modernisation Manager, Julian Crichley, will be doing a presentation at the Open Forum on this initiative.

Since the resolution was proposed, we have received a strongly worded letter from UK Sport suggesting that they would encourage the BJA to continue our comprehensive process of review (as all NGB's will be tasked with doing to ensure continued grant funding) and that they would take a dim view of a poorly crafted "Board restructuring" in the middle of this important process.

The future Board structure must be decided as part of this comprehensive process.

Over the past 18 months we have made significant progress to modernise and revitalise the Association so that we are ready to deliver our sport at a high level.

Our funding partners, UK Sport and Sport England, have put significant financial resources into these efforts through exchequer funding for consultants and staff positions and we are now at the stage where we can begin to make progress based on this foundation work.

This resolution does not even have the majority support of the "bodies" that will eventually provide the nominees to this new Board structure.

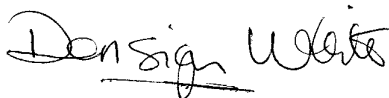
The Board does not believe that this Association needs or wants another destructive "proxy war" at an AGM and has made repeated attempts (5 emails, 3 phone calls, 1 fax) to contact the proposer of the resolution to explain the negative impact it would have on our progressive efforts.

We will continue to work to have this resolution withdrawn in the best interests of the Association going forward.

The Board cannot sit idly by and allow destructive resolutions that may have an adverse effect on future funding agreements to be put forward without strong condemnation.

I would urge each of you to vote against Resolution 1 and to participate in the healthy process of structural review we are undertaking at this point in time.

Signed for on behalf of the Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Densign White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Densign White
Chairman