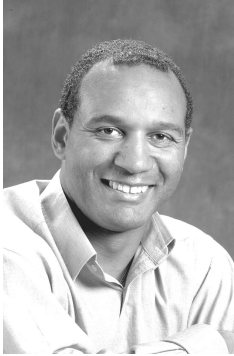




BRITISH JUDO

The Club Newsletter of The British Judo Association

Issue No. 5



Chairman's Message

I write this piece after much reflection on the recent AGM and the current state of affairs within the BJA. In many respects, the AGM reinforced my strongly held views that the BJA must be a wholly open and democratic Association that is directly accountable to the member base and the principles of the sport.

That said, the Association must also reflect the realities of modern day sport, which means we must be professional and proactive in our pursuit of excellence and in the competitive "business" of sport. Sometimes critical decisions need to be made in a timely fashion, based on fast changing circumstances. The membership needs to have complete confidence that the elected Board members are capable of making those decisions in a democratic fashion – with the wishes of the Membership always in mind. That, I can assure you, is happening.

Per our promise at the AGM – we circulated the Annual Report within the two-week deadline. You will have noted from my accompanying letter to that report that we aim to rapidly complete all of the action items from the AGM – as well as AGM's past.

It is a very exciting time for our sport. We will shortly be commencing the structural review that I outlined at the AGM and there is much work going on behind the scenes in our efforts to make our NGB more visible, accountable, and professional.

I see a new BJA within the next twelve months that is better positioned to compete with other, better-funded sports, for the hearts and minds of young people. I see closer ties with the BSJA and the other Affiliated Bodies that are so critical to ensure we hit our future membership targets. I see more strategic planning at all levels to ensure our targets and objectives are clear – and that we meet or exceed them.

We will soon be entering probably the most critical phase in the history of our High Performance programme with the qualification process for Athens starting in the next calendar year. We need to have a good run up to and performance in Athens in 2004.

There can be no mistakes.

You will be hearing more from us in the coming months as we keep you better informed about the operations of the Board and the professional staff.

I ask for your continued support so we can deliver the goods, and thank you for your support to date.

Chairman

2003 Club Membership Renewal

Enclosed with this edition of the newsletter you will find your 2003 application for club membership and personal disclosure forms. Please complete these forms and return them to BJA Head Office

Your club membership and therefore your club insurance will expire on 31 December.

Scott McCarthy – CEO (reprinted from a recent World of Judo Magazine article)

It seems like yesterday when I received the good news that I was being appointed as Interim CEO for the British Judo Association in March 2002. Nine months and one permanent appointment later it is still all very new – and yet intensely exciting.

Coming from another National Governing Body of sport, I was fully aware of the role of the CEO in the development of a NGB and was immediately struck by the size and potential of the BJA. Although the core funding was relatively tight, the scope of the high performance support and funding and the chance to achieve Olympic success was extremely attractive, and I saw the potential to have an impact in the short term.

How could anyone pass up such an opportunity? I must admit the nature of the sport was also a big plus for me – since I have always been one who needs to believe in something to effectively sell it. Judo is a great sport – and will only get stronger in the future. The platform is there to provide young people with a programme of structured advancement with a high emphasis on discipline and control. It is a sport for life, with strong core values and a high level of discipline and of course fun - With the added value of providing self-confidence and self defence techniques to people of all ages. I'll be taking some lessons as soon as I get settled.

We have a message, and we need to promote this message better. This is one of my main focus areas and I intend to recruit a full time Public Relations Officer to get this done. I consider this to be a self-funding position. With proper public relations and media promotion comes the potential for bigger sponsorship funding. This is an area in which I am particularly interested and will have an impact.

At this stage the membership might have noted that there have been some changes since my arrival. We have lost some staff members and gained others. Change is essential in a vibrant, progressive NGB. It has always been my experience in the sporting arena that the employees often burn bright – then move on to burn bright somewhere else. Managed change is something we should not fear but rather embrace.

We are facing some challenges and we must act quickly to tackle these issues head on. We have minimal reserves. Frankly our financial state is rather fragile. This needs to be addressed urgently, and I look forward to working with the Board and Donald to get improvement in this area.

Our High Performance Directorate suffered for a period of time due to some under laps in key positions and other factors. We have now employed Loren Bartley, who is off to a flying start as Performance Manager and the appointment of Mac Abbott as Senior Men's Team Manager completes this team.

The formation of the High Performance Steering Group has been an excellent initiative and we have seen immediate results. I look forward to many more results in the future.

We have a number of projects coming to completion in the next few weeks including the Judo Facilities Strategy Document and the Start Application. If we gain approval of the Start plan we will enjoy significant resources to take our high performance develop to the next (or rather previous) level.

Speaking of facilities, we are actively progressing a move of the Head Office to the University of Loughborough. They are interested in hosting us, and plans are afoot to get the proper facilities online. This will be a new beginning for Head Office personnel and I am anxious to make it happen. Our current office space is functional – but nothing to write home about. The support and synergies that will be gained by being based at a centre of excellence like Loughborough University will be measurable.

We need to improve and enhance our member services. We have a strong member database of almost 30,000 individuals and we are exploring ways to utilise technology to provide more information and services. Our Head of Membership and IT, Julie Moores, has some exciting ideas on how we might implement email newsletters and upgrade and improve our website services. More to follow.

Development continues to be one of our strengths and Mark and his team have been very successful in assisting many clubs in a variety of service areas – to include grant preparation, strategic and developmental planning, and facilities planning.

These are challenging and exciting times – there is no doubt about that. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Board of Directors and lead the professional staff in this new era.

I have a core belief in fairness. It has been my experience that in a membership organisation each and every member must be treated honestly, openly, equally, and fairly. If everyone truly believes they are being treated the same – it makes it much easier to handle the difficult or controversial issues that arise from time to time. I can assure everyone that this will form the platform from which everything else will spring.

Scott McCarthy

A.V.A. Sports

Sponsor of Adidas judogi for the British Senior Teams

For competition or training ~ judogi, tracksuits, t-shirts, etc.,

Contact A.V.A. Sports, Unit 18, Alexa Court, Aston Road, Bedford MK42 0LW

Tel/Fax: 01234-268-060 e-mail:avasports@virgin.net

Criminal Records Bureau

The British Judo Association is committed to the welfare and protection of children. We all take our responsibilities towards the welfare of young players very seriously and, as a national governing body, we are required to demonstrate that we do so.

The Disclosure service

The Criminal Records Bureau provides a regulated 'one stop' service for England and Wales offering access to records held by the police, together with those held by the Department of Health (DH) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The Disclosure service enables organisations to make more thorough recruitment checks, particularly for positions that involve regular contact with children and vulnerable adults.

From 1 April 2003 the British Judo Association will start the process of background checking anyone holding a position of authority within the BJA or at a BJA club. It is the intention of the BJA to check individuals once every five years.

All Coaches newly qualified will be checked prior to their award being confirmed. The BJA will begin the process of background checking existing coaches/officials in alphabetical order by club name.

Members should be aware that the BJA will be using the information provided by clubs on the 2003 club application form to identify those adults that are to be background checked.

The BJA will be strictly following the Criminal Records Bureau Code of Practice - copies of this are available from the BJA or from the Disclosure web site. The Membership Secretary will be the sole administrator of the Disclosure Forms.

What is the Disclosure procedure?

- The BJA will contact members as they are selected for checking and ask them to telephone the Disclosure application line on 0870 90 90 844. The applicant will be asked a series of questions by the operator, which will form the basis of the application form. The part completed application form is then sent to the applicant.
- The applicant checks the details recorded and signs the application form and then passes it to the British Judo Association.
- The BJA then countersigns the application form and sends the Disclosure application to the CRB for processing.
- Once processed, a copy of the Disclosure is sent to the applicant and a copy sent to the BJA.

A copy of the Code of Conduct along with the BJA's Child Protection Policy will be sent to the applicant at the time the BJA requests them to contact the Disclosure application line.

In order to save admin costs and time applicants who have e-mail facilities will be contacted initially by e-mail.

For further information contact:

British Judo Association

Mark Beecher – Head of English Development markbeecher@britishjudo.org.uk

Julie Moores – Membership Secretary

7a Rutland Street, Leicester LE1 1RB 0116 2559669 fax: 0116 2559660 e-mail:

bj@britishjudo.org.uk

Criminal Records Bureau

<http://www.disclosure.gov.uk/>

<http://www.crb.gov.uk/>

Pinewood Judo Club celebrates 50 years of Judo

Pinewood Judo Club is one of the most successful Judo Clubs in Europe with an outstanding record of National and International achievements dating back over 40 years. One of the most remarkable aspects of the Club's success is that, the all of its champions are "home grown". Most of the members have joined the club as beginners, often as young as 5 or 6 years and have developed under the watchful eye and tuition of Don Werner (6th Dan).

To list all of Pinewood's and Don's medal winners would take reams of paper but Don must be proud that in the clubs 50th year they produced both British medallists at this years European Championships, Georgina Singleton – Gold and Karen Roberts – Silver, both these women also won gold later in the year at the Commonwealth Games. Georgina's European title was Don's sixth European Champion.

The Club is holding a dinner on 20 December 2002 at the Bracknell Leisure Centre and would love to see old members and friends at this celebration of 50 year of Judo at the club. For tickets and information please contact Lynn Fairbrother on 01344 776828.

Loss of Sandy Booker, Judo Player, in Moscow Tragedy Dear Members of the USA and World Judo Community:

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the loss of Sandy Booker in the Moscow Theatre Hostage Crisis. Sandy was a Sandan and member of Sooner Judo Club, Norman, Oklahoma. He enjoyed helping new students develop the proper fundamental skills of kodokan judo. He had been involved with judo for more than thirty years and was also well known as a competitor. Most of all he will be remembered as a kind soul whose actions and demeanor truly represented "the gentle way". The judo community has now been affected by the three most recent terrorist events with loss of Gene Hodges in the Oklahoma City Bombing, Jeremy Glick, Paul Pansini, and Christian Regenhard in the 9-11 Attack on America, and now Sandy Booker in the Moscow Theatre Hostage Crisis. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Booker family during this time of tragedy and our thoughts and prayers to all those we have lost, they will not be forgotten.

Respectfully,

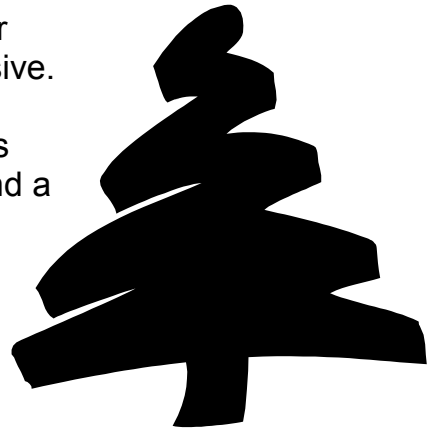
Dr. Ron Tripp

President, USA Judo

Head Office Christmas Closure

BJA Head Office will be closed for the Christmas/New Year Holidays from 24 December 2002 to 5 January 2003 inclusive.

The BJA Board of Directors and Staff would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



BJA Board of Directors – Elections 2002

Reuben Davison 167 votes ELECTED

Brian Davies 162 votes ELECTED following BJA Council vote

Malcolm Limrick 162 votes

Due to a tie in the postal election for the position of Director of the BJA a deciding vote was taken by the BJA's Council. A total of 20 votes were cast and the result was 13 Brian Davies, 7 Malcolm Limrick.

Brian Davies

I am very pleased to have been re-elected to the Board of Directors for a new 3 year term.

May I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who voted for me and supported me during the election process.

I very much hope that the bitterness and infighting that has plagued the Association in recent months will now cease. We must now all move on and together develop and strengthen the Association.

As English Area Commission Chairman I will do everything within my power to resolve the current feuding and as Chair of the Finance Commission I will work to improve and protect the Association's finances.

Brian Davies



Reuben Davison

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me in my successful bid to be a member of the Board of Directors. I have now achieved two ambitions. The first was to be elected to the Board, and the second was to become the Chairman of the Refereeing Commission.



My first obligation is to all of our members within the BJA. I hope during my term of three years I will, with the help of the rest of the Board, make changes that will benefit everyone. I have a lot to learn about the running of our association, and I am determined to do my best on behalf of every member.

On the refereeing side my aim is to run a system that is fair and open to every referee, no matter what level they are. I aim, not only to maintain the high standard of refereeing in our country (and I truly believe we have some of the best referees in the world), but to improve it. It is my commitment and that of the Commission I have chosen, to help referees achieve their full potential, and to bring enjoyment back into what they do. I want everyone to feel they are part of the team.

I will not promise you the earth, but I will promise you, I will do my utmost to help our association do the best it can for all of us.

Regards
Reuben Davison.

Dave Duffy – Getting Better

Dave is one of our Development Officers who took seriously ill just after the Commonwealth Games this summer.

Members we are sure will be very much relieved to hear that Dave is now back at home and making a steady recovery following his lengthy stay in hospital.



AWARDS FOR ALL FUNDING

Since the last newsletter funding to BJA Clubs and Areas through this Sports Lottery Fund scheme has passed the mile stone figure of half a million pounds. In total the number of successful Awards for All applications for Judo in England now stands at 136.

Total funding to grass roots Judo from the scheme now stands at an amazing: -

£523,812

Successful applicants have received funding for a diverse range of projects, for example simple mat purchases, specialised tapered safety landing zones, advertisement / promotional literature, training and Coach Education costs. Please be aware however, if you are in the process of putting an application together that the application form has been revised and that the new form must be used for all new applications. To obtain an application form simply call the hotline telephone number - 0845 600 20 40 then contact any member of the Development Team for details of and assistance with the application process.

