



## Message from the Chairman

Dear Members:

Enclosed please find the British Judo Association Annual Report for the period 1 April 2001 through 31 March 2002. I regret the delay in completing this document, and promise that it will be completed in a timely fashion in future years. It is my intent to greatly improve the range of content in next year's version. You will note that we have included the Area, Home Country and Affiliate reports in this addition. I hope you find it useful.

May I take this opportunity to make some observations about the recent Annual General Meeting, which I felt was quite productive although difficult at times.

We have yet to receive the final minutes, but it was clear to me that the Members had strong feelings on certain issues.

The Board of Directors (BOD) has taken on the following key points from the meeting:

1. The Membership expects the BOD to implement all decisions made at the AGM to the best of its ability. The BOD concurs fully with this and will endeavour to do so always.
2. The Membership does recognise that the BOD has a legal requirement to ensure the survival of the company, and there might be certain resolutions it is not in a position to implement – due to third party involvement or control.
3. The Membership wants the following points addressed urgently:
  - a. The setting up of a Veterans/Masters Squad – self-funding if necessary.
  - b. The Members want to see the report compiled after the Sydney Olympics on our performance at that event.
  - c. The Members want a clearer format for identifying action items in future minutes from the AGM.
  - d. The Members want the BJA to explore possible ways of becoming more closely tied to schools judo and to work to develop the linkage schemes between schools and club judo.
  - e. The Members want the Accounts to be re-drafted to eliminate the typos that were included in the first draft and also to utilise a more informative format.
  - f. The Members want the 2002 Annual Report to be included on the next possible Agenda (EGM) for comments.
  - g. The Members want the Lower Age Band at the National Championships issue studied carefully to ensure all factors are considered.
  - h. The Members want the BJA to recognise the hard work of Volunteers, who form the backbone of the Association, and possibly devise schemes to assist them to a larger extent.

The above list is not inclusive but rather represents my impressions. I can assure you that most of the above actions items are in process, and will be completed soonest.

As I move into my second year it occurs to me that we are still a long way from a unified Association. There was much negativity at the AGM and I now believe that one of my key priorities going forward is to attempt to unify the BJA.

We have a storied history and have enjoyed much success over the years. In more recent times, the infighting seems to be having a seriously detrimental effect on our sport at many levels.

I ask each of you to work with me to turn this thing around. We have a unique and exciting opportunity to move Judo to a higher level – and we must seize that opportunity sooner rather than later.