

**THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2022 AT 10:30 AM**  
**GEORGE KERR SUITE, WALSALL CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON,**  
**GORWAY ROAD, WS1 3BD**

**Present:**

Rowena Birch	President	RBi
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**Council Members:**

Tony Sweeney	Vice President	TS
Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	DO
Sarah Newbury	Midlands Area	SN
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD
John Malkinson	Southern Area	JMa
John Thacker	Navy Judo	JT
Stephen Watson	Armed Forces	SW
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
Seth Birch	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	SB
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR

**British Judo Association:**

Ronnie Saez	Chairman	RS
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS
Justine Lynch	Executive Officer	JL

**Apologies:**

Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President	
Brian Davies	Vice President	
Mick Leigh	Vice President	
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	
Garth Illingworth	Northern Area	
Dave Clark	Northern Home Counties	
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	
Nadia Minardi	London Area	Jim McKenzie Army Judo
Rick Kenney	JudoScotland	
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK & North West Area	
Colin McIver	Sport Director	
Joyce Heron	Deputy Sport Director	

**1 Welcome**

RBi welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted as detailed above.

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 May 2022**

A few amendments to be made to the Minutes of the previous meeting:

- Change RK to Scotland Representative
- Change SW from Army Representative to Armed Forces Representative

It was also noted that it has now been agreed that the National Training Centre Medical Room would be named the Colin Draycott Room.

With the above amendments made, it was agreed the Minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

**Proposer: MCSeconder: JM**

### **3 President's Remarks**

RBi highlighted the success of the Commonwealth Games in terms of an event but also the success of the Home Countries. She also highlighted the hard work of Loretta Cusack-Doyle, Lisa Allan and Susan Wright who made the organisation run as smoothly as possible. SN also complimented the British Judo activity zone which was very successful. AS raised that Marion Woodard announced she was retiring from international duty, and appreciation for her time and effort over the years to be noted.

Lastly RBi congratulated Lisa Rivers who has now been invited to join the IF World Tour as a referee. Her first appointment will be at the 5<sup>th</sup> Islamic Games.

### **4 Chair's Report**

RS raised a few points for the Council:

- Membership is growing in strength and we are now at 91% of pre-Covid levels although this is a flattening which may reflect the cost of living position;
- The new CRM system has been launched and will slowly grow to full functionality in the new year. This is not the preferred position but NEST have worked hard to give British Judo a platform in a short period of time, especially as 4Global withdraw their support in July with minimum notice;
- The BJA are reviewing their Memorandum & Articles by way of good practice. These will be circulated to clubs and there will be consultation meetings;
- The new Strategy 2022 to 2025 has been launched and issued to clubs with one of the key focus points being moving to digital operations;
- RS also commented on how successful the Commonwealth Games were for all and it was a great spectacle for the sport nationally. One of the primary objectives at the Games was to secure Judo in the 2026 Victoria Commonwealth Games. Various meetings took place with Judo Australia as well as being raised at the Commonwealth Judo Association Congress. Letters of support have been submitted by Commonwealth nations;
- RS updated on the position in regard to Russian and Belarussian athletes competing at IJF events which was now being allowed under a neutral IJF flag. A series of meetings and discussions have taken place amongst the Board and with key stakeholders, with the final decision being to allow our fighters to compete with the option to opt out if that was their preference;
- RS noted the retirement of Colin McIver although we have engaged him in some temporary roles to help through the CRM implementation and grading work.

TS raised date conflicts for competitions. SN responded that Jessica Hastings is developing a new calendar that should prevent this which she will be sharing once finalised. AS added that Karen Roberts has also been asked to review the competition pathway. SW added that the Armed Forces are planning to run an open competition as of 2023.

### **5&6 Chief Executive Update**

Attached is a copy of the presentation made on the day by the Chief Executive. Any key points raised/discussed noted below:

- Finalisation of the Qtr1 Business Plan has been slightly delayed as it is being aligned to the new Strategy which has taken a little time
- Congratulations to RS who has been appointed to the EJU Executive Committee, this forms part of our International Relations work with UKS. We will not look to push for other people to become members of the other commissions within EJU
- Getting an EJU European Junior Cup in 2023 and have expressed interest in a European Veterans event in 2024
- The National Training Centre is hosting the final practical week of the IJF Academy the following week, this is to allow coaches to be matside at IJF events with 28 Brits on the course.
- Carrying out a feasibility study into owning our own facility/combat centre
- Reviewing a fundraising proposition, still weighing up potential fund generation against time/effort
- Karen Roberts taken on new role as Development Director as of 1 September; Tim Ellis moving roles to Head of Performance Operations; Joyce Heron's new role is Head of Technical and Education; Lea Kane has started as Digital Communications Officer
- CRM update early following week, waiting on a Gant chart from NEST
- Benefiting from a Commonwealth Games kit and equipment giveaway including the mats that will go into the dojo at the Centre and the remainder being packaged into north and south full event kits
- Together Fund launched, max clubs can apply for is £10k. Clubs in affluent areas can still apply as their membership profile may qualify them. Any queries can be passed to Chris Cooper (Together Fund Project Administrator) or Regional Support Officers
- B2022 Legacy Funding received which is mainly for activity in the West Midlands in regard to digitalisation and tackling inequalities but should be available to other areas at a later date
- Made representation to UKS in regard to the ever increasing costs for athletes to attend camps and competitions. Also the Paralympic weight categories have changed which is not to our benefit
- Review of the Bye-laws will follow the review of the Memorandum & Articles and this will include a review of all the commissions

**Action: NCTOC Meeting to be scheduled by the end of 2022**

## 7. Any Other Business

### **Action: Copy of the Bye-laws to be distributed to members**

JT raised the Sikh Games are taking place in Birmingham next year and they are looking to film Sikh judo players – contact JT if able to help

AS advised that Ukrainian refugees are being offered 6 months free membership in line with the Government support guidance and we are also sponsoring 2 u21yr olds to train at the Centre. As they have refugee status membership can be completed on the day of a competition, no formal authorisation letter required.

RBi closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and contribution.