

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2024
GEORGE KERR SUITE, WALSALL CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
GORWAY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3BD

Present:

Council Members:

Rowena Birch	President	RBi
Brian Davies	Vice President	BD
Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB
Colin McIver	Vice President	CMcI
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
Rick Kenney	Judo Scotland	RK
Peter Blewett	London Area	PB
Matthew Clempner	North West Area & Police UK	MC
Raymond Taylor	Eastern Area	RT
Sarah Newbury	Midland Area	SN
Seth Birch	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	SB
John Malkinson	Southern Area	JM
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA

British Judo Association:

Gerry Gualtieri	Chair	GG
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS

Apologies:

Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President
Mick Leigh	Vice President
Tony Sweeney	Vice President
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association
Jim MacKenzie	Army Judo -
Nadia Minardi	London Area
John Gibson	Northern Area
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association
David Rance	Northern Home Counties
Stephen Watson	Royal Navy

1 Welcome

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

It was noted the passing of John Dearden of the Eastern Area and Tom Cotton from the Midland Area. The meeting also expressed condolences to David Rance on the passing of his wife, Susan.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting on Saturday 11 November 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with some amendments to names in Item 4,

3 President's Remarks

RBi stated that she attended the British Championships which utilised the new care system and Judo Manager for the first time. RBi continued that in several areas of the pre-cadet girls categories there were insufficient numbers to make a full podium. It was felt that this could be the impact of Covid beginning to take effect on key competitions. It was suggested that a different format of competition (eg: different age categories or weight categories) as probably needed to help ensure the judoka that we have in these age groups get ample opportunity to compete and progress.

A discussion ensued around the need for competitions as a strong development and retention tool. This is something that the Progressive Events Committee is looking at.

RBi finished her remarks by highlighting that she attended the BJA Board Meeting on Monday 10 December 2023 and took the opportunity to explain to the Board, in particular the new members, the role of the Council and how it can help the Board with advocacy and influence at grassroots.

4 Chair's Report

GG had attended the British Championships as his first event as Chairman and took the opportunity to engage with officials, coaches and members.

GG held his first Board Meeting as Chairman in December and felt that it had gone ok and it was good to welcome the President to the meeting.

GG and AS attended the French Pro-League as guests of the French Federation. This was an exciting format that attracted sponsors and spectators and highlighted the connection with the judo community. GG was keen to develop these kind of events and had spoken with some coaches who were keen on that type of event. It was noted that the Progressive Events Committee were looking at these and other new formats for events and competitions.

GG has been developing international relations work supported by AS and had attended the Paris Grand Slam, where there had been some strong performances from the fighters in particular, Lucy Renshall and Chelsie Giles. Being at the event gave GG the opportunity to meet with the IJF and EJU officials and other national Presidents.

GG had also attended the UK Sport PLx Conference in November 2023 which again allowed him to meet with key stakeholders and other NGB Chairs, CEOs and Performance Directors.

GG advised that he had also been proactive in carrying out some club visits for randori, eg: Pinewood and Camberley and was able to arrange for Shohei Ono to visit Budokwai.

Lastly, GG highlighted that in future he would focus on international relations and grassroots judo.

BD highlighted that organising team events has proved difficult in the past in relation to getting the fighters to fill all the weight categories.

It was also highlighted that the cost of organising events at national and regional level have ever increasing costs. There is a requirement for additional funding and resource support.

5 CEO Report (Report and Qtr 3 Business Plan circulated prior to the meeting)
AS presented the slides sent previously. Some of the discussion topics raised from the presentation were:

- a. More focus should be made on customer care within clubs to support retention in the sport as our retention generally is 35%;
- b. It was felt that the Board should be encouraged to move membership fees to direct debits as this would help ease the burden on members and staff alike. Also, the ability to flag using a mobile phone. It was agreed that this would be reviewed and a paper would be presented to the Board in April 2024;

Action: AS to draft a report for presentation to the Board re: membership direct debits and mobile notification of lapsing membership

6. AOB

BD stated that he was involved in the Nominations Panel and was impressed with the calibre of Board members and the individuals putting themselves forward for the commissions.

BD also mentioned that the British Judo Trust was going well but could benefit from more funding and that he was presenting to the Board on the role and benefit of the Trust at the February Board Meeting.

With there being no other items for AOB, the meeting closed at 12:40.