

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 28 JANUARY AT 10:30AM
GEORGE KERR SUITE, WALSALL CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
GORWAY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3BD

Present:

Rowena Birch	President	RBi
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Council Members:

Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President	CD
Brian Davies	Vice President	BD
Tony Sweeney	Vice President	TS
Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
Peter Blewett	London Area	PB
John Gibson	Northern Area	JG
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	DO
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
Rick Kenney	JudoScotland	RK
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK & North West Area	MC
Helen Moody	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	HM

British Judo Association:

Ronnie Saez	Chair	RS
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS

Apologies:

Mick Leigh	Vice President	
John Thacker	Navy Judo	-
Sarah Newbury	Midlands Area	
Jim MacKenzie	Army Judo	-
Nadia Minardi	London Area	
Ben George	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	
Stephen Watson	Armed Forces	
Seth Birch	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	
John Malkinson	Southern Area	

1 Welcome

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

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 12 November 2022

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

- David Allen to be noted as apologies
- Item 5 Chief Executive Update: Amendment to be made to the CRM update section

With there being no further changes the minutes were agreed as a true - and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposer: DR
Seconder: RK

There were no matters arising that are not already covered on the Agenda.

3 President's Remarks

The President provided a summary of activity since the last meeting prior to the AGM and congratulated everybody on how smoothly the AGM had run and how successful the Awards Dinner had been. However, RBi did express her disappointment that there were limited Board members present at both the AGM and the Awards Dinner, adding that she thought it was important for them to be seen by the membership. RS commented that it is sometimes difficult for the independent directors to commit more of their time to the Association, but he would raise it at the next Board meeting.

RBi also highlighted that the two weekends of the British Championships were also a good success. Also, RBi advised that Kim Hicks had a discussion with her around potential succession planning for the Championship announcer, adding that Kim thought this could be a great initiative should anyone be interested in shadowing her.

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RBi then questioned if there was a better opportunity for the Council to link with the Board. RS responded that he would raise this at the next Board Meeting and report back at the next Council Meeting.

Lastly, RBi congratulated Dr Colin Draycott on recently being awarded his 9th Dan together with an EJU gold medal presented at the recent EJU Congress. RBi also noted congratulations to Dr George Kerr CBE who was also awarded an EJU gold medal.

4 Chair's Report

RS outlined the position of the Association financially however this was against a backdrop of a fall in membership. RS continued that the focus for the coming year will be getting the Association and membership back to pre-Covid levels or higher.

In regard to Performance, RS advised that things were going well, especially the women's programme and also the men are starting to perform well and looking to be in a good position to reach the target of 8 to 10 fighters qualified for the Paris Olympic Games, which would hopefully allow us to also enter a mixed team. RS highlighted that as a consequence of the successful programme with increased numbers of fighters qualifying for events, there is a significant challenge on the funding for Performance with an increase in all costs for attending camps and competitions.

RS then raised the All Judo Seminar which is being held on Saturday 19 February at Warwick University. RS advised that the Seminar is to focus specifically on the quality of judo delivered at grassroots across the many organisations with the judo family and to set minimum standards for delivery which would be in line with the Whyte Report that highlighted shortcomings within British Gymnastics. RS added that both UK Sport and Sport England are very supportive of these plans and that it was important for judo clubs to support this event and actively engage in setting these minimum standards for the delivery of judo. Council Members agreed that this was a positive initiative and that more communication should be raised about this and the outcomes shared with all schools and local authorities.

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5 Chief Executive Update & Qtr 3 Business Plan

The 3rd Quarter Business Plan had been circulated in advance of the meeting and AS highlighted the key elements of the Business Plan. AS then provided an update supported by a PowerPoint presentation that will be circulated along with the minutes.

DR raised a query around the quality of the new website design company that had been appointed.

There was then a general discussion around how additional funding could be raised through the British Judo Trust as it was felt that there were many more organisations that could benefit from the Trust. Also, crowdfunding to be considered. BD confirmed that this would form part of ongoing discussions by the Trust and would look to define opportunities.

It was raised that it would be beneficial to have more communication around the CRM and on the new phase of development that would focus on supporting clubs. AS confirmed that he would ensure more communication would be issued and also advised Council members that there was an FAQ section on the website as well as on the App.

7. Any Other Business

Dates for the next Council Meetings were agreed as Saturday 20 May, Thursday 24 August (during the IBSA World Championships) and prior to the AGM on Saturday 11 November.

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting closed at 12:45pm.