

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 20 MAY 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
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
Peter Blewett	London Area	PB
John Malkinson	Southern Area	JM
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
John Gibson	Northern Area	JG
Sarah Newbury	Midlands Area	SN
Seth Birch	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	SB
Matthew Clempner	North West Area & Police UK	MC
Ray Taylor	Eastern Area	RT
John Thacker	Navy Judo	JT

British Judo Association:

Ronnie Saez	Chair	RS
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS

Apologies:

Mick Leigh	Vice President-	
Jim MacKenzie	Army Judo	-
Nadia Minardi	London Area	
Stephen Watson	Armed Forces	
Tony Sweeney	Vice President	TS
Richard Barraclough	Vice President	RB
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD
Denise Oates	Eastern Area	DO
Dave Allen	Western Area	DA
Rick Kenney	JudoScotland	RK

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

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, however an email received from TS would be discussed under Any Other Business.

3 President's Remarks

RB advised that she wished to raise a few things:

- Mick Leigh who was awarded his 9th Dan which is a great honour and achievement for him and the Association. Mick is a Vice President but has been involved in Judo as a Coach and a driving force in Masters Judo as well as Kata. Not only that but he had been Chair of the Association.

Congratulations were made to RS who had worked hard with the EJU to support the application to the IJF.

- RB made note of the election of Lisa Allan to the post of IJF General Secretary which is a fantastic achievement for her and the Association.
- Note was also made of the promotion of Archi Shrimpton and James McBeath to the IJF Referee A List. We now have 6 referees at this level which is a fantastic achievement.

4 Chair's Report

RS outlined the work that British Judo and UKS had done to support Lisa's bid in such a professional way. So much so that the other candidate withdrew. However there still had to be a vote, with the whole Congress voting in favour of Lisa. It is great news for the Association that we have someone at that level within the IJF. It is quite clear that Lisa wishes to engage more fully with General Secretaries of the Federations in the future.

RS went on to outline the position regarding the IJF decision following IOC recommendation to allow Russian and Belarussian fighters to compete under a neutral flag. The IJF did carry out a series of investigations to ensure that all the fighters adhere to the regulations laid out by the IOC.

The World Championships in Doha were not as successful for British Judo as expected, however the new programme has definitely improved.

RS went on to explain the process that was underway for the appointment of a new British Judo Chair which was under the remit of the Nominations Committee. The process would take most of the summer with the formal handover taking place at the AGM on Saturday 11 November. We would also be looking for a new Independent Director following the resignation of Claire Lish who has started a new business which will take a good proportion of her time.

Finally RS explained that he was currently in the process of carrying out the bi-annual Board Director evaluations, part of our governance requirements.

5 Chief Executive Update & End of Year Business Plan 2022 to 2023

AS had previously circulated the updated Business Plan in advance of the meeting and went on to give a more detailed presentation to update Council members on current activities. AS's presentation to be circulated with these Minutes.

SN raised a number of issues around the membership renewal process and has raised these with the Membership Team, however, and also queried how many members British Judo loses because of the current difficulties. SN also mentioned the time it takes for gradings which have an impact on events.

AS agreed to look into these and also agreed that Lynn Madeley (LM) would attend the next meeting to give a full update on progress with the CRM, Marketing and the website.

JT also felt it would be a good idea to supply clubs with leaflets so that new members have a self explanatory guide to joining British Judo and a link to the website to join, possibly with a QR code.

Action: AS to invite LM to Council Meeting on Thursday 24 August and discuss with her, the production of leaflets for clubs.

7. Any Other Business

a. Trust Update

BD gave a short update on the Trust together with some background. Clarification was given that if the Trust requested more from the membership fee, then affiliation to the Board would be required but it is a Board decision whether to increase fees.

AS highlighted the membership fees had not increased since 2018 and was keen to support members in these challenging times, but there may need to be increases in the future, however we are keen to ensure good value for money and that Karen Roberts was leading on a membership proposition. This including looking at direct debits etc

b. Email from TS

TS had raised the point that he felt the discussion on students was missing from the previous Minutes. AS agreed to look at this.

Post Note: AS looked into this and it was covered and minuted in the August 2022 Council Meeting, extract from these Minutes is below.

"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."

There being no further items for AOB, RBi thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed.