

THE BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION ('BJA') ('ASSOCIATION')
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 10:30AM
SPACE 30, SCARMAN CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK,
COVENTRY, CV4 7SH

Present:

Rowena Birch	President	RBi
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Council Members:

Brian Davies	Vice President	BD
Sarah Newbury	Midlands Area	SN
Darren Dean	Welsh Judo Association	DD
John Thacker	Navy Judo	JT
David Rance	Northern Home Counties	DR
Robin Newett	Northern Ireland Judo Federation	RN
John Gibson	Northern Area	JG
Garth Illingworth	Ex-Northern Area	GI
Jim McKenzie	Army Judo	JMc
Rick Kenney	JudoScotland	RK
Matthew Clempner	Police Sport UK & North West Area	MC
Ben George	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	BG
Helen Moody	Yorkshire & Humberside Area	HM

British Judo Association:

Ronnie Saez	Chairman	RS
Andrew Scoular	Chief Executive	AS

Apologies:

Dr Colin Draycott	Senior Vice President
Tony Sweeney	Vice President
Mick Leigh	Vice President
Richard Barraclough	Vice President
Denise Oates	Eastern Area
Nadia Minardi	London Area
Dave Allen	Western 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. RBi continued that she was looking forward to the meeting, the AGM to follow and the Annual Awards Ceremony taking place later the same evening.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 August 2022

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

- David Rance to be noted as in attendance
- Amend seconder to the Minutes from JMa

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

Proposer: DR

Seconder: SN

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

3 President's Remarks

RBi gave a short address highlighting an experience that she had with a 60 year old lady that had come along to her club and really enjoyed a judo session commenting that she had never felt so welcomed doing any other activity and that she really felt part of the judo community. The lady had also commented that she felt we should tell more people about our values and that they are something we should be very proud of. RBi continued that she felt this story really resonated and should be perceived as a good opportunity to promote similar stories and experiences which really bring the values of judo to life.

4 Chair's Report

RS provided a brief report on the membership and the impact of the cost of living crisis as well as the new CRM, both of which had contributed to the flattening of the membership numbers. Although, this is something that we should be concerned about, we should also have the confidence that we believe that membership will pick up again in the near future.

RS moved on to the World Championships in Tashkent, commenting that it was an excellent event and that it was great to see Chelsie Giles follow up on her European Gold and Olympic Bronze with a World Silver thus allowing her to join an illustrious class of judoka in Great Britain to have won medals at all three major events. RS added there were also some other good performances with Lucy Renshall finishing 7th after 3 months off following a shoulder operation. Also, recently the VI team had participated in the World Championships in Baku under the new classification categories. Dan Powell secured a Silver in his first competition since the Olympics and Chris Skelley got a 5th place fighting in a new weight classification.

RS went on to explain his disappointment that Judo would not be a core sport in the Commonwealth Games in Victoria 2026 even after a significant amount of support from the International Judo Federation and the Commonwealth Judo Federation, supported by RK in his capacity as President of the Commonwealth Judo Association. However, RS was hopeful Judo would be included in the 2030 Commonwealth Games, potentially being held in Hamilton, Canada. RK highlighted that there would be Commonwealth Judo Association Championships in 2023 in South Africa, 2024 in Malta and potentially in 2025 in Australia. RK added that it is important we continue to try to drive Judo in the Commonwealth so it is ready to be fully included in future Commonwealth Games programmes.

RS then highlighted that we have worked through Covid and clubs are now working hard to keep their members and recruit new ones which is going to be even more of a challenge with the country likely to be in recession through 2023. BD commented that in the gym sector a lot of clubs only have between 60 and 80% of their membership back since the pandemic and they too will be struggling to survive a recession.

5 Chief Executive Update

AS distributed the updated Business Plan and action sheet together with the new staffing structure. AS then highlighted in more detail the information contained in the Business Plan by running through his presentation (attached to these Minutes).

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RBI and BD enquired if the presentation could be distributed in advance of future meetings to enable members to have a chance to review and ask questions rather than trying to study on the screen. AS agreed to produce some information for distribution/discussion prior to the next meeting.-

A discussion around the functionality of the new CRM followed including the timescales required. It was noted that some individuals do not have the correct email addresses and that there is some work to be carried out in contacting those individuals either by text or post to ensure they have the correct information to renew or join the Association. AS highlighted that there would be a full instruction booklet with screenshots and FAQs to assist members with the renewing/joining process. AS added that there was now a British Judo App available in both the Apple and Android App stores. SN expressed concern round the CRM which due to early poor performance has caused subsequent disruption to clubs and members. AS concluded that there would be a review of the implementation process of the new CRM to gather learnings that would assist with the development for future activity.

HM raised a query in regard to mental health and wellbeing to which AS responded that we have invested heavily in our Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy supported by MIND Mental Health Charity and we have also run number of Mental Health First Aid courses. We are now also looking into working with Shout to provide guidance, direction and support to the judo community.

RBI then raised members of the judo community who had passed away to be remembered here and at the AGM.

7. Any Other Business

BD highlighted the work of the British Judo Trust including the support provided to the Adaptive Judo team and some of the Olympic hopefuls from the Performance Team to travel to Australia recently. BD also highlighted that the Yorkshire and Humberside Area had also been awarded a grant that had enabled two young talented players to travel abroad as well as supporting many individuals. BD concluded that there was £25k still available to support individuals and Areas.

JT raised that he had attended a meeting at the Erdington Broadway Academy and the Headmaster was very keen to set up a Judo Academy that would include four VI members. JT added that he would ensure this was followed up by the Development and/or Performance Team.

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting closed at 12:20pm