

JudoScotland Board Minutes:**5 September 2017****Ref. 2017/5****Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena (EICA), South Platt Hill, Ratho, Newbridge, Edinburgh, on 5 September 2017, commencing at 1830 hours.**

Present: Ronnie Saez (Chair); Graham Campbell (GC); David Gibson (DG); James McBeath (JMB); Marc Preston (MP); Susan Wright (SW).

Apologies: Sarah Clark (SC)

In Attendance: Euan Burton (Institute); Douglas Bryce (CEO); Ewen Cameron (sportsotland).

Welcome and Apologies

- 1 The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed everyone present and noted the apologies tendered by SC. The Chair then welcomed the two Directors elected at the recent annual general meeting (AGM): a welcome return for James McBeath (JMB); and a warm welcome to Susan Wright (SW) to her very first JS Board meeting.
- 2 Prior to the meeting commencing, the Chair presented the National High Performance Coach (NHPC) with a presentational plaque he had received from the European Judo Union (EJU) – in his capacity as BJA Chairman – which contained the names of all European medal winners at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, including Sally Conway.

Co-Option of Mr David Gibson

- 3 The Chair reflected on previous discussions at Board and the decisions reached in advance of the 2017 AGM with regard to elections and co-options of non-executive directors. Taking these into consideration, the Chair proposed the co-option of Mr David Gibson (DG) through to the 2018 AGM. This was approved by the Board.

Declarations of Interest

- 4 DG declared an interest with regard to the agenda item concerning the use of the JS minibus by the Masters group.

Performance Development

- 5 Recognising the requirement for the NHPC to be present in the National Training Centre (NTC) for the evening session, the Chair proposed to bring forward both the Performance Development-related and Cadet Ranking Tournament agenda items.
- 6 In advance of the Performance Development agenda item, the CEO reflected on previous discussions with the Chairman over the provision of information to the Board, both to allow them to discharge their duties, but also to ensure that they received appropriate, relevant information for general interest/answering informal queries from the membership.
- 7 To that end and further to the regular CEO Update paper, it was now proposed to experiment with providing separate Business Delivery and Performance Development Update papers to Board meetings. The CEO accepted that there may be some cross-over in terms of paper content for the current Board meeting, but staff would work to minimise this moving forward. It would be appreciated if Board members could reflect on the information being provided moving forward and to feedback on the range/depth of this as appropriate.

Performance Update (2017/5/6)

- 8 The NHPC referred to the previously circulated Update Paper and highlighted the current athlete/staff numbers and also the Club originations of current athletes.
- 9 Following a question with regards to programme delivery, the NPHC reflected on the programme targets and delivery against these targets including: Rio 2016 results: one (1) Olympic medal and one (1) 5th place at the Paralympic Games (target attained); the target with regards to numbers of Scots on the Rio 2016 Olympic/Paralympic Games team was missed by one (1) athlete.
- 10 The NHPC reinforced the fact that with the movement of athletes down to the BJA Centre of Excellence (Walsall), JS had less control or input on the programmes of these athletes. It was also discussed that the break of Judo from the Commonwealth Games (in 2018) may be beneficial in that the current athletes would be older and have greater competition-experience by 2022 for medal delivery. The NHPC believed that JS was generally on target for the 2020 Olympic/Paralympic and 2022 Commonwealth Games at this point in time.
- 11 Marc Preston (MP) asked for an update with regards to the accommodation aspect of the programme. It was noted that the current Transition programme had been supported to this extent by both the Institute and JS. Athlete satisfaction surveys – although generally positive, did highlight the challenges of non-permanent and dormitory-type accommodation.

12 It was highlighted that the cost for this support had been borne by the programme and not individual athletes. When looking at a comparative, aspirational system, when compared to the current Dutch National Centre, athletes were currently paying approximately £600 per month for accommodation and food.

13 The Board noted the Performance Development Update

Cadet Ranking Tournament (2017/5/5)

14 The Chair introduced the background to previously circulated paper and informed the Board that he had already intimated to BJA that JS will determine its domestic, Home Nation ranking tournament moving forward. The Board approved the adoption of a Pre-Cadet and Cadet ranking tournament to the current stable of JS competitions.

Leadership and Governance

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

15 These were approved by MP and seconded by JMB.

Matters Arising

16 The CEO referred to the 'Rolling Actions Register' contained within the Board pack.

Annual Conversations (with Board Members)

16.1 The Chair took on board to conduct these by Christmas.

Equality

16.2 The Board noted the progress on the revised action plan and the recent meeting with Plan4Sport.

Correspondence: Club Membership Applications

17 The 'B' Club application from "Edinburgh Judo (Schools)" had previously been approved for membership via email and the Board noted this previous decision.

CEO Update (2017/5/1 and 2017/5/2)

18 The CEO invited any questions around the first Update Paper (2017/5/1), prior to moving onto the second Update Paper (2017/5/2). MP asked regarding the BJA membership costs enclosed within the paper. The CEO responded that these were the categories/prices as contained within the BJA website. The Chair believed that the Board may wish to review the JS pricing structure in April 2018 and then on a two to three year basis after that.

19 In terms of the BJA pricing structure for Technical Dan grades, JMB noted that in England there was a £5 rebate to the relevant English Area and enquired whether JS received this? The CEO was unaware of this and would ask the Business delivery Team (BDT) to investigate further.

20 DG enquired as to JS adopting a 'Military' membership category. The Chair believed that this would affect a very small number of people.

Child Protection Update

21 For the benefit of SW and DG, the CEO highlighted that he would provide a very broad update with regard to child-protection issues.

22 As the update referred to 'live' police investigations, in common with previous updates to the Board, the information provided would contain no names and only a very broad overview of the current cases being investigated. This being to ensure that – as much as possible – should a Board member require sitting on a JS Disciplinary Panel, that they could do so with as much impartiality as possible. Accepting the above, the CEO provided a very broad overview of two recent contacts from Police Scotland with regard to historical child abuse allegations.

23 In one case it was confirmed that the individual under investigation was a Life Member of JS. Accepting that an individual was 'innocent until proven guilty' under Scottish/British Law, the CEO sought the approval of the Board to temporarily suspend the particular individual's Life Membership of JS, for the protection of the individual, JS members, Member Clubs and indeed JS itself. The Chair believed that JS should adopt a 'safety-first' stance and supported the proposal by the CEO. The Board agreed to temporarily suspend the JS Life Membership of the individual currently under investigation by Police Scotland.

2017 Annual General Meeting Review

24 The CEO invited those Board members that were present to input into a short review of the 2017 AGM. Following an open exchange of views/reflections, the following were noted.

Strengths	Weaknesses
Well attended On-line voting good Easy to vote on mobile telephone Generally good feedback Increase in #of Clubs voting There was a break after the randori before the AGM "Slick" (MP) The link with The Gathering	No real inter-action with the membership during the AGM On-line voting (one negative comment) Is online voting less democratic (actually at the AGM)? In future, will people actually come to the AGM (if no voting)? Was the date appropriate (other events/camps on)? Can we avoid future calendar clashes?
Opportunities	Threats
Greater level of interaction/plenary? How can the Board encourage debate? Would a different date mean more attendees? Could The Gathering provide more opportunities for revalidation: child protection; first aid; coaching; officials?	

25 The Chair and MP asked the CEO to relay their thanks to all the staff in preparing for and delivering the AGM.

26 DG reflected that an interpreter would have been better for 'The Gathering' element of the weekend. Although a valid observation/reflection, the CEO updated the Board on the extremely late communication from the European Judo Union (EJU) with regards to the preferred delivery language of the EJU expert and the associated implications.

27 Accepting the above, the Chair had received some very good feedback from those that had attended the weekend.

Election of a Vice-Chair

28 The Chair noted the requirements of the current Articles to elect a Vice-Chair for the Company following the AGM. MP had fulfilled this role for a number of years now and- assuming that there was no disagreement – would propose MP to fulfil the role for a further year. This was approved by the Board.

Corporate Overview (Q2/2017)

29 Recognising the update provided to the AGM over the previous weekend and also the time constraints of the Board meeting, the CEO proposed to provide a more condensed corporate overview than that usually provided.

30 In terms of total membership figure, the second quarter reflected the best ever membership level at the end of June since at least 2008. The CEO also reflected that the membership figure as at close of play that day had been 7690. In terms of the ever increasing importance of providing information on gender split within membership, the CEO asked the Board to note the following membership split:

	Male	Female
31/12/2015	73.57%	26.432%
31/12/2016	72.60%	27.40%
31/08/2017	72.17%	27.83%

31 The above figures represent an increase in female share of the JS membership of some 1.4% over the last 12-18 months. The CEO reflected that with the 'Judo Girls Rock' programme now having recommenced for 2017/2018, the memberships received over the previous 24-48 hours would increase this growth even further.

32 In terms of membership gradings processed, the current figure (31/8/17) reflected 7789 gradings having been processed, which would reflect a (forecasted) stable number of gradings to the end of the year, when compared to the previous two years.

33 Reflecting on the current level (end of quarter 2) of engagement with JS staged, or JS-supported events, the CEO was optimistic that JS would continue to reflect an increase in membership engagement in the third quarter when compared to the previous two years.

34 Finally, the Board noted the increase in (Scottish) market share enjoyed in the second quarter (when compared against the previous year), which continued to be approximately three times that of the BJA.

Sub-Board Working Groups: Implementation

35 Following the 2017 AGM and the confirmation of Board constituents, the Chair was keen to progress with the proposed sub-Board Working groups (WG). The Chair also relayed the fact that the same exercise was currently being conducted by BJA.

36 Accepting that the Corporate Governance Working Group (CGWG) had been functioning effectively for a number of years now, the Chair was keen to progress this success with the other identified sub-Board WG's. To this end, the Chair would be looking at which Board members are best placed to support specific WG's and would look to discuss this over the proposed 'annual conversation' process.

Use of Minibus by Masters Group

37 DG referred to his paper circulated previously with regards to the "Scottish Masters" group and their use of the JS minibus for travel to various UK-based events – potentially three (3) per year..

38 SW asked about the potential additional access by the Special Needs group in addition to the proposal by DG and asked regarding the age/mileage of the bus and the impact that any additional use/mileage would have on the bus.

39 JMB reflected that the Board had discussed potential (non) Performance Development use previously - and in particular use by the Masters group following an initial request - and believed that this had the potential to open the usage up to the Club membership, if not indeed any member with a driving license.

40 DG believed that use of the minibus would have a positive impact on the European Masters event entry next year and would have the feeling of JS being behind the Masters athletes. Although both MP and GC wanted the minibus (from a resource perspective) to be used, they noted:

40.1 That use by the Masters group could open up use to the wider JS membership and;

40.2 They were concerned with regards to the impending cost of a replacement vehicle.

41 MP proposed that whilst listening to the discussion, the Board appeared cautious over the proposal and believed that at the present time JS could not support the proposal submitted by DG. The Board concurred with the view outlined by MP.

British Judo Association - Home Nation Director

42 The Chair reflected that with him currently occupying the parallel role of BJA Chairman – and with the recent changes to the BJA Articles of Association – there was a vacancy for a JS representative position on the BJA Board for the next four (4) years.

43 There was therefore a requirement for the JS Board to agree who to put forward to the BJA Nomination Committee, against an advertised job description. The Chair asked that if any Board members had an interest, could they please contact him formally with a note of interest. Ideally BJA would like someone in place for their forthcoming AGM in November 2017.

44 GC expressed a verbal, provisional note of interest

British Judo Association - Update

45 The Chair updated the Board with regards to the results at the recent World Judo Championships – the best results for Great Britain since 2010 – and incorporating: two medals and; one seventh place.

46 The Chair also believed that BJA were making inroads again with EJU and IJF following the 2015 European Championships cancellation.

47 In terms of the long-running BJA governance saga with UK Sport, BJA required to update their Articles once again (JS Board paper: 2017/5/3) to fully adhere to the recently launched UK Sport/sportengland governance code. The JS Board formally noted the "BJA Recommendation 13: Home Association Directors Various Issues" contained within the BJA document "Governance Review for the British Judo association "(page 11, October 2016).

48 The Chair also noted the modest increase in BJA membership up to circa 28,500 – largely due to their Destination Judo at British Judo initiative.

Business Delivery

Business Delivery Update

49 The Board noted the Update Paper provided by the Business Delivery Team.

Grand Prix Series

50 The CEO provided a brief background to the current situation for the benefit of the SW and DG. The Chair was of the belief that the Board could not reach a decision on the awarding of a Grand Prix event at the meeting.

51 SW took the opportunity of providing some feedback on the competition computer at the Highland Budokan (HB) Grand Prix. The CEO highlighted that Highland Budokan had already provided feedback directly and that JS had requested further information with regards to the challenges experienced.

Date of Next Board Meeting

52 The next meeting of the Board would take place on Tuesday 24 October 2017.