

JudoScotland

Board Minutes: 10 June 2014

Ref. 2014/5



JudoScotland

Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held at the offices of JudoScotland, South Platt Hill, Ratho, Newbridge, Edinburgh, on 10 June 2014.

Present: Ronnie Saez (Chair); Graham Campbell (GC); Sarah Clark (SC); Peter Gardiner (PG); James McBeath (JMB).

Apologies: Marc Preston (MP); Robert Sneddon (RS); Freda McNulty (JudoScotland).

In Attendance: Dr George Kerr, CBE (Honorary President); Bill Berry MBE; Jim Feenan; Rick Kenney (all Honorary Vice-President's); Douglas Bryce; Tony Penfold; Frania Gillen-Buchert (all JudoScotland); David Somerville (sportscotland Institute of Sport); Miles Fuller (sportscotland).

Welcome & Apologies

- 1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and took the opportunity of introducing JudoScotland's (JS) new sportscotland Partnership Manager, Mr Miles Fuller.
- 2 The Chair also welcomed the JS Honorary President and the three Honorary Vice-President's to the meeting, alongside representatives from the JS Management Team.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (20 May 2014)

- 3 These were approved.

Matters Arising

- 4 The Board referred to an updated rolling actions sheet (version 10 June 2014) that had been tabled.

Historical Archiving

- 5 Richard Kenney (RK) introduced the concept to the Board and the proposed work around the AGM. Dr George Kerr CBE (GK) offered his assistance with the project.

Correspondence

Mr Callum Woods, Destination Judo (Grading Discounts)

- 6 GC referred to financial information supplied by the Corporate Services Executive (CSE), based on 2013 grading discounts. The Chair recognised the potential impact of the nearly £3K (unbudgeted) impact of combining 'A' and 'B' Clubs to recalculate any accrued grading discount.
- 7 The Chair believed that there were two decision areas, one with regard to the potential combination of Clubs and one with regard to the future of the 50% subsidy of the 'B' Club registration with BJA. It was agreed to apply the grading discount assessment as one Club (A & B Club combined) and also to finish paying the B Club subsidy. This to come into force from 1 January 2015.

Mr Colin Woods, Destination Judo (BUPA Refereeing)

- 8 The Chair introduced a recent email received from Mr Colin Woods and highlighted that this area was included on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr Andre Reibig (Student Subscription)

- 9 The Chair spoke to an email tabled that had recently been received from Mr Reibig. The Chair was happy to look at a lower subscription rate for student members – but wished further information with regards to how this operated/the effect within England.

Corporate Governance

CEO Update (Paper: 2014/5/1)

- 10 The CEO referred to the previously circulated CEO Update. In particular, the CEO wished to draw the Board's attention to the actions and conduct of the Judo Team at the recent Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) Media Event which was nothing short of exemplary.
- 11 The CEO also drew the attention of the Board to a case currently being heard at the Glasgow Sherriff Court and that the Board may well require to take a view/action(s) on the completion of this.

Key Policy Documents: Data Protection

- 12 GC introduced the second draft Data Protection KPD document that had been reviewed by the Corporate Governance Working Group (CGWG) at their meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting. With some very minor changes to the document, GC believed that it was fit for purpose and could be agreed by the Board. This document was approved.

Corporate Risk Register

- 13 GC introduced the second draft of the Risk Register following on from his feedback after the last Board meeting. The document was approved.

Equality (Half Year Update)

- 14 This was noted by the Board.

Working Group Updates: Corporate Governance Working Group

- 15 The Performance Development Working Group and Corporate Governance Working Group had both met immediately prior to the Board meeting and no notes of those meetings were available at this time.

Referees and Officials

- 16 Further to the correspondence received from Mr Woods, PG introduced his view of the current situation with regards to referees and officials in Scotland and highlighted challenges relating to the technical level of officials, the consequent safety of players and the average and increasing age of officials.
- 17 In particular, PG highlighted the situation where an official had not seen a young athlete dislocate their shoulder at the recent BUPA Charity event. The EDM referred to the current work being conducted to up skill the current referee workforce.
- 18 The EDM also outlined a paper going to the Education and Development Working Group linked to the proposed JS level 1 event and focussing on the training of the future officiating workforce. The EDM credited with much of this work to the Education and Development Executive (EDE) with a remit for Education.
- 19 PG asked regarding the number of hours of training offered to referees and officials. The EDM highlighted the 'officiating' strand of The Gathering weekend and also to the BJA piloting their new workshop/training in Scotland. The EDM also highlighted that the proposed 'Mentoring module' had not been delivered as planned due to differing needs highlighted by officials at the start of that proposed session.
- 20 The CEO raised a duty-of-care issue with regards to both officials and those officials officiating. The EDM believed that initial recruitment of new officials was not an issue. The training and development programme currently offered did not appear to be fit-for-purpose and indeed anecdotal feedback had identified that the current programme of training and development was off-putting to those on the programme.
- 21 The EDM also highlighted that the BJA was putting in place a 'fast-track' programme for former international athletes to progress more quickly through the officiating ranks.

- 22 GK believed that there was some significant apathy within officiating. GK believed that JS had the opportunity to invite an established EJU/IJF Senior Referee to conduct a workshop(s). The EDM highlighted that this would mirror what currently happens in coach education and development around the "Master class" principle.
- 23 The Events and Communications executive (ECE) highlighted that there were some officials that were probably pretty scared to officiate at national events and more could be done to support them. The ECE highlighted that most tournaments had meetings of officials and coaches and this could be one avenue of addressing any communication issues.
- 24 PG agreed that no coach should intimidate or attempt to intimidate officials.

Annual General Meeting

Declarations of Interest (Board Members)

- 25 The CEO distributed Declarations of Interests Forms and requested that Board members complete and return these prior to the forthcoming AGM. The CEO highlighted that forms had also been distributed to the professional staff and that this was in line with normal JS procedures leading into its AGM.

26 Annual General Meeting

- 26 The CEO gave a brief overview of the current organisation of the AGM and the proposed programme. He also touched upon some of the challenges experienced this year in terms of both: getting reliable and robust information on Club membership from the BJA and; some of the challenges in working with the Electoral Reform Society.
- 27 SC raised the issue of Club membership and the apparent discrepancies between direct debits being paid by Clubs to BJA and the date of membership being confirmed to JS. Both the Chair and CEO agreed that the discrepancies were apparent and that this was one of the reasons for JS 'relaxing' the membership period for the 2014 electoral process. An electoral process where there was an extremely limited number of Clubs that could vote was neither good for Clubs, nor good for JS.

Performance Development

Transition Programme Proposal

- 28 The National High Performance Coach (NHPC) introduced the previously circulated Board paper and reflected back to the post-London 2012 review process, including the UK Sport Talent Development Health Check.
- 29 The NHPC also referred to informal discussions with BJA over the future positioning of the JS programme with regards to the BJA centralise programme in Walsall. There were also the (currently) unknown investment decisions by sportscotland post March 2015, but that the NHPC felt that any potential investment shortfall in respect of the proposed programme and the sportscotland investment could be accommodated.
- 30 The NHPC alluded to the significant spend in a Commonwealth Games year and that it looked as though the Transition programme shortfall for the first year of operation would be in the region of £8,500. The NHPC referred to received questions and confirmed that the proposed programme would be managed by the NHPC and operationally delivered by the National Transition Coach.
- 31 The Board expressed concerns over the level of budgeting and felt that the budget was possibly a little too tight. The CEO reminded the Board of the Company's current reserves policy and the impact that any additional financial outlay may have on this. The Board agreed to the proposal in principle, subject to satisfactory budgetary considerations (revision) being resolved.

Glasgow 2014

Performance

- 32 The NHPC referred the Board back to the original key performance indicators (KPI's) stated in the current strategic/operational plan.
- 33 In particular, the plan contained a number of athletes achieving a Commonwealth ranking of <8. The current squad has improved on this target and eleven athletes currently have a

Commonwealth ranking of <8. The programme is therefore on target with the expectations of the strategic plan.

34 The NHPC highlighted one fairly significant injury to an athlete at the present time. However all current medical and training indications reflected that this athlete was on-target to recover and compete. For the benefit of the Board, the NHPC highlighted the existing Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) rule, whereby at this date, should the injured athlete be unable to compete, only another athlete in the same weight category could be substituted.

35 The NHPC also highlighted that the JS Anti-Doping contact for the duration of the Games had been confirmed as the CEO.

Mr Marius Vizer

36 GK highlighted the presence of Mr Marius Vizer, IJF Chair, at Glasgow 2014. GK also reflected that at the London 2012 Olympics, 110 countries had competed in the judo competition – more than for any other sport. GK believed that it was for this reason that Mr Vizer was attending the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games – with a view to press for judo to become a core-sport within the CGF.

Media/Television and Radio

37 The CEO referred to a media update briefing that had been attended by JS the previous day. There was a very clear message coming out of the BBC that Glasgow 2014 would *not* be the same as the London 2012 Olympics in terms of coverage (in terms of size/coverage).

38 However, BBC Scotland would be guaranteeing 1300 hours of live sport across its channels. Primarily BBC 1, BBC 2 and BBC 3. From a digital perspective, services would be available via smart phones and tablet devices and also via the 'red button' – although the actual content would differ between Freeview and Sky/BT Sport. Neil Adams had been confirmed as leading BBC's judo expert team. In addition to television coverage, Radio 5 would be covering the Games for 19 hours per day.

Media/Web

39 Through the BBC, specific coverage, new items and promotion of sports would occur via:

39.1 'BBC Generation 2014' (aimed at the 16/17 year old market) and;

39.2 'BBC get Inspired' (encompassing what sports to do and where to go).

BBC Individual sports Coverage (News)

40 BBC had committed to cover each Commonwealth Games sport with at least 5 separate stories across its news networks/outlets. As of 9 June, Judo had been covered on 23 different occasions/individual new items.

Legacy

41 PG had requested an update as to 'legacy' around the Commonwealth Games. The CEO highlighted a number of different definitions prevailing around the word 'legacy' and highlighted that it could mean activities only around Glasgow 2014, or indeed wider activities that Scottish Governing Bodies engage in on a more constant basis.

42 The CEO referred back to the current strategic plan and the achievements around this, including an increase in total membership; an increase in active membership. An increase in the number of coaches over the duration of the plan; an increase in the number of coaches attending revalidation/continuing professional development opportunities and; an increase in the number of officials over the duration of the current plan – although as per the discussion previously during the meeting, the qualitative aspect of this may need to be improved further.

43 PG asked regarding specific work around the Glasgow 2014 Games. The ECE responded outlining the range of information that was scheduled to be communicated later that week or the following week.

Judo Foundation

Update

- 44 JF circulated an updated information paper for the Board and referred to a pre-meeting that he had with the Chair immediately prior to the Board meeting. JF highlighted the rationale behind not setting up the proposed Foundation as a Scottish Charitable Incorporate Organisation (SCIO). JF outlined that the Foundation would submit for charitable status at a later date.
- 45 PG asked regarding the long-term future in the sport of those involved introduced by the Foundation. JF highlighted that this was not known at the present time. The Foundation would provide a unique entry point/route into the sport for those disadvantaged individuals highlighted.
- 46 JF was keen to establish a couple of pilots and then develop differing/appropriate models of delivery from there. The Chair reflected that the previous Board meeting had expressed concerns over the proposed non-charitable status and believed that securing charitable status was essential to the project moving forward.
- 47 The Chair proposed that the Board support/endorse the foundation, subject to achievement of charitable status by the foundation.

British Judo Association

- 48 There was no report/update.

Commonwealth Judo Association

- 49 The Chair updated the Board that a formal bid document had been submitted to the Commonwealth Judo Association to host the Commonwealth Championships in 2016. A copy of the submission document was distributed.
- 50 RK (Executive President, Commonwealth Judo Association) intimated that a number of expressions of interest had been received to host the event. At this stage, RK believed that JS had submitted a full and robust initial submission, when compared to other bids received. RK intimated that countries expressing an interest would be invited to formally present their bid at the CJA Congress.

Strategic Planning

- 51 The CEO distributed an overview document containing the contributions received to date with regards to the strategic planning exercise and also combining the results of the 'nominal group technique' conducted.
- 52 Following a request from sportscotland to clarify the submission and presentation timescales, agreement had been reached on the following dates:
- 17 September: Submission of draft Strategic Plan;
 - 31 October: Meeting between JudoScotland and sportscotland

Close

- 53 The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and in particular thanked the Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President's.

The meeting closed at 2155 hours.