

JudoScotland

Board Minutes: 26 August 2014

Ref. 2014/7



JudoScotland

Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held at the offices of JudoScotland, South Platt Hill, Ratho, Newbridge, Edinburgh, on 26 August 2014.

Present: Ronnie Saez (Chair); Graham Campbell (GC); Sarah Clark (SC); James McBeath (JMB); Marc Preston (MP); Robert Sneddon (RS)

Apologies: Peter Gardiner (PG)

In Attendance: Chief Executive Officer (CEO); Miles Fuller (MF), sportscotland.

Welcome and Apologies

- 1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that due to traffic delays, RS and MP would be joining the meeting later.
- 2 The Chair then passed on the congratulations of the Board to Sarah Clark on her recent win at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and also asked Sarah, on behalf of the Board, to pass on JudoScotland's (JS) condolences to Billy Cusack on the recent passing of his father.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)

- 3 The Minutes of the last Board meeting (2014/5) were approved.
- 4 The Minutes of the extraordinary Board meeting (2014/6) were approved.

Matters Arising/Rolling Actions Log

- 5 The CEO circulated an updated rolling actions log.

Judo Foundation

- 6 The CEO circulated an email received from Mr Jim Feenan (JF), with regards to the progress of establishing a Judo Foundation. The Chair updated the Board further to a meeting that he had with JF the previous week and highlighted current thinking around the proposed Foundation and also some of the potential challenges facing the venture.

Presentation to Dr George Kerr CBE

- 7 The Board also reflected that it had yet to formally recognise Dr Kerr's induction into the IJF Hall of Fame (2013/5) and wished to investigate the presentation of a gift at the forthcoming "Gathering" event dinner.

Correspondence

New Club Applications: Ultimate Judo Ingharth & Ultimate Judo Bielside

- 8 These applications had been circulated previously via email and a majority of the Board had approved their membership. The Board formally noted the membership of these Clubs.

RS and MP joined the meeting

New Club Applications: Outreach – Newlands; Outreach – Biggar; Outreach - Peebles

- 9 The CEO provided some background to these applications, including the current lack of paperwork associated with the membership application. The CEO also circulated copies of current BJA Membership certificates for these Clubs to the Board.

10 Accepting the lack of normal evidence to support an application for membership, the Board approved membership to facilitate the process of a received grading.

Mr Brian Long (Email: 11 August 2014)

11 The Chair introduced the email from Mr Long that had originally been sent to some (but not all) Board members. The basis of Mr Long's recent email was that he had not been personally informed of the outcome of a recent disciplinary panel. The Chair then outlined his interpretation of the actions taken by JS since the original notification of an alleged incident occurring in January 2012.

12 MP (as Chair of the recently appointed Disciplinary Panel [the Panel]) did not believe that JS required to inform Mr Long of the outcome of that particular Panel as Mr Long had not been the complainant. That particular Panel had been set up independently by the Chairman.

13 MP relayed the processes followed by the recent Panel hearing and outlined the outcome and the rationale behind that outcome. The Board restated its position whereby it did not believe that it was appropriate to respond directly to Mr Long over this issue.

14 RS further reflected on the email received from Mr Long and noted the ongoing claims of bullying, intimidation and harassment made by Mr Long against a fellow JS member. The Board believed that JS had dealt with these claims previously via its internal processes, but would request that Mr Long provide any new evidence that was available and would review such evidence accordingly.

15 The Chair advised that he wished to make a formal statement to the Board with regards to the historical background to the recent interactions of specific members and allegations arising.

16 The CEO advised that RS and MP should leave the meeting for any statement of this nature, in case JS were required to reconvene the recent Panel, which would involve both these individuals. This would ensure impartiality should this event occur.

RS and MP left the meeting

17 The Chair made a personal state to the Board.

RS and MP re-joined the meeting

Corporate Governance

CEO Update

18 The CEO referred to the previously circulated update. Due to the rescheduling of the Board meeting, the CEO was now in a position to confirm that the vacant RDO (East) position had been offered to Mr Jonathan Imrie.

Corporate Overview: Second Quarter Review

19 The CEO spoke to the previously circulated Corporate Overview (2014/Q2) document. In particular, the CEO highlighted that membership figures were currently behind that forecasted, although the retention rate was close to that predicted.

20 In terms of the Q2 financial report, the CEO reminded the Board that this was the first year of the revised investment dates for sportscotland. The Board should also realistically expect an increase in expenditure in the performance budget in Q3 where expenditure in and around Glasgow 2014 would be further reflected. The second tranche of investment from sportscotland was still to be put into the accounts and this would be reflected in Q3. Finally, the Q2 accounts still reflected a positive overall financial position at the end of the quarter, even with the front-loaded Glasgow 2014 expenditure.

21 In terms of membership, the figures highlighted were down slightly from 2013, although still reflected the 3rd highest membership figures enjoyed by JS over the last 7 years. It was also not unreasonable to expect an increase in membership post Glasgow 2014. Grading activity was general similar to 2013 (Q1 & Q2), with a corresponding increase in Kai gradings against 2013 over the same period of time.

22 The CEO also tabled an additional summary paper around Social Media that had been prepared by the Events and Communications Executive (ECE).

2014 Annual General Meeting (Review)

- 23 MP believed that the low numbers attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) events over recent years could be looked upon either positively (the Board doing a good job) or potentially apathy amongst the membership. He believed that a 'guest speaker' or a social event (evening meal?) may work in raising attendance numbers.
- 24 The CEO introduced the concept that rather than developing the AGM (as an event), could JS look at aligning the AGM to another event and thereby look at capitalising on a (potential) increase in attendance?
- 25 The Chair reflected that since the introduction of the Companies Act (2008), technically the company (JS) did not need to host/stage an AGM and that perhaps now was the time to reflect on the desired outcome(s) of staging an AGM event.

Working Groups

- 26 No Working groups had met since the last Board meeting and therefore there were no updates. The Chair reflected that it was probably time to review the Working groups, their role and function.

Strategic Planning (2015+)

- 27 The Chair introduced the recent strategic planning activity conducted by the CEO and the executive team, for which he had been briefed the day before. The Chair believed that a reasonable goal for the Board would be to broadly sign-off the draft plan at its proposed meeting on 7 October.
- 28 Following the meeting between JS and sportscotland scheduled for 31 October, this plan could be reviewed and then agreed at the planned November meeting, prior to final submission to sportscotland in late November/early December. The Chair was keen that JS be perceived as a leading sports body and that the eventual plan incorporated a development plan for the whole sport.
- 29 The CEO briefed the Board with regards to some of the assumptions, context and general background that had been made in drafting the initial discussion document, prior to circulating this initial document around the Board.

Clothing

- 30 MP referred to previous discussions that had taken place between MP and CIMAC/Adidas, with regards to business associated with Destination Judo. MP spoke to an email that had been received from CIMAC regarding the potential support of JudoScotland in terms of clothing and competition wear.

British Judo Association

- 31 The Chair reflected back to the BJA Board meeting staged the previous week. The Chair further outlined the potential performance challenges with UK Sport if the World Championships proved to be unsuccessful from a medal perspective.
- 32 On a more positive note, a sponsorship announcement for BJA was imminent and may occur in October. The Chair informed the Board that the British Open would be relocating to the Wembley Arena (London) in London.
- 33 Of more concern was the drop in BJA membership, which was averaging around 2,000 members per year. Current BJA membership was around 28,000, even accepting the recent influx of BJC and AJA members into the BJA figures.

Date of Next Meeting

- 34 Was provisionally identified as Tuesday 7 October 2014, subject to confirmation by the Board.