

JudoScotland

Board Minutes: 11 October 2011

Ref. 2011/8



Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held at the offices of JudoScotland, South Platt Hill, Ratho, Newbridge, Edinburgh, on 11 October 2011.

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

Apologies: Barry Fleeting (sportsotland)

In Attendance: Douglas Bryce (CEO)

Welcome & Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those present for making an earlier start. Apologies were noted from Barry Fleeting (BF)

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2. Point 16 MP raised the fact that he felt that the quality assurance should lie with club coaches below Kyu grade.
3. Point 34 MP felt that this was a bit 'woolly'. The Chair proffered the view that he thought the Minutes were accurate of the discussion / decisions made.
4. Point 39 TB raised issues agreed electronically following the last Board meeting, with particular reference to Life Memberships. The Board unanimously approved Life Membership of JudoScotland for Neil Malone, Ramsay Thomson and Marjory Ruddick. These would be awarded at the 2011 Scottish Open Championships.

Matters Arising

Sportif International Camp and Tournament

5. GC introduced his paper previously circulated and also introduced a very basic budget for the event.
6. GC believed that the benefits/returns for JudoScotland revolve around literature production associated with the event, advertising banners and the opportunity for guests to attend.
7. GC also recommended designating it a Grand Prix event and proposed a £3k investment.
8. MP enquired as to the camp following the event. GC felt that the camp was a separate.
9. JMB enquired regarding who would be paying for the sponsors advertising/promotional banners?
10. JMB also noted that JudoScotland were being asked to appoint a Competition Controller and asked whether this would incur costs over and above the requested £3k?
11. JMB also enquired as to other competitions and why JS should be potentially underwriting the loss of this event? GC felt that it looked like a good aspirational event and also George Kerr was supporting it.
12. GC also reflected that if the event was not successful, JS would be associated with the fall-out regardless of whether we were associated with it or not.
13. The CEO enquired as to what, precise support from the professional staff had been discussed as this could have a significant impact on delivering other aspects of the current operational plan agreed by the Board? The Chair recognised the potential additional stressor on the professional staff.

14. The Chair proposed an in-principle 3 year commitment to the event. This commitment would be based on need in years 2 and 3. The Chair also recognised that the Board required criteria for any other additional applications for support of other events.
15. MP hoped that the event would be profitable. The Chair felt that we could stipulate that any profit be reinvested in future year's competitions. RS felt that Sportif ought to have been more transparent with budgeting – particularly when linking the event to a potentially profit-making training camp.
16. SC reflected that this decision supported an individual that openly disagreed with the Board, JudoScotland as an organisation and the Performance Programme –particularly at the last AGM, but that we are now prepared to offer financial support. Chair accepted that AGM's were the place for criticism and it was healthy for any organisation.
17. The Chair reflected that any offer was conditional on the event fulfilling Grand Prix criteria and all Talent Development Programme and Performance Programme athletes receiving a discounted entry.
18. Following a request for clarification from the CEO, the Chair confirmed that the £3k was a sponsorship and not an agreement to underwrite any potential losses.
19. The Chair moved to vote on the issue, resulting in:
 - For: GC; MP; RS; Chair
 - Against: SC; JMB; TB

Correspondence

Focus Judo Club

20. The Chair referred to correspondence that he had received previously. TB relayed that Focus Judo Club do run some very good local competitions. TB also felt that JS were actually addressing many of the concerns raised within the correspondence.

Action: The Chair would respond offering a meeting with himself, TB and Tony Penfold.

Mr Bob Thomas

21. The Chair referred to email correspondence from Mr Thomas. He recognised Mr Thomas' significant background with regard to Kata.
22. The Chair also alluded to the current strive for quality-assured delivery mechanisms for all JudoScotland's workshop/course delivery. In particular, the Chair relayed concerns over the quality assurance of demonstrations and delivery by some personnel on some previous Kata workshops.

Action: The Board agreed to chair a meeting with Mr Thomas.

Action: The Chair requested that the paper concerning revalidation that had been prepared by the Head of Education and Training be rolled over to the next Board meeting.

John Buchanan Correspondence

23. JMB did recognise that there were less than an ideal number of referees at the event alluded to – caused by a number of late call off's. This caused mats to be down to 3 officials with little, if any, respite.
24. TB highlighted that invitations were forwarded to referees across Scotland and the North of England, but a competition in the North of England on the same weekend had resulted in a shortage of volunteers.
25. The Chair reflected that JudoScotland could only work with the number of officials that we have and also those that actually volunteered to officiate at events.
26. The Chair highlighted that the 'Young Volunteers' programme was beginning to increase the number of qualified officials, although appreciated that it may take some time for these young officials to progress through the necessary qualifications and to gain the necessary experience to officiate at a higher level..

Action: Chair asked CEO to write back to John Buchanan accepting that his point was well made and that JS will continue to use its best endeavours in future competitions.

CEO Update

27. The CEO referred to his previously circulated update.

28. The CEO highlighted that Scottish Governing Bodies (SGB) were fragile organisations at the best of times, but with the departure of Julia Shearer in August and Mark Mateer the previous week, the office was experiencing a particularly challenging time.
29. The CEO wished to place on record his gratitude to the professional staff and TB for their forbearance and assistance in a particularly challenging time for the organisation. The Chair asked the CEO to pass on the Board's gratitude to the professional staff for their commitment throughout the current challenging time.
30. The CEO also highlighted that JS would be going to sportscotland's investment panel in December 2011, rather than the traditional January meeting.

Finance

31. GC provided a brief overview of the financial year to date and noted the generally positive aspect to this. GC highlighted that there would be no more sportscotland investment received in 2011.

Third Quarter Review

32. GC distributed the third quarter financial review document and referred to some proposed internal investment including, a new server, some additional / replacement IT equipment and some replacement scoreboard equipment/software.

Debtors and Creditors

33. GC referred to the current debtors and creditors and highlighted some amounts owed by individual athletes and clubs.

Auditor Visit

34. The CEO informed the Board that the auditor would be visiting JS the following morning to conduct her regular quarterly review.

Revised Grading System

35. The Chair referred to the previously circulated report, reviewing the first year of the revised grading system.
36. MP felt that the report was antiquated and that it was an implementation plan for the BJA system that should have been tabled.
37. The CEO referred to the current operational plan (2011/2012) and that the submission of this report to the Board was contained within that plan, agreed by the Board previously. The Chair agreed and felt that the report was worth considering.
38. JMB felt that it represented the system very well.
39. MP felt that the figures were 'farcical' and were influenced by a variety of factors, including more clubs opening/operating.
40. The Chair enquired as to Kyu grades and the split between the technical and competitive systems. TB responded that approximately 350 were gained through a competitive grading avenue. On the basis of the evidence presented, TB was comfortable in recommending the retention of a competitive grading alternative for Kyu grades.
41. SC enquired as to keeping a technical grading avenue open for the increase for female participation.
42. GC felt that we had benefitted from the BJA system and indeed bettered the BJA-stipulated figures in certain aspects.
43. TB also touched upon the additional benefits to date in terms of 'young volunteers', Kata and officiating in general.

Working Groups / Commissions

44. The Chair introduced the discussion paper created by the CEO and also reflected back to the AGM in June and the desire to looking towards becoming a more inclusive organisation.
45. MP liked the concept and felt this was essential, however expressed concerns over the potential numbers in such groups. TB proposed that each group should comprise a Director, a staff member(s) and up to 3 other members. The Chair proposed that the groups meet not less than 4 times per year.
46. JMcb enquired as to application to join such groups. The Chair believed that this should be by open invitation, for a two year period in the first instance. SC asked who decided on group membership. MP believed that the Board did.

47. The Chair believed that we ought to look for a geographic balance on each of the groups. The groups would have no decision-making capability / authority and would report to the membership annually at the AGM. The Director linked to each group would report to the Board on a quarterly basis.
48. TB requested that the current High Grades Working group be excluded from the open application process.
49. The Chair requested that for the next meeting, the CEO further refine: terms of reference for each group; selection criteria for membership; frequency of meetings; numbers of members.

Revised Staffing Structure

sportscotland Assistant High Performance Coach

50. MP asked regarding the vacant Assistant High Performance Coach position. The CEO referred to a series of letters to the sportscotland institute of sport asking for clarification on this matter and confirmation of funding still being in place for this post.
51. MP felt that if funding had been diverted away from this position, then this was unacceptable. The Chair agreed that we needed to get commitment from sportscotland with regards to the vacant position.

Staffing Review

52. *Content removed due to it being of a confidential nature.*

British Judo Association

53. The Chair reported that he had attended the last BJA Board meeting and referred broadly to areas covered.
54. The Chair highlighted that the BJA AGM would be held on 4/5 November. The Chair also highlighted that MP would be attending the next BJA Board meeting on behalf of JudoScotland.

Glasgow 2014

55. The CEO highlighted that Mark Mateer had commenced work for Glasgow 2014 Limited on 10 October 2011. The CEO also highlighted that we were awaiting the contract from Glasgow 2014 to use the Games logo.

AOCB

Commonwealth Tournament Selection Criteria

56. MP queried item 4 in the selection criteria. TB stressed that this referred to the Commonwealth Tournament and not the Commonwealth Games. RS highlighted an incorrect date, being 2011 (as opposed to 2012).

Olympic Games

57. TB informed the Board that he believed another 5 volunteers had now been selected to assist with the Olympic Games.
58. TB queried whether JS could financially contribute to these individuals costs in volunteering at the Olympic Games. The Chair responded that this was certainly something that he was very interest in pursuing.

Mr Brian Long

59. MP intimated that he wished to come in for a meeting with Brian Long to discuss a number of issues relating to memberships and grading.

Action: MP to progress.

Date of Next Meeting

60. 22 November 2011.

The meeting closed at 2200 hours.