

JudoScotland

Board Minutes: 29 January 2013

Ref. 2013/1



JudoScotland

Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held at the offices of JudoScotland, South Platt Hill, Ratho, Newbridge, Edinburgh, on 29 January 2013.

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

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Douglas Bryce (CEO); Barry Fleeting (sportsotland); Frania Gillen-Buchert (Events and Communications Executive); Colin Aitken (Lead Child Protection Officer)

Welcome & Apologies

1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of 2013. The Chair then introduced Colin Aitken, the Lead Child Protection Officer (LCPO) for JudoScotland (JS).

Child Protection Presentation / Update

2. The LCPO outlined both his judo and professional background as a serving police officer. The LCPO spoke to a previously circulated Board Update Paper regarding Child Protection (CP) and outlined recent processes adopted, arising out of the revised Articles of Association. The LCPO believed that significant development had been made within the sphere of CP over the previous 18-24 months.
3. In particular, the LCPO highlighted two specific cases with differing outcomes. Both these outcomes however required JS to engage further with outside agencies: Disclosure Scotland and the British Judo Association (BJA). Outlining the investigative processes adopted, the LCPO reinforced the benefits of having external (to judo) members sitting on Panels – whether an initial disciplinary panel or appeal panel.
4. Between the LCPO and a Disciplinary Panel Chair (a Board Member), the Board were enlightened as to additional, supplementary issues uncovered via this particular disciplinary process relating to the training, development and revalidation of BJA-qualified officials. Finally, the LCPO highlighted the significant administrative workload that such events/cases brought to JS, both in professional staff members' time as well as volunteers. A conservative estimate of >350 hours was proposed for the collective time spent on one CP disciplinary process to date.
5. In light of the CP report and recent media coverage within this area, there was agreement from the Board that this was an important piece of work and the CEO proposed that ideally, we were in a position to look towards having a CP "Champion" at Board level. In the absence of an immediate volunteer, the Chair agreed to fulfil this "Board CP Champion" role for an initial period of 6 months and then it would be reviewed.
6. The Board agreed to the recommendations contained within the Child Protection Update Paper (2013/1/1) encompassing:
 - a. that CP training be provided for all JS Board members and all JS professional staff members;
 - b. that JS seek to establish an annual CP Summit/meeting with BJA and other Home Nation Governing Bodies to further this area of work;
 - c. that JS continue to provide structured continuing professional development opportunities on an annual basis for both coaches and officials;
 - d. that JS formally confirm the currency of CP training for every coach, official and Club CP officer active and resident in Scotland;

- e. that JS implement - in line with BJA - that every club in Scotland has a designated, sufficiently trained CP Officer;
- f. that JS continue to champion the PVG scheme within Scotland.

Action: LCPO to liaise with the Education and Training Manager (ETM) to implement the proposed actions.

- 7. The Chair thanked the LCPO for his input to the Board meeting and for his valued input since coming into post.

The LCPO left the meeting

JS-Supported Events Strategy (Paper: 2012/8/6)

- 8. The CEO introduced the discussion paper that had originally been tabled at the previous Board meeting, but due to time constraints, had been rolled over to be discussed at the current Board meeting. The CEO and Events and Communications Executive (ECE) outlined some of the current challenges with regard to the staging of the 2013 Scottish Open Tournament, due to two date changes made by the BJA.
- 9. The CEO/ECE both outlined the potentially congested events calendar within Scotland in the forthcoming years, encompassing domestic competition, domestic National-level competition, World Cup, Commonwealth and potentially European Championships. The discussion paper was originally developed to:
 - a. Raise Board members awareness of the forthcoming competitive events programme within Scotland;
 - b. Stimulate discussion and feedback on whether JS were currently staging the most appropriate events;
 - c. Stimulate discussion and feedback on additional events that JS should look at staging;
 - d. Stimulate feedback around event development.
- 10. PG felt that the "Meet the Olympians" events were a success and well received by those JS members that had attended. He also believed that more events of a similar nature would be equally well attended.

The ECE left the meeting

Minutes of Previous Meeting

- 11. Were approved.

Matters Arising

Grading Diaries

- 12. PG had contacted 40 people and had poor feedback with regard to the rolling out of the grading diaries.

High Grades Working Group

- 13. MP reported that he had contacted the High Grades Working Group (HGWG) members. MP also believed that he had sent BJA criteria to Board members, but would resend this information that evening. MP's view was that JS either challenged the BJA stance with regard to 8th Dan grades, or accepted the criteria and wrote out to those awaiting 8th Dan awards.
- 14. It was noted that a 6th Dan application had been made directly to the BJA. This application had been rejected, although the door had been left open for JF to resubmit. There was some uncertainty around whether the individual concerned had held their current grade for the stipulated period of time.

CJA Tournament

- 15. The Chair alluded to the most recent meeting of this group immediately prior to the Board meeting. A number of budget scenarios were currently being looked at, but the work was not sufficiently advanced to bring to the Board for the current meeting. The next meeting of the group would be on 19 February 2013.

Development/ Planning Day

- 16. The CEO referred to the concept of staging a Board/Staff development/planning day and the Boards request to place this on the agenda. The Board were in favour of such an event.

Sponsorship Role

- 17. The Chair proposed that this discussion could be had on the proposed planning day.

Correspondence

Louise Renicks (Letter)

18. The Chair felt that this was a good idea in principle, but was unsure what she actually wanted from JS. MP expressed some concerns over her experience in organising such events. The Board would invite LR to the next Board meeting to discuss her proposals in more detail.

Debra Boyle (Email)

19. The Chair again felt that it was unclear what it was she was actually asking for in terms of support. GC felt that a more detailed proposal would be welcomed.

Jamie McGregor (Email)

20. The Chair updated Board members with regard to the recent communication made by BJA with all medallists at the recent British trials.

CEO Update (Paper: 2013/1/2)

21. The CEO referred to the previously circulated update. In particular, the CEO highlighted the potential further investment by sportscotland following 1 April 2013. This was to be decided at the February sportscotland Board meeting.

Fourth Quarter Review

22. The CEO referred to the fourth quarter Corporate Review that had been distributed earlier in the meeting. The Q4 review was always challenging to prepare in time for the Board meeting due to the financial year end. Therefore, the CEO asked Board members to treat the financial figures contained within the report as draft.
23. The CEO presented a one page summary sheet reviewing the business in 2012 and highlighted: an 8.53% increase in renewing memberships; an increased turnover (against 2011) and; an increase in communications figures (Facebook; Twitter; JudoScotland.tv). This was off-set by: a 12.55% drop in overall membership (but still the second highest membership year); a 48.10% drop in new memberships (compared to 2011) and; a projected financial deficit for the trading year.

sportscotland Investment for 2013

24. The CEO referred to the previously circulated investment agreement received from sportscotland for 2013.
25. This was unanimously approved.

Working Groups

26. PG enquired as to the current state of the proposed sub-Board working groups. The CEO reported that the Working Groups were in varying stages of operation, with some operational, some invitations having recently gone out from the office and agreement from one Director earlier that day as to moving towards its first meeting. The CEO believed that individual Directors could start reporting on their working groups from the February 2013 Board meeting onwards.
27. SC also highlighted the recent Board discussions around the membership of the Performance Working Group. PG believed that the previously proposed membership reflected far too much of a membership comprised of members of the Edinburgh Club. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Performance Working Group would comprise: Sarah Clark (Chair); Graeme Randall; David Somerville; Louise Renicks (to be approached) and; Peter Gardiner.

Joint Board/Professional Staff Training or Development Day

28. This item was covered under the Rolling Actions segment.

Under 8 (Kai) Resource

29. PG updated the Board with regard to the project and specifically the proposed budget, which met the £7.5k agreed expenditure over 3 years. PG also believed that this required to be delivered at Club level to show coaches how to use it.

Support Programme Coaches

30. PG asked whether James Miller was still a performance athlete. The CEO referred to the forthcoming selections process the following week, on which PG was representing the Board.

BJA Update

31. The Board passed its congratulations onto the Chair for his recent election to BJA Vice-Chair.
32. The Chair gave a very brief overview of the imminent staffing restructure within BJA, including some high profile positions such as the BJA CEO and BJA Performance Director. The BJA Performance Management Group had now been established and was beginning to work.

Glasgow 2014

33. The CEO reported on the appointment of Glasgow 2014 Ticketing personnel and the current ticketing strategy formulation.

AOCB

Sportif International Update

34. PG thanked JS for their on-going financial support. PG believed that they now had >200 foreigners taking part in the event and a projection of around 450 for the competition and 300 for the camp.

Talent Development Support Coaches

35. MP raised the issue of re-advertisement of the TDSC positions.
36. The CEO referred back to his update of earlier in the meeting and the potential increase in investment from sportscotland. Should this come to fruition, JS may well be able to look at the recruitment/deployment of TDSC in a different manner to that currently operated. David Somerville (NHPC) had also alluded to the opportunity to review recruitment/deployment in this area in his report to the last Board meeting.
37. BF (sportscotland) outlined the possible thrusts of potential additional sportscotland investment to both Club developmental and a Talent environment pathways. The Board agreed to a 2 month extension to current TDSC contracts and agreed to discuss proposals regarding the future engagement/deployment of TDSC at the next Board meeting.

Club Gradings

38. MP relayed the challenges that he had with grading members. MP believed that the cost to an individual for their first grading was now £35-£40. MP believed that new members having to pay for their first grading was simply not working and required to be changed.

Date of Next Board Meeting

Tuesday 19 February 2013.

The meeting closed at 2205 hours.