

JUDOScotLAND ANNUAL REPORT

2020



JudoScotland

Company Information

Honorary President

Dr George Kerr, CBE

Honorary Vice Presidents

Bill Berry MBE

Jim Feenan

Rick Kenney

Colin McIver

Chairman

Ronnie Saez

Treasurer

Graham Campbell

Board of Directors

Mark Brien

Sarah Clark

James McBeath

Marc Preston

Susan Wright

Eilidh Raymond

Company Secretary

Douglas Bryce

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Business Address

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Images from left: Just Judo outside session, Yamarashi lockdown grading and Edinburgh Judo Virtual session.

回復力

Kaifuku-ryoku

noun. The capacity to recover quickly from difficulty

Message From The Chairman

There is no question that 2020 has been a challenging year. Like every sport, and indeed nearly all aspects of life, we experienced a prolonged period of inactivity. Once again I have been heartened to see the Judo community come together to support one another through a year like no other, a true testament to the sport.

The pandemic has had a significant effect on JudoScotland operations which will be highlighted within this report. As I type this, the restrictions of the pandemic have begun to ease, Judo has recommenced and we can begin to look forward to a more normal operating period as we move towards 2022.

We were fortunate to continue to benefit from the unstinted support of sportscotland and were able to benefit from additional Government support in the shape of the furlough scheme. We are therefore pleased to be able to record a small surplus in our accounts at the close of the year which you will be able to see in the abbreviated balance sheet later in this report.

We look forward to welcoming you in person to the annual general meeting on Saturday 30th of October 2021.

Ronnie Saez, 6th Dan

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

This initial section of the Annual Report will focus on the leadership and governance role fulfilled by the Chairman and JudoScotland Board during the previous year. There will be elements within this first section that will be touched upon in more detail throughout the report.

It is hard to reflect on 2020 without mentioning the global pandemic although this year's annual report will focus heavily on how this organisation, and indeed Judo in Scotland, managed through such challenges we would also like to highlight the two months of relative normality before this.

The start of the year kicked off with The Scottish Open Championships on the 18th of January, held for the first time at Inverclyde. The event was incredibly well received by the membership and guests, marking a great start to the year.

The Impact of Covid 19

On Thursday the 19th of March based on government guidance the doors to the JudoScotland offices were closed for seven months. The impact of the pandemic was not unique to the JudoScotland office, clubs were forced to close their doors and the Judo calendar was for the first time in recent history, empty as competitions were cancelled.

Ensuring our member clubs felt supported through this uncertain time was paramount and we endeavoured to make personal contact with every club to assess their needs. We strived to support clubs as much as we could with the limitations of the situation throughout the pandemic.

In addition the decision was made to suspend individual membership for an initial period of eight weeks as the full impact of the pandemic on the sport was assessed.

It was also during this time that we took the difficult decision to furlough a significant portion of our staff. Like so many businesses and organisations at the time, this was not an easy decision but one made to protect the organisation, Judo in Scotland and the jobs of the JudoScotland staff members for the future.

In October following updated government guidance we were able to reopen the office on a part-time basis to service our members and clubs.



Fighting Fit

In November we collaborated with Fighting Films to offer our members 'Fighting Fit', an at-home challenge to keep our members active whilst clubs were closed. Members signed up for the challenge which took place over several months, competing remotely over various challenges set out by National High-Performance Coach, Euan Burton.

Richard Kenney OBE

JudoScotland were delighted to hear in October that Richard Kenney had been honoured by the Queen with an OBE. The much-deserved recognition celebrates Richard's dedication to sport, particularly his devotion to Judo.

The Path Ahead

Moving forward from the challenges of 2020, The JudoScotland Board is committed to providing leadership to aid the recovery of Judo in Scotland. Working closely with clubs we are dedicated to a strategy of re-start events as well as engaging members to return to the mat.

Motivation Monday: Each Monday we posted motivational content to help our audience navigate the strange times we were facing.

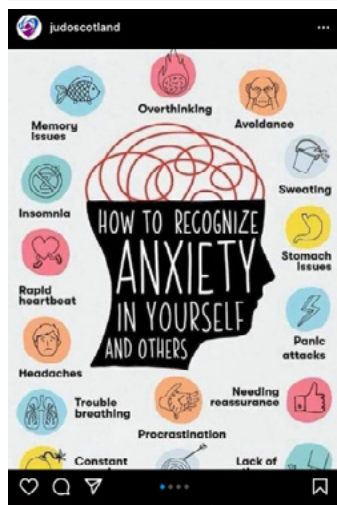
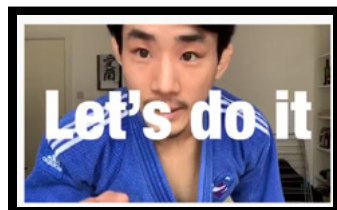
Technical Tuesday: Assistant High Performance Coach Takafumi Kitahara led technical Tuesday with his videos demonstrating a different technique to practise at home each week.

Wellness Wednesday: Focusing on good mental health, wellness Wednesday was all about ensuring our members and audience had an arsenal for the battle against poor mental health.

Throwback Thursday: A look back on 'normal times' and all of the fantastic achievements the Judoka in Scotland have achieved.

Fun Friday: Some light relief for a Friday, content included our virtual journey to Auckland, clocking up the miles through the accumulation of staff, athlete and member activity whether it be running, walking or cycling. The team's progress was shared on social media throughout lockdown.

The lockdown content was well received by our social media audience increasing engagement.



Fighting Fit

Our partnership with Fighting Films to deliver Fighting Fit towards the end of 2020 generated incredible engagement with members. Our launch post of this exciting initiative, to keep members moving over winter lockdown, became the top performing post on Instagram in 2020.

BUSINESS DELIVERY

Like all areas of JudoScotland, 2020 provided its challenges for the Business Delivery Team.

Judo Girls Rock

The beginning of 2020 marked an exciting point for Judo Girls Rock. Following on from the success of the initiative in 2019 which saw nine judo clubs receive funding from the Scottish Government's Women and Girls Fund to introduce women and girls to the amazing sport of judo. JudoScotland were pleased to launch the Judo Girls Rock: The Festival. The sold-out festival was due to take place in March bringing together female Judoka from Carnegie, Focus, Jidel Judo 93, Just-Judo, Judo Club Esprit, Lochaber, Movement Park, Edinburgh University and Strathclyde University, in a session led by Olympic Medallist, Sally Conway.

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, this event was cancelled.

Member Support During The Pandemic

From individual members to coaches and clubs we strived to offer support to the membership throughout the pandemic. We took a multi-pronged approach to offer support throughout this challenging time:

Club Communication

Throughout lockdown, the team strived to have regular 'check-ins' with individual clubs through regular phone calls and email contact. The purpose was to assess and support the ever-changing needs of the individual clubs throughout the pandemic and to offer support as clubs began to reopen.

Social Media

As was touched upon in previous sections, the Business Delivery Team took over the running of the official social media accounts as it allowed a direct channel of communication with members. The Wellness Wednesday theme generated large engagement on social media whilst also encouraging members to get in touch with our Safeguarding and Wellbeing Executive, Colin Aitken should they require further support.



Return to Sport Guidance

Working with Scottish Government, sportscotland and other Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport, we were able to develop a plan for a return to Judo in Scotland with the changing landscape.

To communicate this plan with all stakeholders we were able to produce a range of infographics that were shared via our social media channels to ensure that our members were getting the most up to date information as it happened.

Coaches Resource Site

A need was recognised for a 'one-stop shop' for coach information. Given the current restrictions of the JudoScotland website, a new sub-website was created to fulfil this need. The Coaches Resource Site houses all the information required for coaches to stay valid throughout lockdown and beyond.

Technical Officials and Coaches Chat Rooms

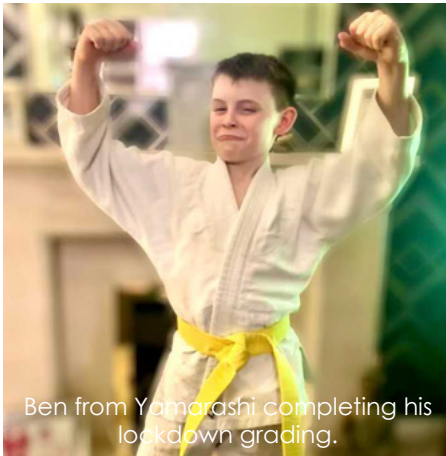
To support our workforce and help to continue to develop the JudoScotland workforce, two virtual monthly 'chat rooms' were established.

Coaches Chat Room

The coaches' chat room provided a platform for coaches to discuss, share, offload or quiz other coaches, workforce members and members of the JudoScotland staff on anything that could support the delivery of judo at the time.

Technical Officials Chat Room

The technical officials' chat room allowed a space for volunteers to keep in touch and share their experiences within the sport. It also allowed a platform for those looking to develop their experience and gain from others in the role.



Ben from Yamarashi completing his lockdown grading.

Lockdown Grading

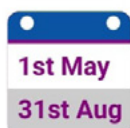
Over the summer period, 88 JudoScotland member clubs continued to support their members' health, wellbeing and development via 'virtual' Judo sessions and assisted their member's participation in the JudoScotland Lockdown Grading.

Over 2,500 lockdown gradings were awarded to

JudoScotland members. The lockdown grading was offered free of charge to clubs as a way of offering an additional level of support.

Lockdown Grading

2594 Individual Gradings



Of Pre-Lockdown Members Participated

88

Clubs/Registered Venues participated

42%

Of Clubs Engaged



Bounce Back Grading

Similar to the lockdown grading, the bounce back grading was designed as a way of supporting clubs as they returned to judo. Depending on how clubs were delivering judo, in person or virtually, they could choose to take advantage of a free bounce back grading in a way that suited the club best.

EVENTS

Scottish Open 18th January 2020

2020 started with the delivery of one of the most successful Scottish Open Tournaments ever staged by JudoScotland. Held at Inverclyde for the first time, the competition saw 352 competitors from eight countries take to the mat.

The 2020 event saw a number of changes from previous competitions; the most notable was the reduction of the mat area from six to four. The reduction in size was a success with little impact on the running of the event.



Another notable change for this event was the change of location to the sportscotland National Sports Training Centre Inverclyde which allowed us to offer residential facilities.

Cadet Open 7th March 2020

Taking place at the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley the JudoScotland Cadet Open saw 222 judoka compete from 91 clubs from across the UK and Ireland.



The threat of the pandemic was very much at the fore as we delivered this event and we took appropriate action as advised at the time to ensure the safety of competitors, coaches and spectators.

The JudoScotland Grand Prix Circuit

Although the pandemic put a stop to the majority of the Grand Prix circuit, we were able to fit one into 2020 before the country was locked down.

Hibari Kan Grand Prix 22nd February 2020

The only JudoScotland grand prix to take place in 2020, the event was held at Ravenscraig Regional Sport Facility for the first time. Judoka from 41 clubs competed over a five mat area.

The Impact of Covid 19 on Events

2020 was set to be an exciting year for JudoScotland events, understandably we saw a massive setback for the JudoScotland events calendar when the country went into lockdown in March. The following events were cancelled due to Covid restrictions:

Four National Gradings

Clyde Grand Prix

Granite City Grand Prix

Highland Budokan Grand Prix

Scottish Mini Mon Championship

Scottish Closed Age Bands

Judo Girls Rocks Festival

National Adaptive Sessions

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

Although the performance landscape was far from what we expected it to be at the beginning of 2020, we did have a positive start.

Scottish Open 2020

The year started positively with the return of The Scottish Open competition and training camp at Inverclyde, Largs. We had a strong representation from Scottish Judoka across the competition on Saturday and an excellent training opportunity for the team at Sunday's training camp.



Tel Aviv Grand Prix 2020

On the 23rd of January, Sally Conway defeated Seongyeon Kim from the Republic Of Korea to take Gold at the Tel Aviv Grand Prix. Sally exhibited a strong performance throughout the competition,

completed by throwing Kim for ippon using an ashi-waza combination in the final round.

Mongolia Training Camp

In January a team of five athletes were invited to Mongolia for a training camp and competition as part of a partnership between The British and Mongolian Government. Dylan Munro, Alex Short, David Ferguson, Scott



Cusack and Josie Steele, travelled to Mongolia in time to celebrate Burns Night, however, due to the threat of Covid in the region, the competition and Burns super were cancelled. The training camp was still allowed to take place and the opportunity it provided for the five players was invaluable.

Vittorio Veneto International Trophy, Italy

In February we travelled to Italy, on what was to be our final competition of the year, to the Vittorio Veneto International. The Team event saw Scotland win bronze, with Scott Cusack and Dylan Munro both bringing home individual medals from the event.

Impact of Covid on the Performance Programme

It is impossible to reflect on 2020 without acknowledging the impact of Covid. The performance team along with support staff dealt with the situation in hand admirably and it is a great accolade to all involved that performance athletes were able to continue some sort of training throughout 2020.

Early Spring 2020

We were able to deliver a care package to each athlete to allow them to continue to train from home. This started with 'homework' style of training where athletes logged their results themselves and moving on to a hybrid of video training.

Early Summer 2020

As restrictions started to ease we were able to deliver some indoor training at the Oriam gym. This continued to be supported by at-home sessions.



Summer 2020

We were delighted to be able to return to the 'mat' in summer to deliver Judo in person to the performance squad three times a week. We were able to do this at the Thistle Padle Club an outdoor area that was under-cover allowing us to comply with Covid restrictions.

Autumn 2020

With Performance Exemptions, we were able to return to the National Training Centre in autumn. It allowed us to restart training 'as normal' with the addition of Covid procedures from this point.

Athlete Intake

In November 2020 we were delighted to welcome nine new athletes from eight different clubs to the Scottish Institute of Sport Performance Programme. It was excellent to see such a strong group of athletes from a mix of clubs from across the country and we are looking forward to working with them to achieve their potential.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Although most of the Talent Development calendar was put on hold in 2020, we were able to squeeze in a couple of months of competition before March's lockdown.



Follonica Cadet European Cup 2020, Italy

8th & 9th February
7th Place David Somerville

Fuengirola Cadet European Cup 2020, Spain

15th & 16th February
5th Place James Gray
7th Place Billy Rodman

2020 JudoScotland Cadet Open

7th & 8th March 2020

In March JudoScotland hosted the annual JudoScotland Cadet Open, a fantastic opportunity for our players to compete against players from across the UK and Ireland with a strong representation from the Scottish Talent Development Squad on the podium.

The competition was followed by a training camp, which offered a vital experience for players.

Athlete Selection

A decision was made to defer athlete selection for a year allowing those that had been selected at the end of 2019 a chance to train and compete as part of the squad in 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

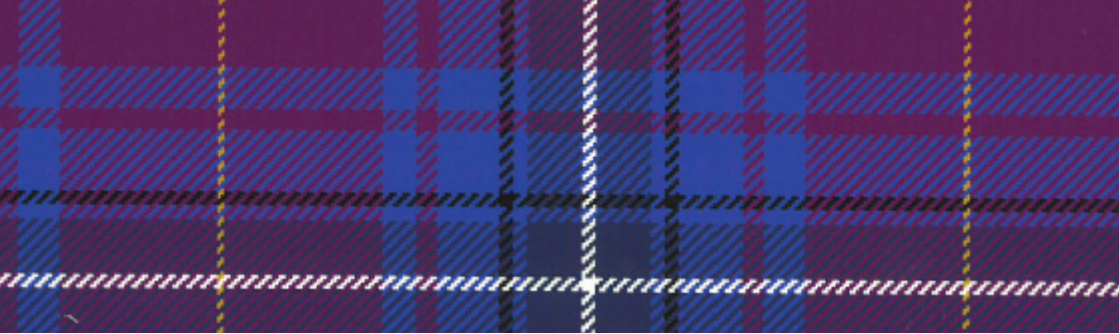
The objective of the Board is to operate JudoScotland on a budget near cash break-even, with sufficient reserves to give protection to the business in the event of any unexpected event or fall in funding. The Board has also been prepared to take short-term losses to invest in events and capital equipment, if the expenditure was considered to be in the long-term interest of judo. As with any business, forecasting is difficult, (especially in the future!) and funding and expenditure can vary due to events that arise over the course of the year. We are therefore pleased to be able to record a small surplus in our accounts at the close of the year.

Please find below an abbreviated balance sheet at 31 December 2020.

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	-	-
Investments	2	2
	2	2
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	624,664	445,843
Debtors	17,996	35,226
	642,660	481,069
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	422,153	271,348
Net Current Assets	220,507	209,721
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	220,509	209,723
Income and Expenditure Account	220,509	209,723



Photos from top left: Destination Judo outside session, Castle Douglas Judo Club/Dumfries Judo Academy Fighting Fit Challenge, Destination Judo virtual class set up, Edinburgh Judo coaching staff, Destination Judo members taking part in a virtual session, JudoScotland Performance Squad Training at Thistle People Club.



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