

JudoScotland Board Minutes

26 November 2024

Ref. 2024/8



Notes of the Meeting of the JudoScotland Board held on Tuesday 26 November 2024, commencing at 1830 hours.

Present: Marc Preston (Chair); Jodie Cox (JC); Anthony Daye (AD); David Gibson (D G); Lynne Glen (LG); Sandy Hodge (SH); Gordon McCathie (GM); Jason Moore (JM)

Apologies: Mark Brien (MB); Susan Wright (SW); Tony Penfold (TP)

In Attendance: Sarah Birrell; Judith McCleary (JMc); Freda McNulty (FM)

Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from MB, SW and TP.
3. The Chair declared a conflict of interest in the approval of a new club venue on the agenda.
4. The Chair advised that the meeting would be recorded for minute taking purposes only.

Leadership & Governance

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5. The minutes of the 29th October meeting were approved by AD and seconded by DG.

Board Actions Arising from Previous Minutes

6. JMc confirmed that item 2 was already on the Agenda and points 3 and 4 had now been actioned.
7. With regard to point 1, JMc confirmed that with the change to the Articles of Association, JS can now host their Annual General Meeting in person, online or hybrid. The AGM has been incorporated into The Gathering weekend to maximise attendance, however it is still challenging. Scottish Target Shooting have offered to share their knowledge in this area which will be scheduled for the start of 2025.
8. The Chair added that by utilising a hybrid option, this allows more flexibility. SB added that she has knowledge of other SGB's who have used this option, however it can be challenging and difficult to manage.
9. DG added that JS would need to ensure the network connectivity in the venue was adequate to ensure smooth running of the event.
10. The Chair asked that the hybrid option be investigated further in relation to feasibility and costs and then return to Board with findings.

Rolling Actions Register update

11. JMc advised the Board that the Anti-Sports Betting Policy was already on the Agenda for decision this evening. The Grading Review was in the final stages of design for certificates and product and would hopefully be in place for early January for Mon and Kyu Grades.
12. JMc advised that the Transgender Policy would be updated after recent feedback and brought back to Board at the next meeting for decision.

CEO report including Safeguarding & Welfare

13. The Chair referred to the previously circulated paper and asked for any questions. DG highlighted an omission in the BJA Award List to which JMc acknowledged.
14. DG requested clarity on future discussions with Lost Shore and if any benefits would be shared with the membership. JMc confirmed that JS are in the early stages of discussions with Lost Shore but would update the Board on progress made.
15. LG wished to convey thanks to all staff for the work undertaken across all areas and the sense of community within the staff team in working together to deliver outcomes. The Chair thanked LG and confirmed that he would contact staff on behalf of the Board to convey their thanks and appreciation.

16. JMc updated the Board in connection with JS lease with Edinburgh Leisure and the possibility of sharing office space with another SGB (RYA). However JS are unable to sub-let to a third party and Edinburgh Leisure suggested that they lease to both JS and RYA but this needs to be investigated further. SB added that the challenge with direct lease between Edinburgh Leisure and RYA, is that JS could lose control of office space.
17. AD commented that insurance and liability would also need to be investigated, to which JC agreed and added that further external advice was necessary prior to moving this forward. SH commented that JS was already progressing a facilities strategy and that this potentially could impact RYA.
18. The Chair asked that further investigations are carried out and returned to Board.

Anti-Sports Betting Policy (revised)

19. JC referred to the circulated policy and asked for any questions.
20. DG responded that Point 13, used 'oblige' – was this strong enough and 13.1 is this appropriate and how would JS manage this. JC commented that this is normal practice and standard clause within sports industry but agrees that it's difficult to police and would be keen to discuss with other SGB's.
21. JC confirmed that the wording can be updated to ensure it's clearly understood.
22. The Chair asked for approval based on changes to wording in Point 13 – this was unanimously agreed.

Financial Update to end October 2024

23. The Chair referred to previously circulated document. FM highlighted that income is greater than budgeted, however this also includes income for a number of 2025 events and will therefore be removed at the end of the financial year. FM raised concern over membership income which is reflecting a deficit of approximately £10k.
24. SH asked if there would be any impact on sportscotland investment should we record a surplus at the end of the year. JM shared that all sportscotland investment has been fully spent for the areas that it was allocated.
25. FM stated that our current Reserves Policy states 3-6 months of operating costs, which have significantly increased in recent years and therefore increasing our Reserves would be prudent at this time.

Consideration of Donation to Scottish Judo Trust

26. JMc confirmed that the charity has now been approved and asked the Board to consider an initial investment in the Trust. On closure of National Judo Academy, the remaining funds have been held in Deferred Income – this amounts to £17k and the recommendation would be to deposit into the Trust.
27. The Chair highlighted that this would allow a strong foundation for the Trust and asked the Board for approval – this was unanimously agreed.

Board Portfolios

28. SH referred to the circulated presentation and highlighted the following questions for discussion:-
 - (a) How do we maximise our ambitions?
 - (b) How committed are we individually/collectively?
 - (c) Considerations when implementing the approach
 - (d) Timelines/next steps
29. The Board split into two teams for discussion (please see notes attached).
30. On completion of group sessions, the Chair thanked SH for his time on this task, and advised the Board that it would return to the Agenda at the next meeting to be finalised.

Business Support

Business Support Update Paper

31. The Chair referred to the previously circulated update paper and invited questions. SH asked if we should be thinking differently to help support the targets that we are not yet reaching such as female participation. FM responded that Judo Girls Rise has recently been launched and hopefully this be reflected in the membership figures over the next six months.

New Club Applications

32. JMc requested approval for the following club:-
- (a) Destination Judo: Craiglockhart – Approved
33. FM to make changes to original application as errors in named personnel, prior to submitting to BJA.

Business Delivery

Business Delivery Update Paper

34. The Chair referred to the previously circulated update paper and invited questions.
35. DG highlighted Stephen Somerville's trip to Venray in order to support adapted categories addition in Scottish Open in 2025 was welcoming and asked for clarity on the recent coach trip to Japan. JMc responded that this was a combined initiative between Kaizen Academy and Talent Development, allowing the opportunity to upskill the workforce.
36. SH highlighted the need to work differently, which was agreed by JMc who then confirmed that discussions were already underway on how we can achieve this e.g. the addition of phone calls to lapsed members.

Performance and Talent Development

Performance and Talent Development Update

37. The Chair referred to the previously circulated update papers and invited questions.
38. The Chair wished to highlight the recent Pathway weekend which included international players from four other countries with over a hundred judoka on the mat and would like to congratulate EB and GE.

Lifetime Membership Nomination

39. The Chair provided an overview of the recent nomination for Lifetime Membership and JMc confirmed the process once these have been received. This was presented to Board for decision.

Dates for 2024 Meetings

40. JMc confirmed the next Board meeting would be online only for a one item Agenda - 2025 Draft Budget.

Dates for 2025 Meetings

41. Board Meeting Dates as follows:

4th February

25th March

27th May

19th August

28th October

9th December

Meeting Date	Action	Responsible
26 th November 2024	Investigate feasibility and costs of hybrid AGM	JMc/FM
26 th November 2024	Investigate insurance implications for office share	JMc
26 th November 2024	Transgender Policy to be updated and return to Agenda	FM
26 th November 2024	Transfer funds to Scottish Judo Trust	JMc/FM
26 th November 2024	New Clubs Approved to be sent to BJA and set up on Just Go	FM