



## Minutes of AGM of the UKBJJA

Time: 15:00

Date: 20 October 2018

Location: Gracie Barra Long Eaton, 1 Leopold Street, Long Eaton, Notts, NG10 4QD

### **Present:**

Richard Martin (Chairman)

Mike Williams (CEO)

James McIntyre (Scotland Director)

Rodrigo Souza (Finance Director)

Gret Zoeller

David George

Gemma Kane

Elsbeth McIntyre

Meeting Chair: Richard Martin

Minutes Secretary: Mike Williams

Apologies for absence: Simon Hayes, Dave Coles, Lawrence Selby, Tim Carden, Gina Hopkins, Jimmy Johnstone

### AGENDA

1. Previous AGM minutes
2. CEO report
3. Accounts and finances
4. Approval of financial report
5. Sport England Recognition
6. Voting on approval of resolution to adopt UK Anti Doping rules – see attached notice
7. Smoothcomp data migration
8. Membership Options 2019
9. UKBJJA Ranked Tournaments 2019
10. University League
11. Junior Development
12. UKBJJA International Open Tournament
13. A.O.B.



The Beacon Business Centre • Westgate Road • Newcastle Upon Tyne • NE4 9PQ

Company No. 8887006

tel: +44 (0)774 862 0235 • email: [info@ukbjja.org](mailto:info@ukbjja.org) • website: [ukbjja.org](http://ukbjja.org)

## Proceedings

With three directors present, the meeting was declared Quorate

### **0. Welcome by the Chair**

### **1. Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Mike Williams circulated the minutes from the last AGM. These were approved unanimously without change and signed by Richard Martin.

### **2. CEO Report**

Mike Williams presented updates on business performance, membership and new initiatives.

#### **2.1 Membership**

Individual Membership is up 17% year on year

Club Membership is up 27%

Rodrigo Souza asked why membership had increased by 104% from October 2016 to October 2017. Richard Martin put this down to three things: increased online presence, especially around the time of the Sport England application; making membership compulsory for kids' leagues and university league and publicity around other BJJ organisations inspiring people to seek out the UKBJJA.

Membership by age is 80% adults, 20% Juniors

Membership by gender is 13% female, 87% male

Membership by region is 86% England, 6% Northern Ireland, 5% Wales and 3% Scotland

Mike Williams explained that one of the reasons for hosting the first International Open tournament in Scotland was to boost the profile of the sport in Scotland.

#### **2.2 Partnerships:**

British Blind Sport are keen to establish formal links, as they are getting a number of enquiries from VI people interested in BJJ. Gina Hopkins (UKBJJA Disability Officer) progressing. BBS also have a number of resources and training packages which we will look to making available to member clubs/instructors

Francis Lambert had attended a meeting hosted by Greater Sport in Manchester, aimed at getting sports NGBs to help them in their mission to promote active lifestyles and get people into sport. The meeting was very focused on regional issues, but did lead to a conversation with CSP Network – a nationwide organisation aimed at promoting community sport and activity. Formal letters have been sent and a formal partnership will be announced on the website soon.

Mike Williams has made contact with Surfing England and Parkour UK with a view to sharing best practice and gaining insights from other new sports NGBs. A follow up meeting with the CEO of Parkour UK and Richard Martin will be scheduled for the next few weeks



Mike Williams has made contact with UK Anti Doping, who are very keen to work with the UKBJJA and provide support. They have a very clear pathway which the Association must follow in order to become accredited.

A discussion followed around the need for Anti Doping in BJJ and how a policy would be implemented and enforced – especially in light of the lack of consistent enforcement internationally. Richard Martin said that if we can get towards being a clean sport within a couple of years, then that's a big step forward. Explained objective of becoming fully UKADA compliant in 2019.

### 2.3 Digital Strategy

Mike Williams gave updates on the new website and the migration of the membership system to Smoothcomp. We are currently taking new memberships on Smoothcomp and existing members will be migrated across on renewal.

Richard Martin explained how one of the objectives behind the move to Smoothcomp is to enable a transparent belt register to preserve the integrity of the sport.

Aim is to have Smoothcomp fully implemented by start of 2019

Mike Williams welcomed Gemma Kane as new social media executive.

## 3 Accounts & Finances

Mike Williams presented the management accounts (profit & loss report and balance sheet) Turnover for financial year ending 30 April 2017 was £70,564 an increase of 38% versus previous year. Income after tax £15896 an increase of 15%

Rodrigo Souza asked why there was a difference in direct costs vs overheads between the two years. Mike Williams explained that this was due to differences between how costs were allocated/coded on Xero vs. our old system of having the UKBJJA accountant code receipts.

## 4 Approval of financial report

It was proposed that Rodrigo Souza review the accounts after they have been prepared by the accountant before final submission to Companies House. This motion was approved unanimously.

## 5 Sport England

Richard Martin presented an update on UKBJJA's progress. The full application was submitted to Sport England on 29 March 2018. We have had notification that the application is currently under consideration and we are awaiting further updates.

Discussion around what benefits recognition would bring, including building schools' programme and access to e.g. BUCS for University League.

## **6 Voting on approval of resolution to adopt UK Anti Doping rules**

The Directors present were asked to vote on the following resolution:

“The Board of Directors of UKBJJA hereby resolves that the anti-doping rules of UKBJJA comprised in the UKBJJA Articles of Association, UKBJJA Constitution and any previously published UKBJJA policy documents shall, as and from the 20 October 2018, stand repealed and shall be replaced by the following rule:

The anti-doping rules of UKBJJA are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by UK Anti-Doping Limited (or its successor), as amended from time to time. Such rules shall take effect and be construed as rules of the UKBJJA.”

The resolution was passed unanimously

## **7 Membership Options**

Richard Martin expressed a desire to change the membership structure to allow UKBJJA member clubs to automatically have all of their students insured – the club would pay a higher membership fee, but would not have to encourage individual club members to sign up themselves. There followed a discussion around how this might work in practice and how the fees might be structured so that they align with the membership cost rules within the UKBJJA’s constitution.

Mike Williams is working closely with Smoothcomp to establish technical issues and procedures

## **8 Ranking Events 2019**

Discussion around whether we keep current system or open it up to more, newer competitions. In addition, do we move to Smoothcomp for all competitions in 2019.

Gret Zoeller expressed a need for the Association to be much clearer about the benefits of being a ranked event (both competitors and organisers). Gemma Kane raised issue of potentially alienating organisers by forcing new system on them.

GK also raised issue of transparency – how can competitors be sure of quality and safety? General discussion around competition safety followed.

Rodrigo Souza proposed that the ranking criteria for all events are clearly signposted on the website, along with the benefits of competing at a ranked event. Mike Williams and Richard Martin to conduct review of ranking events on website and associated policies and information Unanimously agreed.

Gret Zoeller asked if it would be worth the Association purchasing an Automatic Emergency Defibrillator to be hired out to competition organisers.

Gemma Kane asked if we could apply for regional business development funds to help organisers or clubs access the funds for purchase of hardware needed for Smoothcomp.

## **9 University League**

Proposal: that we establish a University Committee to provide Tim Carden (Universities Officer) with additional support in running the competitions and applying for BUCS membership.  
Unanimously agreed.

## **10 Junior Development**

Richard Martin welcomed Jimmy Johnstone on board as Junior Development Officer and in absentia gave brief overview and explanation of Junior Development plan developed by Jimmy Johnstone. Aim is to provide a non-political, low cost (free to UKBJJA members, non-members may join on the day) opportunity to get kids training together in a safe, friendly environment. In addition, this becomes an opportunity for the UKBJJA to educate instructors and parents about safeguarding.

## **11 International Open Tournament**

James McIntyre gave overview of project plan. Most organisational elements are in place (Venue, staff, etc.). Dignitaries have been booked for opening ceremony. Big social media push needed to encourage sign ups and generate buzz. Need for additional sponsorship – need clear packages for potential sponsors.

The Association will be offering Referee, Safeguarding and First Aid courses before all major ranked competitions.

## **12 A.O.B.**

A number of items were added to the agenda under A.O.B.

### **12.1 Regional Membership Breakdown**

Mike Williams relayed a question from Gina Hopkins about whether we can identify members by region (e.g. North West). Mike Williams said it was certainly possible to provide membership numbers at this level if needed. This led to a discussion about whether it would be worth in the future electing officers for each of the regions of England.

### **12.2 Register of DBS checked and vetted instructors**

Gina Hopkins has asked whether the Association could maintain an online register of DBS checked instructors. Mike Williams explained that this should be possible with Smoothcomp. Richard Martin expressed a desire to have all UKBJJA instructors listed with appropriate certifications in 2019 and proposed that Mike Williams reports back on the manpower/additional resources needed to upload and maintain relevant instructor info.  
Unanimously agreed

### **12.3 Transgender Policy**

Gret Zoeller raised the issue of the UKBJJA Transgender Policy and whether it was appropriate in light of upcoming legislation. It was proposed that the policy be reviewed to ensure that it complies with upcoming legislation as well as any additional requirements specified by UKADA, if relevant. The Association will do everything it can to ensure the safety of athletes and participants and to provide inclusive pathways for all people to enjoy the sport.  
Unanimously agreed



**There being no other business the meeting was concluded at 17:30**