



DIRECTOR'S MEETING 21 January 2020, 8pm

MINUTES & PROCEEDINGS

Present: Richard Martin (chair), Francis Lambert, Neil Williams, James McIntyre, Lawrence Selby

Apologies: Simon Hayes, Rodrigo Souza

Agenda:

1. Sport England update
2. CEO membership update
3. University League
4. International Open
5. Ranking Competitions
6. Junior Development
7. Outstanding Actions from AGM
8. Admin support

There being more than 3 directors present, in accordance with article 24 of the Constitution, the meeting was declared quorate

Proceedings:

- 1) Richard Martin (Chairman) provided an update on the Sport England application. In summary, there have been no updates from Sport England and we are still awaiting their decision. LS suggested that he may have additional contacts within Sport England that he could approach to apply additional pressure.
- 2) Mike Williams (CEO) presented the membership figures, which stand at 265 clubs (an increase of 5 since the AGM) and 4,088 individual members (a decrease of 119 since the AGM). The decrease can largely be accounted for by the fact that a large bulk order of memberships from a London based club has not been placed yet. A discussion followed on bulk selling memberships to member clubs to enable bulk memberships. Need to set a price and put the facility in place on Smoothcomp.
ACTIONS: MW to update board on progress with Smoothcomp to ensure that auto-renewal for memberships is put in place as that will improve retention rates.
MW to circulate pricing scenarios to board for discussion. Need to ensure financial exposure is minimised and technical facility is in place to enable.
NW to speak to Pedro Bessa about bulk insurance prices
MW to set up skype meeting with Smoothcomp to progress. RM, LS and JM expressed desire to be involved.



- 3) Tim Carden is stepping down as University Officer, and other than booking a venue and confirming a date (and some handover to a replacement), is unable to work on this year's events. The Uni League competitions are well run, well received and a big driver of memberships (>200 entrants at December 2019 competition), so it is important that they continue. The Board agreed that there should be an open recruitment process to find a replacement. For the next event (scheduled for March/April), there will need to be an experienced competition organisation team in place.

The Board expressed their strong thanks to Tim Carden for the excellent work he has done in developing University BJJ.

UPDATE 22 Jan 2020: MW has spoken to TC and both Nottingham Unis are proving difficult to pin down. TC will be chasing again this week and also speaking to Warwick (venue for the December 2019 event) about hosting the spring competition. If both prove fruitless, we will need to find an alternative venue or postpone the first leg until later in the year.

ACTION: MW to draft recruitment ad to place with University sports societies / student unions and publish on Association website. Simon Hayes to be asked to put an informal call for applications on the UK BJJ Underground Facebook Group.

- 4) International Open – need to confirm London venue and date. Preference is for a weekend in Autumn (ideally October) that does not clash with the IBJJF London Open (10/11 October).

ACTION: FL to approach UEL, Copperbox, Westway and Latimer venues (and possibly others) and confirm price/availability

UPDATE: Space required: ideal would be 900 m² (e.g. 8 mats + warm up area + table space - 45m x 20m); minimum space for 6 mats + table space would be 494 m²

- 5) Ranking competitions: previous discussions re. rationalising number of events have not gone anywhere. MW expressed desire/need to have an event in the north of England as currently all English events are in the south or midlands. Cleveland Coastal Championship in April is one possible contender as they have previously submitted paperwork. All tournaments to be made aware of importance of providing good quality experiences and timely results – failure could result in removal of ranking points.

ACTION: MW to approach Cleveland Coastal and send existing organisers a reminder of their obligations

- 6) Junior Development: excellent work by NW and Jimmy Johnstone has resulted in two hugely successful Junior Development Days (JDD) in Wales in 2019. A third event scheduled for 6 March is nearly at full capacity. JM has a Scottish JDD in the pipeline, pending instructor availability. Desire to run regular JDDs in England for 2020.

Kids League (KL): JM has successfully re-started the Kids League competitions in Scotland. NW is already up and running with KL in Wales. Association very happy to support local organisers with Smoothcomp support and logistical support if appropriate

ACTIONS: NW, JM and MW to speak to contacts and gather interest in running local KLs

UPDATE (22 Jan): NW has spoken to Paul and Dave Broughton who will be running KL

events in 2020 with our support. Gary Howe may also start back up again and will confirm. We will have at least 2, possible 4 events per year. I will reach out to jimmy Johnson and Jeff Lawson this week on their desire to do the same in Bournemouth area. Alex De Souza also a possibility (and has hardware for Smoothcomp already).

7) Outstanding Actions from AGM:

Disciplinary Policy / Social Media Policy / Sanctions: MW has gathered policies and codes of conduct from other NGBs and will draft policies for LS to review. LS expressed caution about how policies are communicated – duly noted.

Para Jiu Jitsu: MW to speak to Gina Hopkins about putting training material online and running training seminars (or building into coaching seminars). Also look at adding Para divisions or superfights to International Open and possibly other ranking events.

8) Admin support: MW explained that we are at the point where some extra admin support would be beneficial (part time, possibly 10hrs/week initially) and that it would potentially tick some Sport England or Funding options if we became an employer. ACTION: MW to explore apprenticeship options and/or internship options via local Universities

9) A.O.B.

LS noted the contents of UK Sports and Sport England's A Code For Sports Governance and, in particular, highlighted the desirability that NGB boards have 30% female membership, especially, if they are seeking public funding. While noting that there are no current vacancies on the Board, the Board agreed to make every effort to ensure that recruitment and staff/director/volunteer development encouraged diversity at all levels.

UPDATE (22 Jan): useful link with "checklist for change" that we could adapt and adopt: <https://www.womeninsport.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Women-in-Sport-Beyond-3025-1-1.pdf?x99836>

Next meeting: aim to have meetings at least every 3 months (Tuesdays at 8pm seem to be a good time). MW to circulate possible dates for next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm