



DIRECTOR'S MEETING 2 December 2021, 19:00

MINUTES & PROCEEDINGS

Present: Neil Williams (chair), Greg Creel, Robert Cullinan, Jimmy Johnstone, Simon Ling, Richard Martin, James McIntyre, Mike Williams (minutes)

Agenda:

Chair Open and Update

Regional directors update

CEO update

AOB

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

Proceedings:

Chair Update:

Neil Williams opened with welcome to the new Board members and thanks for all the work put in over the weeks since Sports Council recognition. Continued by highlighting objectives of association: increase participation numbers, provide accurate reporting to Sports Councils and improve safety of BJJ.

NW confirmed that UKBJJA are now the recognised NGB for BJJ by the combined armed forces sports boards and thanked JJ, other members of the armed forces committee and in particular Jon Maflin for his work in representing BJJ to armed forces sports.

NW reported that we had good contact with Sports Wales and Sports NI but have struggled to establish comms with Sport England and Sport Scotland. Also reported that first club (Valley Academy, Swansea) has successfully applied for SC funding.

Finally, NW updated the Board on progress and discussions with Gemma Kane, Women's Committee Chair and initiatives that were being implemented by Women's Committee, including development days in NI, guides and research for getting more women competing and training and links with disability committee and diversity committee. GK also looking at kicking off research project around "language matters", improving cultural awareness and the language used around female BJJ online and elsewhere.

Regional Updates:

Jimmy Johnstone asked for more guidance and help with establishing contact with Sport England. SL mentioned that all SE funding is currently focused on Covid recovery and other funding unlikely in the



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short term. MW mentioned that most likely opportunity for club funding would be at a local level via activepartnerships.org, MW to join and establish contact.

Robert Cullinan updated Board on productive meeting with Sport NI and Ian Weir (our Sports Council rep). RC has also applied to join NI Sports Forum. Plenty of local funding available.

RC has conducted census of 19 NI based clubs to establish participant numbers. Highlighted problem of Standard membership clubs not having to declare student numbers. ACTION: MW to change standard membership sign up forms to include declaration of student numbers going forward.

RC has called summit meeting of all member clubs for 9 December. RC raised issue of an informal complaint raised by a UKBJJA member club about another (non member) club whose instructor received their brown belt under suspicious circumstances. This has previously been dealt with by the belt committee and the non-member application to join was rejected. Finally RC has begun process of lining up potential venues for the UKBJJA International Open scheduled for October 2023 and will update on progress.

JJ also mentioned that the Reorg charity has funds available to help veterans, service personnel or first responders.

James McIntyre stated that we have been having a nightmare getting any response from Sport Scotland, and has escalated this to the Scottish minister for sport.

Three Scottish Kids League competitions have been set up for 2022. Had successful first aid course a few weeks ago.

JM also provided quick update on 2022 International Open (23 October, London), has booked venue, scoped local accommodation and set up draft registration page on Smoothcomp. ACTION: committee meeting to be scheduled for very early January.

Greg Creel updated board on success of funding application by Valley Academy. Also updated Board on process on Kids Leagues and Junior Development Days, dates tbc. GC will be contacting all Welsh clubs in January for a summit and to get them all involved. GC also raised issue of Kids' League rules and whether it would be appropriate in some cases for juniors to be allowed to fight down a weight/age category as well as up (due to differences in kids' development). GC said that Richard Dando of Sport Wales attended Polaris – great to see SC representatives see professional grappling in person. GC reported that we have the highest ever number of member clubs in Wales (26), but plenty of opportunity for further growth.

ACTION: all regional directors to schedule KL competitions so that dates do not clash.

CEO update:

Mike Williams updated Board on recruitment process for Independent Directors – have narrowed large number of applications down to shortlist of four, to be interviewed by MW and NW on 3 and 6 December. Seek to appoint by end of week commencing 6 December.



MW has briefed GK on a review of website layout and content to make it more user friendly and clearer. There will be website development ongoing in Q1 of 2022

MW reported on new insurance policy which has increased substantially in cost (from £8.5k to £20.5k) due to significantly increased membership numbers. The only policy difference is that competition insurance for member clubs is no longer included (UKBJJA events and ranked competitions are still covered).

Participation numbers – updated membership report to be made available to Board and Council on Basecamp. More accurate reporting means a slight downward revision of total membership since AGM (from 18.5k to 17.9k members)

MW updated Board on training courses. Coaching quals still need to be finalised; monthly (online) safeguarding courses to be available via website throughout 2022. Monthly ref courses already underway.

MW raised issue of rankings for 2021 and whether we would award rankings for this year's truncated season. SL proposed that we roll 2021 into 2022 and combine the two. This was unanimously agreed.

MW updated Board on meeting with Rowland Clark (professional bid writer). ACTION: to set up meeting with Chair/Board early in new year.

AOB:

SL raised issue of disparity in children's' grades and disparity in skill level. To be looked at by relevant committee.

JM to speak to Gina Hopkins about establishing para divisions for UKBJJA competitions and helping find match ups for para athletes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:20