



Minutes of AGM of the UKBJJA

Time: 18:00

Date: 13 November 2022

Venue: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Present (Participants as signed in via zoom)

Neil Willaims
Simon Ling
Richard Martin
Robert Cullinan
Omied Khakshore
Karl Casey
Gemma Kane
GB Arnold
Matty Logan
Can Sönmez
Equilibrium Martial Arts
RJ Spillere
James McIntyre
Rodger Middleton
Stu Forrester
LJC Selby
Zaf Niaz
Jack Burrell

Agenda

- 1) 1) Chairperson's Update
 - a) Insurance
 - b) Recruitment (Non-Exec Director and Admin vacancy)
 - c) Competitions and Courses
 - d) Strategic partnerships and support
 - e) New membership platform update
- 2) Membership & Finances/Accounts
- 3) Update on Board, Council & Committees

4) A.O.B

1) Chairperson's Update

Neil Williams (NW) welcomed everyone to the UK Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Annual General Meeting 2022 and asked everyone to keep questions until the end of the session, that would be good.

1.a Insurance

The first item on the agenda for this year is insurance. The UKBJJA has managed to secure a new insurance policy for all of our members and member clubs for 2022 with Marsh and Bluefin sports. Neil noted it was one of the most comprehensive combat sports insurance policy that he'd seen and he was confident it serve our members well.

This will provide:

- Member to member on public liability insurance,
- Professional indemnity
- Employers liability.
- Directors and officials cover
- Clubs
- Instructors
- Members
- Volunteers
- Events.

Brokers are in the process of finalising the documentation and created a bespoke Insurance Zone page which will be added to the [UKBJJA website](#) where members can download any documentation they need directly from the website and contact the insurance brokers directly if they need to.

Neil Williams, Chairperson noted: It's been quite a lot of work over the last couple of months to try and find an insurance policy which is suitable for Brazilian jujitsu as some members of the board are aware, there has been some reluctance from some insurance companies to insure combat sports, but it's I think it's a massive achievement of being able to offer our members a really comprehensive insurance product.

1.b Recruitment

We have a vacancy for a non executive director, Mr. David Hart stood down earlier this year.

It was noted his reason for stepping down was due to David taking up a role as a performance director for British gymnastics, and due to his additional workload felt that he could no longer support the association.

The Chairperson, Neil, thanked David for his work and helping us in the time that he was a volunteer director.

There will be an advertisement going out for this position soon, looking for another non-executive director to join the board.

NW clarified:

The non-executive directors can be somebody who can help take the UKBJJA forward however they do not need to participate in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. They are people who were professional expertise who can help us.

We are also starting recruitment for a full-time administrative assistant. This is a full-time post which will be the only employed person by the UKBJJA.

NW noted: Everybody else involved currently are volunteers and due to the additional workload, additional queries and projections we know we only going to get busier. Therefore we feel now was the time to bring somebody in to try and deal with the multiple queries that we receive every day to provide a better service to our members.

We're aware that sometimes we don't get things as quickly as we would like, but with everyone being in full-time employment, and many people running gyms as well as full-time employment, it can be quite difficult. I appreciate it's quite frustrating for members at times. So with the recruitment for an administrative officer, then that should help.

1.c Competitions and courses

It has been a busy year, even though it's been a year of recovery post-COVID.

We've, built a relationship with Empire grappling which enabled us to bridge the gap in the North and in North Wales for events that we sanctioned as well as the Somerset open recently.

As most people are aware, we the board made the decision to cancel the International Open which is to be held in London this year. The board's decision was due to increased running costs and saturation in the market around the time of the event. It was sensible for us to postpone the International Open and we're looking to run the International Open again back in London from next year on. So we believe that this is a key event that we should be running to give prize money back to BJJ in the UK, and entry costs to be more than competitive. But unfortunately, we weren't able to run that event this year.

Referee Courses

So far we have run 50 referee courses across Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales. We've run our first woman-only event alongside the Enyo competition. Our aim is to bring more female officials, and female referees through to jujitsu in the UK.

We have also run quarterly safeguarding courses and quarterly first aid courses.

Event Partnerships

In addition to the competitions, the UKBJJA has also continued to strengthen some of the work that we've done with some of the big event organisers. This is where our involvement with Grapple Fest on Polaris Events comes into play. , The UKBJJA has also been in conversations with ADCC to see how we can work with ADCC across the UK and Europe going forward.

2) Membership

NW wanted to note: Our membership figures are an estimate at the moment until we get a more granular level of detail. We are working to finalise the data and move our membership platform called Sport80.

The UKBJJA currently has over 500 member clubs across the UK and over 20,000 members.

The split is as follows:

- 80% males
- 20% female participation
- 80% of our membership base is based in England
- 10% in Wales
- 5% across Northern Ireland and Scotland

Safeguarding

I just wanted to mention that we have been successful in appointing safeguarding leads in each of the countries. So Ricky Sloane has been appointed to Northern Ireland, Aaron Vickers in Wales, as the Sedgwick in England and James McIntyre in Scotland and James will continue to be our safeguarding leader for the UK. So making sure that we have a point of contact for safeguarding issues across the UK is key for us. So we then we pleased that we've been able to get highly experienced people. So if in the unfortunate event there are safeguarding issues, then we've got people on point to deal with those professionally.

Membership platform Sport80

I did touch on briefly about the sport ad platform so we're looking for this to launch early in q1 next year, which will allow us and our member clubs to add all of their members and manage their members. In one system is a really good system that lots of the large national governing

bodies use across the US and Europe. And more news and detail will be coming on that in the future.

Finances - Simon Ling (SL)

SL Advised: The UKBJJA are going undergoing a change of accountants.as we wait for the completion of that handover there is information that the existing accountants need to provide to the new accountant and that's delayed the completion of our year-end.

The information we are able to provide here right now are draft accounts to the 30th of April 2022. And that provides provided some of the previous years so you can just see where things are at.

In terms of overall revenue, we've seen a revenue increase from the dip that we took due to sort of the impact of the pandemic.

This increase in revenue has been in large part due to the change that we made around club memberships with the introduction of the gold, silver and bronze membership levels which increased income in those areas.

There are approximately £50,000 of income from club memberships with about £47,000 for individual memberships and instructor memberships.

This has increased the operating profit in the organisation on the contribution but the cash in the organisation has remained roughly the same as 2021.

SL Noted: From a competition standpoint, the UKBJJA ran three competitions this year and they were run at a loss. In addition to a number of courses such as safeguarding courses and referees courses,= they are run at a loss. The UKBJJA expects that those to be run a loss to the organisation because as part of making sure that we're giving back and providing that service to the UKBJJA community.

Funding applications - Neil Williams (NW)

NW noted he had one more item to cover: The successful application of funding.

Since the UKBJJA was given NGB accreditation, and Brazilian jujitsu has been recognised as a sport across Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, and Wales, we're now starting to see funding applications coming in from member clubs.

One club in sport Wales, has secured funding, and there are four in England that are currently in conversations about how best to approach what funding they can apply for.

This is great news and a mark of success to be seeing applications come through the Sport UK governing bodies. Clubs are approaching us to help with those funding applications to increase the size of clubs, and improve the safety of clubs with additional mats and expansion.

NW noted this was excellent news and hopefully we'll see some more coming through. It's slightly different across each of the countries with the funding models.

Please note that if any member clubs are looking for funding to expand, look on your Regional Sports Council websites first and look on your local government websites, and contact the UKBJJA via email and we can talk you through those processes are happy to help with any of those applications that come through.

3) Update on Board, Council & Committees

NW invited the directors of each region, England, Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland, to provide an update.

NW noted that the regional focus for the last 12 months has been around rebuilding, getting things back on track after the COVID lockdown and supporting clubs and members and events.

Wales Update - Omied Khakshore (OK)

OK Noted: Wales would be looking to fill the new vacancies of the Junior Development officer as he has now stepped into a new role.

OK would like the UKBJJA to support in promoting and filling that position so we can continue doing the good work that we've been doing in Wales and the kids leagues as well as the development camps.

NW noted we could reach out to member clubs within Wales to see who has experience and interest in junior development.

OK noted: The UKBJJA ran the first Welsh Nationals, and they were a big success from the competitors point of view. The competition received a lot of good feedback and people looking forward to us running another one. (with an even more ridiculous team trophy)

4) A.O.B.

Karl Casey, Northern Ireland (KC)

Karl noted he has been trying to get an access NI check for several months. Due to issues at access NI this continues to be a problem. The NW, Chair confirmed he would provide an update to Mr Casey and continue to chase.

N.B. Since the meeting, this has been done and we await the verification of Mr Casey's documents.

Presidents comments

NW invited the President, Richard Martin,(RM) to provide comments or updates.

Final closing comment from Richard Martin (President of the UKBJJA) who thanked the board for their work and the chair and treasurer for securing an excellent insurance product for members and clubs and work over the last 12 months.

RM thanked the Board and Committee for all they have done in the first year of taking over the management that UKBJJ including the Chairman and Treasurer whole, in his words, have done a fantastic job in securing a new insurance policy.

RM remarked: Well done to the Treasurer again for the improved financial position going forward as well.

Meeting close

N.W. thanked everyone and called the meeting to a close.

N.W. Thanked the board the committee and the people who work behind the scenes to try and do as best as we can for UK Jiu Jitsu.