UKBJJA AGM 2026 MINUTES

Date: 11/10/2026
Time: 18:00 hrs
Duration: 28 minutes
Location: Zoom, hosted from Scott House, The Concourse, Waterloo Station, London SE1 7LY

Attendees:

- Lauren Brown (Chair)
- Izzy Carnwath (CEO)
- Sarah Gregory (Board Secretary/ Club Owner)
- Samantha Cook (Board Director/ Club Owner)
- Martin Smith (Board Director)
- Jake Cross (Board Director)
- Conrad Roberts (Councillor/ Club Owner)
- Aidens MacKenzie (Councillor)
- Yousuf Nabi (Club Owner)
- Elizabeth Davies (Individual Member)
- Victor Close (Individual Member)
- Jamie Mayers (Individual Member)
- Lou Temlett (Individual Member)
- Laura Mills (Administrator)
- Megh Manthanwar (Independent Scrutineer from the University of East London)
- Yugraj Sharma (Independent Scrutineer from the University of East London)

Apologies:

- Gareth Morgan (Board Director)
- Cassandra Chavida Peres (Candidate for Treasurer)
- Sam Kaye (Councillor)

1. **Opening**

Chair Lauren Brown welcomed attendees, confirmed the meeting as quorate and outlined the agenda:

- The Chair's Report
- Financial Report
- Treasurer Elections
- Questions

2. Chair's Report

The Chair reported progress against the three priorities established by the Board and

Council since the October 2025 elections.

• Organisational robustness: Izzy's appointment as CEO had increased capacity. Izzy and Laura were the only paid staff; other work was undertaken by volunteers. Board governance training had been completed and an internal governance audit was underway against Sport England requirements.

• Safeguarding: procedures and guidance had been revised to make them easier to access. Publication was planned before the end of 2026, with further work during 2027. A welfare and equality policy was being drafted and an independent disciplinary panel had been appointed.

• Financial planning: a Finance Committee had been established, with planned expenditure, approval thresholds and regular meetings. Membership and event income had increased. The Chair reported that increased income had covered the CEO's costs.

• Membership and participation: approximately 31 new clubs had joined over the September-to-September period. Individual membership had also increased, particularly through youth events and other members-only activities.

The UK BJJ Lottery had launched. Further promotion and potential athlete support were planned. Grant applications had not progressed because of limited time and resources. The governance audit remained incomplete, with completion targeted for the next quarter, potentially early 2027.

3. Regional activity

- **England:** the National Youth Performance Hub had been established at Royal Jiu- Jitsu in Birmingham, led by Bradley Hill. Activities included World Cancer Day and International Women's Day events, a UFC youth BJJ event in London, five ranked competitions and four referee courses.

- **Scotland:** Four ranked competitions and two referee courses were reported. James and Martin had contributed to the national youth development structure to support regional delivery.

- **Northern Ireland:** New Regional Director, Marty Brammeld, had been elected and appointed. An open mat had taken place and the relationship with the Northern Ireland Sports Forum had been renewed.

- **Wales:** Activity included a Polaris Children's Development Camp, one ranked competition and continued Welsh Sports Association membership.

4. National Programmes and Partnerships

Competitions and rankings: the 2025 rankings had been published and prizes awarded. Awards were planned again for 2026. A working group was reviewing eligibility for ranked competitions and points multipliers. The Chair reported prior Board approval of a new ranking approach, "Elo", with development aimed at a 2027 rollout.

Youth development: national training days at the Birmingham hub had been successful. Regional youth events were planned for 2027 to improve access across the UK.

Education and licensing: 12 coaching licences had been issued and referee training delivered.

IT: alternatives to Sport80 were being considered because of login, event administration and athlete-profile difficulties, and limitations affecting future requirements.

Communications: Marina, a London-based black belt, had refreshed the digital brand and expanded social media coverage.

Commercial activity: partner benefits and lottery fundraising had been developed. A

2027 Women's Summit was being planned, including partnership and sponsorship opportunities.

Universities: the Universities Lead, Sarah Jones, had engaged university clubs. Rebuilding the University Committee and assessing interest in a 2027 universities league were in progress.

Emergency services: police championships and referee training had been supported. Army funding had been secured for coaching and education for 28 practitioners.

5. Priorities for 2027

The Chair outlined continued work on athlete development, including revised rankings, regional youth development, the Women's Summit and competition preparation ahead of major events.

Safeguarding would focus on prevention and practical academy support, including clear guidance, designated safeguarding officers and visible contact information.

Assessment of a replacement for Sport80 was also a major priority.

6. Financial Report

The Chair reported that CEO costs had been covered, the bank balance exceeded the equivalent point in the previous year, and reserves were maintained with additional funds available for reinvestment.

Errors were identified in the financial presentation slide. Correct financial figures were circulated to attendees post -meeting for approval, as below.

2026 Year-End Summary (to 30 April 2026) - audited by Bowdon Accountancy

Revenue: £143,071 - up 21%, highest to date.
Club memberships: £126,710
Courses & events: £4,422
Grants/ sponsorship: £11,940

Gross surplus: £127,407 — up 22%
Operating result: £10,119

Cash at bank: £59, 387
Key drivers

- Army grant; slight increase in memberships, particularly individual memberships through the organisation of events and renewed activity.
- Continued effective management of operational costs, including through new Financial Management Policy governing expenditure and periodical Finance Committee Meetings.

Challenges

- Obstacles and disruptions caused by changes in Treasurer (twice), Accountant, Bookkeeper and banking signatories/ access under new Board.

Fiscal Year-to-Date (May–Sept 2026)

Revenue: £55,256 (marginal increase on last year over same period).
Gross profit: £49,502
Operating profit: - £760
Cash at bank (9 October): £62,540 *(*including ring-fenced army education grant of £8,690)*

Key movements:

- Stable membership income.
- Additional core costs: continued CEO consultancy (£10,374.05); 15.4% pay rise granted to administrator in February; insurance increase.
- Cost base remains well-controlled but tight.

Overall Outlook:

- Steady financial position, with healthy reserve.
- Focus on increasing revenue through membership growth, particularly individual memberships.

7. Treasurer Election

The previous Treasurer had resigned for personal reasons. An election had been conducted through ElectionBuddy, with one candidate, Cassandra Chavida Peres standing. No proxy votes were requested. Two scrutineers were introduced to oversee the process.

The result announced as six (6) out of six (6) votes in favour and one (1) abstention. Cassandra was declared elected as Treasurer. The Chair confirmed that vetting had been completed and that Cassandra had been informed of the result.

8. **Member Questions**

Youth development and a future national team:

Clearer information was requested about the pathway to a national youth team, possible selection criteria and where updates would be published. Lauren, Sam and Izzy confirmed that the national team remained at the concept and planning stage. Youth events were building a development base and helping identify talent. The vision was to support a future team at national competitions and, potentially, international events. Lottery fundraising was being developed to support that ambition.

No selection criteria or firm launch date had been agreed. Participation in ranked events was encouraged where possible, but selection could also consider attitude, coach recommendations and other factors. The Chair indicated that implementation was unlikely in the first half of 2027 and encouraged continued training, enjoyment and engagement.

Updates would be shared through social media, email and the website once the pathway was defined. Members could contact Laura at info@ukbjja.org with questions.

Safeguarding and support for club owners:

A question was raised by Yousuf about safeguarding guidance and whether UKBJJA could engage organisations such as the FSB to help coaches with the business responsibilities of running an academy.

Lauren confirmed that the forthcoming safeguarding package was intended to provide practical support for coaches who were not safeguarding specialists. She agreed to take away the wider business-support suggestion for consideration.

Possible monthly meetings for gym owners to exchange ideas and discuss common challenges were suggested. No partnership or meeting programme was formally agreed.

9. Meeting Close

The Chair thanked the Board, Council and other volunteers for their contribution during the year. After member questions, the meeting was adjourned.