



# **The Welsh Judo Association** **Cymdeithas Judo Cymru**

## **Report to the BJA YE March 2013.**

The challenges we faced at the beginning of this year, continue to be the focus of our commitment moving forward.

Having conducted a thorough review of the Judo “market place” and our position there-in, the board of the W.J.A .decided it needed to re-focus its efforts on providing a clear and achievable route for the association, which in turn focussed on our member clubs, and in order to achieve this it was felt needed to revisit our current “mission statement” and review this in relation to the above goals.

In March 2013 the W.J.A Board of Directors agreed the new mission statement which was published as follows:

“The objectives of the Welsh Judo Association are to provide lifelong physical activity through Judo, offering psychological, physical and social benefits, building character for Welsh children and adults, and helping all to achieve their personal potential from participation in Judo at all levels of ability, from local level to Olympic and Commonwealth success at the elite level.

Our aim is provide these opportunities in a safely controlled environment, which provides equal opportunity to all our members in a way which is free and from discrimination on the grounds of age, race, gender, religious beliefs, or sexual orientation, and to treat all its members with respect and dignity.

*As the recognized Governing Body within Wales we will work hard to forge partnerships with the British Governing body, and our funding partners, which can offer benefits to our members and the WJA.*

### **We aim to achieve these aims by commitment to the following objectives**

1. *To maintain and develop a coach education system that supports recruitment and training of coaches.*
2. *To maintain and develop technical standards linked to a graded award structure for our members.*
3. *To maintain and develop a register of qualified coaches and members grades.*
4. *To maintain and develop effective communications between the association its members and coaches.*
5. *To promote and support coaches in establishing and maintaining an appropriate status and qualification in Judo, and apply their knowledge in a way which benefits Judoka.*
6. *To maintain and develop a system of checks and guidelines that comply with “best practice” on child protection, equality and criminal record checks, that ensures all Coaches are fit to carryout their role in delivery of safe and quality coaching to all our members.*
7. *To maintain a licence system, which affords insurance protection to all, licensed members against insurance claims, which may arise during coaching or Judo activities.*
8. *To maintain an effective Board of Directors to maintain the business of the association and update on behalf of the membership, the Memorandum of Articles, and By-laws, of the Association, in a way which offers equal opportunity to all members and clubs to vote on and direct the way in which the Association is governed.*

**Welsh Judo Association: Welsh Institute of Sport: Sophia Gardens: Cardiff: CF119SW:**

9. *To maintain and develop a framework of Sub Committees made up of members of the association, employed staff and outside consultants which advise and report to the Board of Directors on the following matters: Technical, Coaching, Development, Elite Performance, Inclusion & Standards and Finance.”*

This statement was Approved by the Board of Directors on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013, and as such work has already begun on implementing the aspirations of the Association.

Our first aim of providing lifelong physical activity through Judo, offering psychological, physical and social benefits, in a safely controlled environment, which provides equal opportunity to all our members was secured when the W.J.A became the first welsh sport to gain the level three award in safe guarding and protecting children in 2012, and this was further supported when we again became one of the first sports to be awarded the level; 2 equity award.

These achievements are a solid platform for all our clubs to build upon, and we are committed to their maintenance and enforcement for the benefit of all.

The second half of our mission statement centers around striving for Coaching and Technical excellence and in 2013 we find ourselves fully integrated into the B.J.A. Coaching & technical structures, as well as playing our role at National level.

W.J.A representatives sit on the technical, grading, referring and Board of directors of the B.J.A and we have trained and qualified our own UKCC assessors for development of the coaching pathway.

The association has been busy in making recommendations for the promotion of our high grades, and recent promotion to sixth dan of Darren Dean & Simon `Woods are just two examples of the benefits of working closely with the B.J.A grading commissions to ensuring our high grades are rewarded for their efforts and dedication, and we are confident further p[romotions will follow.

The association continues to offer Dan gratings and UKCC coaching courses held in Wales for the benefit of our members and our aim to improve and advance these based on our members needs, as seen by our support for two women's only grading in the last twelve months.

The WJA are already on the pathway to ensure that we deliver on our member based mission statement and a lot of hard work and success has been delivered by a wide range of officers coaches and officials in order for this to be achieved, however we are determined not to become complacent, otherwise these will be short term gains. Our aspirations for 2014 and beyond are to widen the participation pathway, not only for coaches, officials and players, but also for outside partners and like-minded sporting bodies with whom we can strengthen the enjoyment and opportunities of our membership.

This will need to be achieved with the support of all our members as we again face uncertain economical climate moving forward, and it is the success of our development initiatives, which will propel us through these difficult times.

For now we all look forward to the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, and we wish the Scottish nation all the very best of luck in staging what we believe will be a great event.

Our own aspirations for success in Glasgow remain high, we started 2102 in great style with 3 No1 ranked GB senior players, which in 2013 has been by augmented success at under 21 (junior level).

We wish our whole performance team the very best of luck for 2014, we have largely completed all our preparation for the event, our selection criteria has been accepted by the Welsh Commonwealth Games Council and well published, and our management team for the games is in place and has completed all the necessary training, it now falls on our dedicated coaches and players to deliver the results we know they are capable of, and if the success of our top senior and under 21 players in 2013 is anything to go by we are going to be right there in the medal mix at a number of weights.

The Association is looking to make positive changes moving forward in 2013, and these like the BJA have included Governance and staff changes. Mirroring the BJA the association bade farewell to its long serving Chair (Keven Williams) who stood down at this year's AGM having completed 5 years at the helm, but continuity was maintained following the election of vice chair Fred Prosser into the chair's role.

Again like the BJA, we also saw the departure of our senior staff member COO (Dr Jeremy Moody) and we offer him thanks for all the good work he completed during his 18 month tenure.

The process of change and evolution is common in vibrant organisations and whilst both of these senior positions are important the association's challenge is to move forward and build on the new mission statement and look back with fondness and not regret.

Chair

Fred Prosser