

Draft Minutes of the Welsh Judo Association AGM - 22nd June 2014 Sophia Suite 2 - Sport Wales National Centre

1. Roll Call

- 1.1. BOD Attendees: Fred Prosser (Glyncoed), Sam Atkinson (Cardiff Judo), Dave Smith (Ebbwvale), Stan Cantrill (Irfon), Roger Smart (Porthcawl), Keiron Palmer (Samurai), Andrew Burt (Pontarddulais) Emily Brown (Admin)
- 1.2. Club Attendees: Andrea Davies (CS Judo), Graham Dunlop (Abergavenny), Phil Jones (Brecon Judo), Richard Jones (Irfon Judo), Julian Alexander (CS Judo), Steven Blackwell (CS Judo), Stephen Cooper (Cowbridge), Derek Hillier (Lakeside Judo), Nigel Davies (Samurai).
- 1.3. Clubs Represented: 11/61 - Glyncoed Judo; Cardiff Judo; Irfon Judo; Porthcawl Judo; Samurai; Pontarddulais; CS Judo; Cowbridge Judo; Abergavenny; Brecon Judo; Lakeside Judo.
- 1.4. Apologies: Craig Ewers, Darren Dean

2. Health & Safety

- 2.1. FP identified the nearest exits and meeting point where everyone should meet if there was a need to evacuate. There were also no plans for any fire alarm testing or evacuation drills so should the alarm sound and the instruction was announced to leave the building everyone should do so.

3. Chairs Welcome

- 3.1. FProsser thanked those who are in attendance for making the effort to represent their clubs at the AGM.
- 3.2. The last AGM minutes were read out and reviewed by FProsser to the meeting attendees.
- 3.3. No actions, elections or resolutions were noted.
- 3.4. This was proposed by SATkinson and seconded by DSmith as a true account of the 2013 AGM.

4. Chairman's Report

- 4.1. FProsser provided an overview of the report he had written on the previous year which is available as an appendix to these minutes.
- 4.2. No questions or comments were raised about the report from the floor.

5. Finance

5.1. The 2013 finance report was approved by the accountants following a lot of work by the finance director and is now available on the website.

6. Resolutions

6.1. No resolutions were submitted to vote on.

7. BOD Elections

7.1. KWilliams and DSmith have both resigned from the BOD for which FProsser thanked their hard work and commitment to the association during their service.

7.2.3 Vacancies are available for the BOD, 3 applications have been received and deemed suitable by the BOD.

7.3. ADavies, PJones and GDunlop have applied and been nominated for appointment onto the the BOD by ABurt and KPalmer.

8. Accountants

8.1. The WJA currently use Harries, Watkins and Jones of Bridgend for the accounting, do we continue to use these accountants or move to a more local firm? SAtkinson proposed discussing at a future meeting once the new finance director had been appointed.

9. AOB

9.1. ADavies some great training going on, will this be dispersed throughout the age groups to recognise them for motivation. ABurt explained that there has been a focus on performance squad for CWG and as funding based, but will be changing focus after the games.

9.2. RJones Cluster programme is not viable due to cost placed on clubs, is the WJA prepared to foot some of the costs, as a programme it should be nationwide but it needs to be looked at. We need more communication as as clubs and coaches find out information too late as it doesn't happen.

- 9.3. SCantrill confirmed there is a lack of communication and personal contact from the bod.
- 9.4. SAtkinson asked if he had solutions to the problems and opened up to all coaches to send through ideas and problems to him.
- 9.5. ABurt announced that a survey will be distributed to all clubs and coaches to find out more information on current status.
- 9.6. JAlexander People don't know who the main people are in Welsh judo, many wouldn't recognise the national coach never mind the bod.
- 9.7. FProsser confirmed the role of the national coach and that his focus is on elite players only, the development of grass route judo is down to other coaches. After the games he would like to see more flexibility.
- 9.8. ?? Small club and work so find if difficulty to attend events as there are so few in Wales, had to travel to Plymouth can we have more support for coaches to qualify.
- 9.9. FProsser would like to make the dojo owned by us, have Saturday morning sessions.
- 9.10. RJones said we have to start at ground level and look after the parents otherwise no players, no future. Move the squad training around so other players have the opportunity to take part. It's the balance we have to get right so everyone believes.
- 9.11. FProsser said as a bod we are looking for flexibility and look after the players in junior ranks. And I can promise after the games there will be a large change as we can all see things need to change.
- 9.12. RJones proposes that we need to look at how we all get on together and works to move judo forward.
- 9.13. RSmart refers to the document he has collated on roles and responsibilities and reads out a paragraph about the national coach and that the point has already been identified and highlighted with proposals forward. This document was to put together as he is the director for development.

- 9.14. JAlexander stated that he is trying to make his clubs work but WJA are not prepared to help, he has lost venues for several clubs now can the WJA help.
- 9.15. FProsser said this was a individual club issue, we have limited funding which is allocated so we would struggle to support you. Particularly as there is funding available from council and sport wales.
- 9.16. JAlexander did a demo for over 500 students with the help of a.davies who approached the SW link who was unapproachable and unsupportive of the situation. If people can't approach those who are supposed to be helping sport then who do we go to.
- 9.17. JAlexander can't understand why he hasn't been used to do coach Revalidation events but he has to be validated.
- 9.18. FProsser reiterated the last statement of the report where if anyone has any skills then please come and speak to us.
- 9.19. PJones if we have funding issues why don't we use the hall that we can have to free and pay the coach by using mat fees to cover this, so irrelevant of how much we make at least there has been judo for all.
- 9.20. RJones suggested an incentive programme where the coach receives £1 per person on the mat so the more people on the mat the more money you take home. We have good assets we should be looking at it as a business. We don't have the right ethos, why should a contracted national coach be allowed to become a player and another coach in place how can this happen, there is no attention to detail currently. If I'm not happy I can switch to a BJA club, I don't have to be a member of the WJA and that is the bottom line.
- 9.21. ABurt wants to see coaches acting professional
- 9.22. JAlexander grass roots we need to get into schools, I've done many presentations to heads but with no come back. How do we get into schools.

- 9.23.SCantrill we have a historic issue with schools, we are looking into how we can do it.
- 9.24.FProsser set up a schools programme for 3 months on elementary judo and they continued it using the teachers then a new head came in and stopped the class after 2 years.
- 9.25.?? Perception of judo is wrong and we don't publicise it enough.
- 9.26.SAtkinson suggested that he provides a link for the schools liaison at SW to see if they can help.
- 9.27.RJones the policy should be for Wales not for specific areas or to do with private schools. If it doesn't suit an area then we need to look at the scheme to see how we can adjust it for the future.
- 9.28.ADavies everything is down to a lack of communication and interaction between the association and it's members. She is happy to get the numbers from the government to help with funding.
- 9.29.JAlexander read out the statement from Scotland website on there focus, and believes we should have the same.
- 9.30.FProsser said that we have the same plan which will be submitted to SW in the next week or so.
- 9.31.JAlexander said that judo is in every school in judo because it's part of the curriculum, why can't we do the same?
- 9.32.?? Masters judo needs to keep going. We need sessions with larger numbers to train and compete. We could move it round but it wasn't working it needs to be planed.
- 9.33.FProsser the objective of WJA is to provide judo for life.
- 9.34.?? Forums for coaches to share ideas. Bolt it onto coach Revalidation events etc.
- 9.35.RJones using the same venue and same format, why do we just keep saying people don't turn up, why don't we do something about it?

9.36. SAtkinson we are trying to listen to you, but you have to understand where we are coming from, we are governed by SW and this year we have had big cuts with more to come. We are having difficulty as we are trying to please you and the SW.

9.37. JAlexander asked why we don't have development officers like BJA and judo Scotland?

10. Next Meeting

10.1 Next meeting to be announced.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014

I will commence today's report by expressing my wholehearted appreciation to the volunteer core of helpers who ensure that the W.J.A. maintains its high standards and is moving into the next decade with great optimism. I would also like to extend my vote of thanks to my fellow directors the office staff and to all the coaches within the W.J.A. and indeed to all our members for their magnificent support throughout the past year and also to the staff at Sport Wales for all their help, finally or last but certainly not least I would like to say a big thank you to my two colleagues namely my predecessor and retiring Financial/ performance director Keven Williams for all his hard work for the W.J.A. and for the tremendous support he has given me throughout my time with the association, and also to David Smith Director and refereeing coordinator, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the W.J.A. for so many years. They will both be sorely missed, and I wish them well in all their endeavors

We all know that for the past four years a great emphasis has been on the development of young elite sports men and women on the build up for the Commonwealth games in July 2014 at Glasgow. The W.J.A has focused a tremendous amount of attention and finance on ensuring that our young elite players have received the correct training motivation and competition involvement, at a very high level, both at home and abroad to prepare them for and to enable them to probably take medals in Glasgow. As they all continue to train and prepare under the overall leadership of Head coach Craig Ewers MSc ably assisted by Welsh Senior Coach Andrew Frudd Team Manager Darren Dean, supported by former G.B Support Coach for the BJA at the 2012 Olympics in London etc. namely Mr. Darren Warner... I am sure you all join me in wishing them every success in Glasgow.

I am being extremely optimistic but I genuinely feel that on their return from Glasgow the W.J.A. will have a legacy to live by, and whereas we have no JUDO in the next Commonwealth game, there will be plenty of International events to enable the elite development to continue as planned

over the next four years, with some players already on the G.B. Pathway for Brazil and the Olympics in 2016 with potential for others to be considered for Tokyo 2020.. I consider it fair to say that we have to continue to maintain and indeed capitalize on the enthusiasm of our young elite players over the next four years, continually encouraging them to aim to be part of the B.J.A pathway for the Olympics in Brazil and afterwards 2020 in Tokyo

As I move on having exhausted the topic of elite players we as the governing body for JUDO in Wales, must not lose sight of the importance of Grass Roots Judo because without it there is little hope for progress. After the Glasgow Games are over, I would suggest we will have a legacy to live by and will be encouraging more involvement with young people taking up our sport throughout Wales. Our Coaching director Andrew Burt is in close liaison with the Sport Wales management etc. and also Mr. Colin McIver Technical Director at the B.J.A and plans are in hand, to encourage an increase in coaches throughout Wales, with an intention of developing a schools commission to encourage more involvement with educational establishments nationwide, using the anticipated legacy from Glasgow to achieve our objectives.

EVENTS IN WALES

2013 -2014 has provided some very successful WJA competitions in Cardiff and Swansea and some very successful and interesting club events also taking place. Regular Dan Grading have met with success, and will continue on a regular basis. Coaching courses are on the increase and the refereeing course which covered the new IJF Syllabus organized by Neil Lawcock was a great success.

THE WAY FORWARD

Director Roger Smart has compiled a report outlining the role of each director and the responsibilities of each Commission Chairman which will be available on the website in the near future. As we approach 2015 the call for volunteers will increase greatly, and I can't speak to highly of the team of volunteers we currently have, but clearly we need more, if you would like to offer to volunteer your services to work with our directors as part of their commission, or indeed to volunteer in any other capacity please don't hesitate to send your C.V. addressed to The Chairman The W.J.A. Sport Wales Sophia Gardens Cardiff. Also if you know someone who may like to volunteer in any capacity please encourage them to apply, I cannot emphasize to strongly how important the volunteer role is and how important it is to the success of our organization.....

Frederick H . Prosser
Chairman Welsh Judo Association



Welsh Judo Association
Sport Wales National Centre
Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, CF11 9SW

office@welshjudo.com | 02920 334 945 | www.welshjudo.com

