

Annual General Meeting, Sunday 3rd July 2011
Novotel Coventry, Wilsons Lane, Longford, Coventry, CV6 6HL

Present: R Otani, G R Mealing plus 20 members including outgoing headquarters Committee

Meeting commenced 2.00 p.m.

1. Apologies.

T Gray, J. Gray, P.Laskey, C.Laskey, N.Vitanza, J.Richmond, K.Barker, J.Boswell
N.Foster,R. Dawe, D.Clulow, E. Kenny, J.Kenny,D Wright, R Raymond,
J Hoggard, M Kempson, I Bailey, M Newton.

2. Nominations of tellers.

K Dawson. Midlands R Caffary. Middx

3. Minutes of AGM 2010.

G R Mealing proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record. 2nd J Massmann and
Agreed with 2 abstention.

4. Matters Arising.

None.

5. President's Report.(Included with these minutes)

6. Chairman's Report (Included with these minutes)

7. Area Reports.

Reports were received from Notts, N London, S Wales, Lancs, S London,
Cleveland & Sth Durham, Herts, Leics & Nhant, Northumberland,
Midlands & Avon, Cornwall.

8. Sub-Committee Reports.

All covered in Chairman's report.

2.40pm D Dowding. Cornwall joined meeting

9. Finance Report.

J Massmann read out the Finance Report:(Included with these minutes)
There was a discussion on the Finance Report.

Acceptance of Accounts .

J Massmann Proposed the Acceptance of Accounts, 2nd B Cleevely,
Agreed Unanimously.

Acceptance of Continuance of the Accountants.

L Witts proposed the Acceptance of continuance of the Accountants,
Bradford House Accountancy, 2nd B Caffary, Agreed Unanimously.

Review of membership fees at the discretion of the AGM

HQC were proposed an overall increase of £1 to cover the increase in Insurance and any increase on the membership. This would be effective from 1st September 2011, 2nd B Caffary, Agreed 1 abstention.

10. Resolutions.

None received.

11. Recommendations to the Technical Committee.

None Received.

12. Nominations for HQC

There were 11 nominations for the Headquarters committee.

These were accepted by the meeting to serve as Hqc Members for the term of office 2011/2012, without a ballot.

G R Mealing	Lancs/S London	A Newton	Lancs
I Bailey	N London	M Kempson	N London
T Grigg	Avon	R Smith	Herts
R Harris	Midlands	R Cleevely	Herts
L Witts	Notts	B Richmond	City& E London
		T Gray	City & E London

13. Election of Treasurer.

G R Mealing Proposed N Harrison as Honorary Treasurer, 2nd P Grigg Agreed, 1 abstention.

There being no other business President R Otani closed the meeting at 3.00pm thanking all for attending.

The Presidents Address AGM 3rd July 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to 2011 BJC AGM.

It has been a difficult year for many members, myself and others trying to give lead to the British Judo Council (BJC). However I feel that perhaps it has had a benefit of causing reflection on our core beliefs and all the underlying assets of the BJC.

The BJC is an organisation with a great history of venerable masters of honourable intent and I am proud to be a small part of the BJC and I know most of you have that same pride in being members of our organisation.

The Council is bonded by members who have a common wish to promote judo in the best possible way with a mutual 'family like' association that holds respect for each other.

The BJC is not an army of soldiers to be disciplined and led by one General. Each and everyone of us have our individual views but with tolerance and compromise we can realise success, willingly moving forward in the same direction.

We started last year trying to push coaches into changing their lifetime experience of 'what' and 'how' to teach judo. It was soon realised that this was not the best way forward and that we must win our arguments by logical education and not by forcing a singular view on members. We also have to accept that some members may never agree with the new coaching direction and therefore we should still maintain a place for these people and that place is within our organisation.

The pressure has been removed from forcing coaches and clubs to adopt the new 2010 syllabus and last year following much thought it was stated that the old syllabus could continue for at least another five years.

I have always made it clear that I personally believe in and support the FPJ ideology and this remains my unchanged view today.

I am very please to say that the FPJ courses run by Dr. Penny Grigg are continually improving in response to feedback received by the participants at each course. There is now an overwhelming view that the FPJ courses are both enjoyable and extremely technically valuable to coaches.

The Grading Official courses for the 2010 Syllabus are being spearheaded by Simon Mazzullo, Alan Carlisle ,and Roger Harris, all of whom are doing a

great job of developing and delivering the new qualification courses in the same vein as Penny.

As a membership recruitment organisation we suffer from our biggest problem, our modest approach to promote our clubs and therefore often we undersell both ourselves and the values of the BJC.

We could blame membership fall on the general economic down turn but I am of the opinion that we have enough people, and resources to Market the BJC in a more positive way than we have done so far. Our difficulty is how to mobilise this much needed marketing effort from within our membership with the very little availability of funds. The HQC are aware of this need and have been investigating various possibilities but ultimately every member should try to avoid complacency and put effort into to giving positive support to BJC in every way. i.e. promoting new memberships, renewals and supporting all BJC National events.

With this in mind a number of new social activities will be added to Bognor this year; there are also some interesting grading facilities for pre-Kata, 'a grading points' system and hopefully a special President's session on Thursday, all of which will be circulated in a flier and or on the website soon. The promotion of Cromer and other National events is also being considered.

With the sad passing of Hosaka Sensei last year I realise that none of us know what is 'around the next corner' and so this has caused me to consider the longer term future of the BJC and how best to give stability in the role of the President over the next 10 years and beyond.

As far as I am aware, myself and the Vice President Mr. Mealing are both in good health and I certainly have no intention of stepping down, however in less than three years time I shall be seventy by which time, I hope to reduce dependency on my role by devolving a lot of the technical duties and responsibilities to the BJC Technical Centre, which is still currently finding it's feet.

Should something happen to me at any time in the near or far future I would like the BJC Presidency be resolved as follows:

The BJC constitution states that:

Article 49. The President shall be the highest graded member of the Company, with the longest seniority in that rank, who is willing to serve as President, subject to Article 50 of these presents.

Article 50. The President may be removed from office by resolution approved by two-thirds of the Members of the Company in General Meeting of which not less than twenty-one days' notice, specifying the resolution, has been duly given.

I agree with the Vice President who suggests that:

Article 49 states in the event of the demise of a serving President the Presidency automatically falls to the most senior grade.

The President does not require a 'Vote of Confidence' but if however a **Vote of No Confidence** is tabled in the appropriate manner an EGM/AGM must be convened to establish/confirm the office. In this circumstance, a list of suitable and willing candidates should be drawn up and these will be put forward in turn until a respective **Vote of No Confidence** is defeated.

A two-thirds majority of the members present in a **Vote of No Confidence** is required to reject each candidate.

Candidates would need to be notified. Their seniority confirmed and acceptance by the candidates in writing with two sponsors.

Should AGM or EGM wish to change the constitution (with the appropriate notice etc) relating to the way we appoint a President then a two thirds majority would be required.

Today I am happy and confident that our Vice President Mr. Mealing could fulfil the duties of BJC President but this would still be subject to the above procedure.

In the event that something should happen to both myself and Mr. Mealing at the same time, I have decided that today, I will appoint three Deputy Vice Presidents with whom I have confidence, that they could share the duties and responsibilities of the BJC Presidency, on a temporary basis.

The Deputy Vice Presidents will be of a status below the Vice President and will be available to represent the President and the BJC on occasions and will also possibly take on other duties, as yet to be identified.

I have informed the HQC of my intent and I have communicated this with the Vice President Mr. Mealing who advises me that this is called a 'Triumvirate' i.e. a board of three officials jointly responsible for the job of governing. Mr. Mealing also informs me that this was tried, tested and failed by the ancient Roman Empire! Mr. Mealing has confidentially given me his reasons why he feels this may not work long term for the BJC.

However, I am only concerned with an interim circumstance so as to give continuity to the BJC whilst an AGM/EGM is called and I think as a short term measure it would be the best option to give BJC members calm, ease and peace of mind about our future stability.

The three members I feel have the combined qualities for this role are;

John Cole	-	Head National Squad Coach
Paul Laskey	-	Chief Examiner
Bernard Richmond QC	-	Chair of the HQC

I herewith appoint these members to the office of Deputy Vice President of the British Judo Council.

I ask these members to confirm their willingness to accept this role.

I ask you all to reflect on both our BJC heritage and our honest intent to promote the best in Judo. We must all remain focussed on the basic fact that our survival depends on sustain and growth of the membership of the BJC.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all BJC members and officials for their continued voluntary help to the BJC, John Massmann our retiring Treasurer and also my heartfelt thanks to our most competent Office Manager Mrs Annette Shaw, ably assisted by Mrs. Karen Hockings.

Let's all walk forward together.

Robin Otani – President
British Judo Council

HQC CHAIR'S REPORT TO 2011 AGM (Bernard Richmond)

I begin my report with a celebration. I heard yesterday that one of our members, Kellie Brabham won a gold medal at the Special Olympics in Athens. Congratulations to her and all who are involved in training and supporting her. She is precisely the sort of person who is an advert for everything which is good about the BJC.

This is the third report which I have had the privilege to deliver to you as Chair of the HQC. May I begin by expressing my gratitude to all of those who have worked so hard this year to help the BJC deliver to its members the various services which we continue to provide.

In particular, I wish to thank Karen and Annette at Head Office. Annette, our bedrock, continues to do an amazing job for us and I have found her to be an invaluable source of support and assistance.

Similarly, I am very grateful to my colleagues on the HQC whose commitment to serving the BJC is commendable. This year we have no new candidates for election and so I look forward to working with you all next year. Whilst it is a pleasure to continue with colleagues, it is also something of a worry that there is nobody new interested in standing for election – we can only continue to thrive if we have a layer of new people wishing to step into the fray to replace those who have decided, for whatever reason, that they wish to wind down their time commitment to BJC managerial work.

I am truly sad to report that John Massmann has decided not to seek re-election as our treasurer. His service to us as a member of the HQC and, latterly, treasurer has been a vital part of the development of our organisation into a modern, forward-thinking body. Thank You, John.

Whilst I am expressing thanks, I wish to say a few words about Dave Hammond, who has stepped down from his role as Editor of Judoka. Dave brought a breath of fresh air to the job. He was forthright in his views and, sometimes, those views made for uncomfortable reading. Whilst I sometimes disagreed with him, I have never failed to be impressed by his commitment to the BJC and his journalistic integrity. Well done and thank you, Dave.

Of course, Judoka has now gone “online”. I know that some people are unhappy about this change but the economic case for such a change was overwhelming. We welcome Yvette Fox to the role of Editor and encourage everyone to flood her with news, articles and interesting pieces of copy.

Modernisation and change are often uncomfortable, especially when one has been working hard for many years establishing systems which have operated well. The truth is, however, that we live in a world where everything is tested, monitored and assessed. We need not only to make things work effectively but to have systems to demonstrate, transparently, that we are working effectively. Outside bodies, such as insurers, are no longer willing to “take our word” - we need to demonstrate that we have effective policies and that we require our coaches to adhere to certain minimum standards. I know it can be irksome to receive letters from Head Office asking you to adopt new policies or send us confirmation that you had undertaken this or that course but, I promise, that we are doing everything we can to keep this to a minimum. You will recently have received our Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Protection policies. We hope that you will feel able to adopt them without difficulty. These policies are intended to protect everyone, including instructors .

We are in a competition for membership, not just with other judo organisations but also with the many activities which are vying for the limited free time which people have. Our membership is the main source of our income and, whilst steady, we have lost clubs due to the retirement of instructors or closure. It is sometimes a thankless task being a club instructor but, of course, the satisfaction can also be worth every piece of effort.

The BJC is seeking to offer as much to our members by way of courses and competitions but it is proving very difficult due, frankly, to member apathy in supporting these events. We lost money on a number of events where we would usually expect to, at least, break even. On behalf of the HQC, I ask all our members clubs to demonstrate their support of this organisation by making attendance at our events a priority. The Events' Committee is planning a number of changes to our events to make them more attractive, this includes substantial family discounts at courses. I hope that you will feel able to give them your fullest support and to let them or the HQC know if there is anything by way of events or programme content which we can provide for you.

On the positive side, Team BJC continues to flourish and we congratulate them on their recent successes; as a shop window for our competitive skills we can and should be proud of them. Our technical structures are undergoing a massive overhaul and we are doing all we can to support that work. I would like to thank all of those involved in delivering these courses for their hard work.

Relationships with the BJA are cordial. At "grass roots" level and at the managerial level there is excellent rapport. We are making slow but, hopefully, steady progress towards gaining some sort of access to Clubmark and I am personally committed to delivering some sort of resolution to this problem before the end of the year.

The BJC British Judo Foundation, as it is now called, the Charity which we founded, is now established and has a little money in the kitty. We shall be launching it formally in September with fundraising events during the year. We hope to make some small awards later this year. I pay tribute to Martyn Kempson, HQC member and chair of the Foundation, for his hard work and vision in bringing this project to fruition.

This coming year will be an interesting one for us. We will be making efforts to "raise our game" to make this organisation more successful both in terms of members and support for events. Our technical programmes are asking people to reconsider their approach to their judo in a bid to invigorate both our members and our organisation. The President has just shared with you something of his vision for this organisation; he has my full support and thanks for trusting me enough to include me in his thoughts and plans.

In closing, Special thanks to Mr Mealing, as always, for his counsel usually delivered quietly, privately and at the moment when it is most needed and to my Vice-Chair, Tony Grigg for his common sense and ability to kick me in the rear when most needed. I wish you all a successful year ahead.

AGM 2011– TREASURERS REPORT.

The Balance Sheet shows a loss of £7,600, despite many savings made during 2010/11. The integration of the Insurance policy is settling down, but we do expect a 10% increase in Insurance rates for the next season. It is a real shame that we cannot show an increase in our savings rate akin to those of our insurance rates.

At this present rate of financial deficit, the BJC will not be able to make its initial payment to Perkins Slade in 2017/18 year, so the incoming Treasurer has a real complex situation to contend with. In short, sometime soon the BJC must reduce expenditure to match income, or increase income to match the expenditure. Our Insurance payment in the last fiscal year was £35,257 and with a 10% price rise, that figure will be near £39,000 in 2011.

Our income last year was down £6,200, and our expenditure was up by £1,560 this mainly made up by payments for the setting up of the BJC Charitable Trust.

The BJC continues to stage the two National Courses at Cromer and Bognor, both showing large deficits and whilst the BJC can afford to continue to stage them both, we must be fully realistic and understand that in today's climate less and less people can afford to attend them. The deficit on all our National Events last year was close on £10,000.

Of concern to you all should be the continued drop in membership, we are down £3,000 on 2010 In last year's Treasurers statement I said that our membership drop appeared to be 4.4%, but on the year it proved to be 4%. This year only the renewals from senior membership showed an increase. Club registration fees again were down, proving yet again the tough climate we are in as far as financing our own Sport.

To underline the BJC's position our 'fall back' account, at the 28th. April 2010 our balance was £42,000 at the 28th. April 2011 it was £28,000. Our income in this year's first period is down on the like period in 2010 by £6,000, although our expenditure is also down by £2,500.

This year's deficit would have been greater were it not for the generous support of Ian Bailey who volunteered to spread payment of our license inserts over a longer period, so relieving more pressure on our reserves.

The HQC is asking you for another £1 on the insurance payment to allow for the expected increase. The figures you see before you and the information I have just given you will – I hope – inform you that the sum asked for may not be enough. I thank HQC members for their continued support, and especially Annette and Karen for all of their hard work – it has been a privilege to be Annette's assistant this last 2 years, and I wish my successor well.

Following any questions, I propose the Balance sheet for approval, and also ask that you consider our accountants for re-appointment.