

## Minutes of BKA Kendo Bu AGM - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Officers

Chair / Bucho : John O'Sullivan (JOS)

Events Officer : Stephen Martin (SM)

Grading Officer : John Gale (JG)

Meeting commenced at 10:23

55 Members in attendance exceeding the required 5% Quorum figure of 52

JOS Opened meeting and notified members that the meeting was being recorded to allow accurate minutes to be made.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies offered.

### **2. Minutes of 2016 AGM**

JOS briefly summarized the minutes. These were available on line and copies were available. JOS explained that the minutes were written in hindsight, from memory as no notes were taken on the day. Hence why today's meeting is being recorded. The minutes were not accepted as accurate.

### **3. Matters arising from 2016 AGM Minutes**

Premier Cup : What was remembered and acted on from 2016 meeting was that the winner of the Men's competition would receive the existing Cup, and the Ladies a plate which has been procured. Neither of these to be taken away. Both winners would receive a smaller plate to keep and the names of the winners would be recorded on the plinth of the existing cup. James Ogle (and others) stated this was not what was agreed at the meeting. JOS accepted this.

The matter was debated and a number of suggestions put forward. Three proposals were put forward and voted on.

**Vote 1** : That the cup be used as a joint award for both the Men's & Ladies competition.. **Carried.** with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

**Vote 2:** The Ladies & Men's winners' names to be recorded, in some method to be determined, to the base of the existing Premier Cup. **Not Carried** (For 16, Against 19)

**Vote 3:** Proposals for an appropriate Ladies event will be considered by the incoming Bucho to determine a use for the Premier Plate which has been purchased. **Carried** - Unanimous.

### **4. Report on the year 2016/17 and Future Direction (Item 7 on Agenda)**

JOS briefly summarized his report which is published on the BKA website and was distributed to all Kendo members by email.

It was asked (James Ogle) if, as we now have 9 UK Nanadan could we have more 5<sup>th</sup> Dan gradings in the UK calendar. Yes we could. SM clarified the goal had been to have at least one Godan grading in the UK per year. This is currently the Mumeishi grading in October. But we could expand this. It was clarified that all gradings are open to international candidates.

Suggestion put forward that the British Open could have a grading attached to encourage & promote attendance.

JOS has focused on visibility of the Bucho at events and recommends this is carried on by the incoming Bucho. He has also sat on a number of complaints boards and managed the Shogo policy.

SM stated that, as a result of the activities of JOS, predominately at the Student level Kendo numbers are up significantly this year by about 200 members.

Errol Blake proposed a vote of thanks to JOS for his enormous contribution for the past 6 years. This was echoed by Yasayuki Hiyama for his support of squad activities.

## **5 Budget and fees for 2018**

Malcolm Smalley (Cashier) summarised the key premises of the budget and the state of the finances for the past year. Copies were available and these are published on the BKA web site.

International events (EKC & World Championships) typically cost £12-15K per year. JOS reminded the meeting of the sponsorship that the BKA Chair (Fay) secured last year for flights and the positive financial contribution this made.

Kendo Bu surplus is c£30K. We set a budget for a small deficit last year (£3K) and we are on track at this point in the year. A similar approach is being proposed for 2018.

The proposal is to keep the Bu fees at the same level as for the current year (£20 Adult, £10 Concessions, £5 Junior)

**Vote 4:** To accept the Budget and agree the fees for 2018 **Carried - Ananimous**

## **6 Election of Officers**

Events Officer: SM is standing down as Events officer but offered service to the new Bucho and Events Officer as communication officer or as assistant.

Errol Blake proposed a vote of thanks for his efficiency and work in steadying the ship during his service. JOS thanked SM & JG for their help individually and as a team for the last few years.

One Nomination received : Kristian Dela Cour (Edinburgh) (Nominated by Gary O'Donnell, Seconded by John O'Sullivan) Voted in (2 abstentions)

Grading Officer: John Gale (incumbent) standing again & only nomination. (Nominated by John Howell, Seconded by Fraser Biscomb) Voted in (Unanimously)

Bucho: JOS required to step down after reaching the constitutional limit to service of 3 x 2 year terms.

Gary O'Donnell sole nomination (Nominated by John Howell, Seconded by Fraser Biscoomb) Voted in (Unanimous)

JOS handed the chair of the meeting to Gary O'Donnell.

## **7 AOB**

Malcolm Goodwin made a proposal for seminar leaders to coach other, up & coming future seminar leaders to ensure a succession plan. Gary will look at including this as part of the coaching programme. Including financial support. John Howell cautioned that selection for this was on the basis of coaching potential and not by personal selection of the coach. Emily Knight proposed we set up an advisory committee to look at this. It was discussed that John Howell and peers are already a Technical Advisory group. It was agreed that Gary would take this forward.

Chris Bowden asked if there is a budget for marketing so we could. It was mentioned that Kihaku, the website and facebook were already available but these only target existing members. Malcolm Smalley (Cashier) suggested that if a proposal were put forward we could consider funding it from either the Kendo budget or the NC budget as appropriate. Suggestions were made of articles in Martial Arts magazines and promoting in sports clubs.

John Howell & Jeff Humm have proposed we host a BKA high grade seminar with ZNKR represented Hachidan Sensei's. We have done this in the past but not recently. Proposal to do this Summer 2018. Jeff Humm stated the ZNKR would select from Police or Imperial Guard, Under 46 & 8<sup>th</sup> dan Hanshi. We could request one of these is Female but there are no guarantees. There is a cost implication, probably a few thousand pounds. John Howell explained they had looked at Guildford University as a potential location. They have 146 single rooms at £46 per night, room only. Catering costs could be added next year. Weds to Sunday, including a Grading on the Sunday. Indicative cost of £120 per attendee to cover the cost of transporting, accommodating, feeding & entertaining the sensei. Attendees accommodation & food would be on top of this. Likely to be mid to End August to coincide with sensei availability and University academic holidays (when the accommodation is available). Costs based on 80 full course attendees plus 40 partial course attendees. Initially make this available for BKA members but could open to Europe if needed. Stephen Martin stated that the engaged members (present) would need to promote this to others to ensure a good attendance. Gary proposed we took this forward, the meeting supported this unanimously.

A new DRC chair was elected at the earlier DRC meeting. This is John O'Sullivan.

Meeting closed at 11:29