

**AGREED Minutes of AGM of the British Kendo Association held at 1pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre.**

Present 99 members representing 28 Dojo. Kendo 28, Iaido 80, Jodo 50 [this does not total 99 as it accounts for those who practice more than one discipline.]

Apologies: Malcolm Smalley, Sean Starr, Gavin Threipland, Stuart Farmer, Donald Gordon, Mike Davis, Vic Cook, Doug Evans, John Goldsley, Graham Turner.

The president welcomed all to the meeting, and declared that quorum had been achieved.

Minutes of the AGM of 2008 were signed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

The officers' reports, previously published were accepted. There were no matters arising.

On the financial report the treasurer told the meeting that he was not aware of any sponsorship in the last year, but the generous donation of a tax rebate by Honda sensei was noted. The Chairman signed the accounts. In answer to a question regarding the statement in the accounts that 'The Association's level of reserves is adequate to permit continuing operations in the short term' the Treasurer assured the meeting that there were sufficient funds for the BKA to continue running, and that this was a normal strategy for a non profit making association. Following an additional question regarding expenditure listed for 'Travel', it was explained that this included all kinds of travel, including the Association's officers' necessary travel costs. With regard to the coaching costs listed, these were high because the kendo Bu had a full time coach. This cost was time-limited however and would cease in September 2009. It was pointed out that the large income figures had to be set against the events that raised the income. It was pointed out that event organisers should report details in full to the Treasurer. The figures for those practicing were given as Kendo 1098, Iaido 709 and Jodo 291. Actual bodies were Full members 1086, Concessions 219 and juniors 119.

It was proposed Treasurer, seconded Chairman that Danzig and co should continue as auditors, and passed nem con.

General secretary outlined the events leading to Mr. Budden taking action against the BKA for storage costs of BKA items held by him. His solicitor had said they could be collected, and he had offered to accept £1600 in final settlement. Questions were asked about the cost of the items, but it was pointed out that charges were for storage of items that should have been returned when Mr. Budden left office. We had been advised by solicitors, and would defend the action ourselves in the Small Claims Court to save costs. The Treasurer gave details of other monies claimed by Mr Budden.

The meeting was asked whether the BKA should fight the action. In favour of fighting the action 92, against 3, abstentions 4.

Constitution. Mr. Blake introduced the proposed new constitution for the BKA. Saying that if it were accepted the current Bu committee members would continue as they stand without elections (subject to normal rotation of posts), but the NC posts would be up for election with existing post holders automatically standing as candidates for the nearest equivalent position. Members of the working committee gave their comments on the new document. There was general discussion and questions, which were answered by Mr. Blake and committee members. They included concerns about communication between the committees and the damage committee isolation could cause, continuation of our relationships at international level, senior advisers, financial arrangements, the monitoring role of the NC, and the central role of, for example, Health and Safety. Mr. Blake told the meeting that the NC would be responsible for monitoring any development of the new Constitution.

A vote of thanks to the working party was passed by applause.

Motions:

1. That the constitution developed by the Constitution Working Party be adopted with immediate effect.  
Prop. E. Blake, Sec. G. Jones. For 91 Against 7 Abs. 1 CARRIED
2. That the EC elected under the old constitution be dissolved with immediate effect and that the BuEC of the new structure be comprised of the relevant officers of the old Bu, without further election at this AGM (subject to the existing rotation of posts.) [This meant that there would be no change to the Jodo Bu, Mr. Stockwell would join the Iai Bu (replacing Chris Buxton), and in the absence of nominations from the floor, Mr. Bishop would be asked to continue on the Kendo Bu]  
Prop. E. Blake Sec. A. Wengraf Hewitt. For 93 Against 3 Abs. 3 CARRIED

3. That all officers of the NC [except Dojo reps.] are elected at this AGM under open ballot, with members of the current EC being automatically nominated for the closest positions on the NC, but also accepting nominations from the floor.

Chairman: Errol Blake: Prop. C. Mansfield Sec. J. Farncombe. ELECTED Nem Con

Vice Chair: Garry O'Donnell Prop. A. Thompson, Sec. ??

Hilary Hadley: Prop. L. Bean Sec. J. Farncombe. Both addressed the meeting, and Garry O'Donnell withdrew in favour of Ms. Hadley who was ELECTED Nem Con

NC Sec: Debbie Bevan: Prop. A. Nash, Sec. A. Jones ELECTED Nem Con It was agreed that Mr. Schofield would continue negotiations with the Solicitor over the small claims court.

Membership Sec: Malcolm Smalley [ EC ] ELECTED Nem Con

Treasurer: Patrick Breheny [EC] ELECTED Nem Con

International Affairs Director: John Howell [EC], Jock Hopson Prop. J. Jones Sec. P. Richardson, Geoff Salmon Prop. R. Foster Sec. C. Sinclair.

All three addressed the meeting, Mr. Salmon withdrawing in favour of Mr. Howell.

Voting Howell 14: Hopson 73 ELECTED. Abs and non-voting 12.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Howell for his work over the years was passed by applause. It was agreed that he should continue to act at the Brazil Taikai, and that both he and Jock Hopson should attend the EKF meeting next year.

4. That the NC organise the election of the Chair of Dojo Reps. [K/I/J] from a list of each Dojo as soon as possible. Prop. E. Blake, Sec G. O'Donnell CARRIED Nem Con
5. That the NC be empowered for one year only to make whatever extraordinary transitional arrangements are deemed necessary to ensure the efficient functioning of the Association in accordance with the new constitution, and to report back to the membership. Prop. E. Blake, Sec. A. Nash For 96 Abs. 3 CARRIED.
6. That officers elected under the old structure co-operate with any newly elected officers in the hand-over of responsibilities, over a period of three months. [Proposed E. Schofield, Sec J. Howell, that the last phrase be altered to 'as soon as reasonably practicable' For 96 Abs. 3 CARRIED] Prop. E. Blake Sec. J. Oliver For 97 Abs.2.

It was agreed that arrangements for cheques should continue until new ones were in place.

Mr Blake paid an emotional thanks to Mr Howell Mr Salmon and Mr Schofield for their years of service to the association.

Other business. It was suggested that as well as the Japanese Ambassador, other patron possibilities could be considered. The limit of getting Sport England to contribute other than for excellent athletes was noted. It is sometimes possible to get funds from educational sources. The Sasagawa foundation has been of help in the past. Mr Howell pointed out that until the EKF and FIK had agreed our new constitution we were no longer members. He told the meeting that he expected to regularise the situation. The meeting was assured that we were still insured as an association.

Members were assured that sword insurance was now in place 'within the BKA environment'; although practitioners should each have a three-metre square area for practice.

Disclosures for CRB purposes were now for children and vulnerable adults at enhanced level. This was at no extra cost. The opt out of Dojo not accepting children is no longer sufficient, as vulnerable adults could even now be in membership of clubs. This change in policy is at national level.

Mr. Gray, and his helpers, were thanked for their work on the web site.

Being no further business the meeting closed at 4.30PM.