

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

Date: Saturday 6 th July 2013	Venue: Haverstock School, Chalk Farm London
Attendees: 55 members including the following mentioned in the text below:- JOS John O’Sullivan (Bucho) EB Errol Blake (NC Chairman) SM Stephen Martin (Temporary Events Officer) HW Honga Wright (Grading Officer)	MG Malcolm Goodwin (Squad Coach) JG John Gale (new Grading Officer) And for part of the meeting: AJT Dr Alan James Thompson SS Sean Star (Squad Manager) GO’D Gary O’Donnell (DRC and Coaching Officer)

Notes Taken

- The meeting was declared quorate with 55 kendo Bu voting members.
- The meeting was scheduled for one hour to be immediately followed by the NC AGM.
- Item 10 on the agenda was initially discussed between JOS and AJT as to be brought forward. However since Mr. Bellamy Ford (BKA Solicitor) had not yet arrived, it was agreed to delay this item until 13:30 at the latest (regardless of where we were in the agenda).

1. Apologies

The following apologies were duly noted:-

- Keith Holmes
- Gerry Kincaid
- Gary Mathlin
- Waqas Khan

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM on AGM 27th October 2012

- The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising (only action status recorded):

Ref:	Description:	Who	When:
1.1	Reissue the budget statement to account for a £20.00 fee.	Bucho	11/11/12 COMPLETE
1.2	Issue a full statement on the High Court case against the Bu Officers when appropriate (following the High Court appearance on 5/11/12) AGM Update: <i>Whilst the court case was struck-out in favour of the BKA, the judge’s written confirmation has not yet been delivered. The BKA has formally complained and this is now due to be issued on the 11th July. EB has published a full account on the BKA web-site of the AJT affair and JOS has provided copies of same to all members attending the Premier Cup this morning.</i>	Bucho Errol Blake	Post 5/11/12 COMPLETE
1.3	Rework the Code of Conduct document and distribute to the DRC for review. AGM Update: <i>Whilst SS has had the document, GO’D stated that he has not yet seen it. SS will copy to GO’D ASAP.</i>	Bucho Sean Star	11/11/12 OUTSTANDING 12/07/13
1.4	Apply to Bucho for all interested in Events Officer, Grading Officer, Sponsorship Officer and Bu Cashier AGM Update: <i>Malcolm Smalley has taken over the Cashier’s position. John Gale has applied for Grading Officer and the Temporary Events Officer (Stephen Martin) has agreed to stand as the formal Events Officer. See election below in item 11 of this meeting’s agenda.</i>	All Kendoka	ASAP COMPLETE
1.5	Provide the Bucho with an up-to-date DRC list who will then circulate to all Bu members for action.	O’Donnell & Bucho	11/11/12 COMPLETE

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

1.6	Following Action 1.5, all kendoka to establish if they have a viable DRC representative in their dojo and to ensure that he/she is full engaged. AGM Update: <i>Communication with the DRC is somewhat reactive, GO'D reports that he only gets a response if the member has an issue. JOS concerned as he sees limited communication going on between elected officers and members.</i>	All Kendoka	ASAP COMPLETE
1.7	Research lottery funding and report back to the Bucho, AGM Update: <i>No dialogue with MJ – action outstanding.</i>	Matt Jackson	ASAP Outstanding

4. Bucho Report and Budget Issues

JOS summarised his report, lodged previously on the BKA web-site for the past 4 weeks. The key issues were: -

a: Attendance at BKA events and gradings:

Attendance is down at key events such as Stoke and Watchet. Also Stoke clashes with a visit from Sumi Sensei to Scotland. This topic generated much discussion and the following was unanimously agreed: -

- The BKA will continue to support local events with support for costs and the provision of referees. This is subject to the approval of the Bucho as it has been in the past.
 - However there has been some discussion that, due to low numbers, the Stoke event might be delayed/cancelled. By a show of hands the meeting confirmed unanimously that members wish the BKA to cover the cost of such events, especially gradings, regardless of the number of attendees. Therefore, there will be a confirmed set of events that each year the BKA will run, regardless of the level of bookings:
 - 4 Gradings, with associated Seminars (Glasgow, Watchet, Stoke, Mumeishi)
 - The Bowden team taikai, BKA Premier Individual taikai and the British Open
 - A seminar with invited sensei (usually a Hachidan)
 - All of the above events will be placed in the BKA calendar with provisional dates (subject to venue availability) so that dojo can plan their grading preparation and can avoid planning local events that would clash with BKA events. Each dojo will be asked to nominate an Events Coordinator who will be the point of contact with the BKA Kendo Events Officer. This will facilitate kendoka involvement and attempt to avoid clashes between local events and the BKA calendar.
 - To encourage early bookings, future events will appear to cost more BUT there will be a substantial early booking discount to reward members who book more than a month in advance. This will be determined by the cost of each event but is likely to represent an early booking discount of at least £20.

b: Communication issues:

- As AJT refused to give control of the BKA Facebook group to the BKA officers, a new group has been set up (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/britishkendoassociation/>) and members were encouraged to join. This group is already larger than the previous one and all events and notices of importance will be published here. In future the plan is to connect this FB group and the BKA website more closely to make communications and event planning/management more simple and consistent.

c: Budgetary Priorities:

Key Premises of Budget Proposal:-

1. Existing Longstanding events and Seminars to continue to be run on the basis of 'covering costs'. i.e. no net gain or loss
2. Gradings continue to provide income
3. Support of Kendo & Dojos through key initiatives
 - a. First aid courses provided at no cost to attendees

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

- b. Coaching courses provided at no cost to attendees
- c. Refereeing seminars provided at no cost to attendees
- d. Dojo Start up assistance
4. Positive Support of Ladies & Junior Kendo
5. Funding of a team to partake in EKC Taikai
6. Contribution to costs for 6 Nations
7. Continuing set aside fund to budget for WKC
8. Run down of surplus generated in 2012 while maintaining some contingency fund.

The budget proposal for 2014 is as follows:

- Maintain the **£20.00 kendo budget contribution for 2014.** Whilst this contrasts with the £10.00 by the Iaido and Jodo Bu, the Kendo Bu have a completely different cost base and priorities and must adjust accordingly.
- The Bucho also proposed to retain the so called Bucho Discretionary budget (from £4.5k down to £2K) used in part this year to support squad activities. Effectively this is a Bucho contingency fund.
- The budget actually reduces the cash the Kendo Bu holds, effectively returning £8K to members by spending more on members, e.g. children, ladies, free (or nominal cost) to coaching, first aid, refereeing, etc.

This proposal was passed unanimously by the meeting, with a show of hands.

d: Children's (up to age 18) & Ladies Kendo:

Discussion of the budget provoked some discussion on the support of Ladies and Children's kendo:-

- JOS reports that he has provisioned £3000 for Children and £2000 for Ladies.
- Upon request for clarification of detail, JOS reports that for Ladies: such events as the financial support for recent Kodokan Ladies seminar; special events seeking to raise the standard of ladies' kendo, e.g. at squad training days, etc. As for Children he reported that a primary difficulty for children was transport and cost – mostly they needed to be bussed around by parents. Such parents could be provided with petrol money for example when carrying several junior kendoka, also events can be taken to where the juniors are located, etc.
- Following a suggestion from Sensei Terry Holt, it was agreed that the Bucho needs to appoint a Children's Officer.

5. Budget and Fees

- This was covered in item 4c above.

6. Feedback from DRC

- There was insufficient time to discuss this topic in length.
- GO'D reported that there had been a limited but positive response to the request for views on/support for the new coaching program and that there had been no views expressed by DR members regarding the 2014 budget. Since all DR addresses have fairly recently been updated/checked I can only surmise that there were no issues with the budget or the coaching program.

7. Year 2013 and Future Direction

- There was insufficient time to discuss this topic

8. Squad/International Report

- There was insufficient time to discuss this topic

9. Program for 2013/14

- Covered in item 4 above.

10. Discussion of Suspension/Expulsion

10.1 Background:

- The NC has taken an independent decision to suspend AJT from the BKA and will recommend expulsion to the full AGM membership today. A summary of the evidence

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

and detailed back up documentation has been lodged on the web-site for many weeks and hard copies were made available today at the Premier Cup event.

- AJT attended the meeting at this juncture (Mr. Bellamy Ford still not present), JOS opened with a summary of the BKA position as follows: -
 - a. Squad Suspension:**
 - AJT owed a significant sum to Tashiro Sensei for over 10 months for bogu purchased. Whilst this is a private matter, it was seen as an embarrassment to BKA as he was a squad member and Events Officer at that time.
 - AJT retained Squad cash for some 6 months – finances were seen to be tight at that time. In addition this was specifically against BKA policy – cash to be banked within a week. All in spite of verbal and written warnings.
 - As a direct result of not making payments as agreed with the Kendo Squad Manager (SS) and Coach (MG), AJT was suspended from the 6 Nations squad team.
 - The suspension resulted in racial allegations leveled at SS; threat to attend 6 Nations using the prior purchased airline ticket; plus the threat of High Court action.
 - b. Events Officer Suspension:**
 - In spite of clear cash management priorities communicated to all BKA Officers, AJT retained Squad cash for a period of some 6 months (as mentioned above) along with other minor debts. When challenged at a finance committee meeting in January 2012, he robustly asserted that all cash had been banked. Part payment was actually made some 10 days later and AJT did not send evidence for a month.
 - As a direct result of this attitude and action, AJT lost confidence of JOS and HW (both voting officers) and was suspended in accordance with the BKA constitution at a formal Bu meeting on 5/3/12 (AJT did not attend, but only gave notice at the very last minute stating unforeseen personal issues).
 - c. High Court Matters:**
 - In March AJT brought a poorly defined High Court case against the following Bu Officers:
 - John O’Sullivan – Bucho
 - Honga Wright – Grading Officer
 - John Howell – Bu Cashier
 - Sean Starr – Squad manager
 - Malcolm Goodwin – Squad Coach
 - The BKA provides legal support for officers involved in litigation as a result of their role or duties.
 - AJT was instructed by the judge to immediately and formally to state his complaint in an appropriate manner and then to go through the BKA complaints process before returning to the court. AJT’s complaint was considered by a BKA Complaints Committee but was not upheld. AJT invoked an appeal which was not upheld.
 - Following the WKC in Italy, AJT attempted to have the above BKA Officers imprisoned for breaking a court order. This case was dismissed as “Without Merit” and AJT was ordered to pay £6,500 costs within 10 days. This amount is still outstanding and the BKA has not been able to recover the sum (through bailiffs) due to AJT address irregularities.
 - In October 2012, the initial court case was finally dismissed and the judge’s written judgment is scheduled for 11th July 2013. The BKA will be asking for further costs of the order £14,000, i.e. a possible total of some £20,000.

10.2 Response by AJT

- AJT was invited to take the floor for a 5 minute slot to defend himself (actual time 9 minutes)
- The AJT address covered a range of topics including his view on: the “dire” state of the BKA; his view on the “cash” management issue; his view on the discussions yesterday (5th July) with Justice Sweeny at the High Court and the draft judgment; his assertion

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

that he sued the BKA Officers as individuals and therefore the BKA should not support the costs.

- JOS thanked AJT for his defense address and stated that he disagreed with the bulk of its content. However, he declined to engage in any discussion on the topic, simply letting the Bu members make their own decision.

10.3 Vote:

Following the response by AJT, the meeting was presented with the following proposal:-

"This Kendo BU AGM supports the decision of the NC to suspend Alan James Thompson from the Association under Articles 7 and 10 for breaches of the BKA Constitution and finds his conduct to be injurious to the character and interests of the Association. This Kendo Bu AGM asks the NC to invoke the provisions of Clause 10.6 of the Association and seek the expulsion of this member".

- A secret ballot was taken on the above proposal. GO'D and TH (at the request of AJT) counted the ballot papers. The proposition was carried with the following voting results:-
 - For: 40
 - Against: 4
 - Abstain: 10
- AJT left the meeting following the above announcement.

11. Election of Bucho:

Other than JOS there were no other valid candidates. The meeting unanimously voted JOS as Bucho with a show of hands – no abstentions

12. Election of Events Officer:

There was only one nomination – Stephen Martin (existing temporary Events Officer). The meeting unanimously voted in Stephen as Events Officer with a show of hands – no abstentions

13. Election of Grading Officer:

JOS stated only one proposition for Grading Officer (John Gale) but this did not meet the cutoff date for nominations that had been strictly imposed. JH proposed John Gale from the floor seconded by JOS. Since there were no other candidates proposed from the floor a vote was taken. The meeting unanimously voted in John Gale as Grading Officer with a show of hands – no abstentions

14. Any Other Business

There were none tabled and in fact the meeting was already late for the NC AGM.

The AGM was summarily closed.

Kendo Bu AGM 6/7/2013 - Meeting

Actions

Ref:	Description:	Who	When:
1.7	Research lottery funding and report back to the Bucho, AGM Update: <i>No dialogue with MJ</i>	Matt Jackson	ASAP (carry forward action)
2.1	Run the scheduled BKA events regardless of the level of bookings. Ensure that initial calendar is published in January	Events Officer	
2.2	Designate an dojo events officer who will be prime contact with the Events Officer	Dojo Leaders	1/9/13
2.3	Set future events at high cost with discount for early booking (early booking discount of at least £20.)	Events Officer	With Immediate effect
2.4	Appoint a Children's Officer along with associated terms of reference.	Bucho	1/8/13