

Minutes of the lai bu meeting 11th July 2015

Present: Andy Watson (bucho), Dave Fanning (grading officer).
Apologies for absence from David McLean (outgoing treasurer)
Quorum = 29, present = 43

Last year's minutes

Proposal to accept minutes of last meeting: 41 acceptances 2 abstentions
Matters arising from last year's meeting – none

Bucho's report

Aims and objectives for 2015 and 2016 are unchanged from previous years.

The bu is intending to use mid to high grades to teach at events and participate on grading panels for the purposes of succession planning, although 7th dans will be used for main seminars. This will mean a reduction in the number of 5th dan gradings, but there will be at least one seminar per year in England to grade at that level as well as seminars overseas.

There were 577 iai members at end of 2014, and this has dropped by 10 members in 2015, but this is within normal variation and no cause for concern.

Attendance at seminars was very good, Darlington is almost too successful, and the summer seminar has now exceeded its breakeven point.

Grading officer's report

Dave expressed his thanks to his helpers. Pass rates were 100% for ikkyu, 98% for shodan, 68% for nidan, 90% sandan, 40% yondan, 33% godan.

The meeting expressed a vote of thanks for the outgoing grading officer.

Squad manager's report

Squad selection policies came in to focus this year, and the squad manager is now working on a points system for squad selection.

The bucho said he was trying to reduce cost to the bu of European taikai (which can be £8k-£12k), bearing in mind that members who are too old or infirm (or just not interested) got nothing from them. The DIA (Jock) reported that the EKF challenges high-budget events, but struggles to find volunteers at all.

Cost-reduction measures proposed included use of local high-grade teachers for Intensive Training sessions and not paying them expenses, and setting fixed budgets for squad members, officers and referees: this means that they would need to pay a small contributions (up to £100, although hardship fund was in place, reflecting where expenses vary between members). There was considerable debate on the matter, and the proposal that team should make a contribution was defeated: 19 for, 22 against. The proposal that referees should make a contribution was similarly defeated: 7 for, everyone else against.

The BKA Chair (Fay) made the point that she raised sponsorship and free flights for the WKC, and this could work for other bu too, and that we could also use advertising revenue from the BKA website.

Complaints

Phil Henderson said there had been couple of complaints, one on membership, one on squad selection policy – issues raised from that were not resolved but new policy put in place, and Phil offered his thanks to Karl Gibbons for driving policy forward.

Karl asked the bucho for a formal apology for remarks made by him, and Andy said he would review this.

Finances and budget

Last year's performance was as per budget, and the cash position at end of 2014 was £30317, and at 20th June it was £40194 (owing to summer seminar subscriptions).

Attendance fees for summer seminar were higher this year owing to higher costs of arranging a larger event

Members fees for 2016 were proposed as £10 adult, £5 junior, £5 concessionary, total estimated from membership £5k income. Anticipated loss of £7k on events, £0.9k on admin, will reduce account slightly est to £27.6k.

The amended budget (see squad above) was agreed by members, with 1 abstention

DRC feedback

The DRC asked for more notice on events, and more effective use of Facebook.

Election of officers

Phil Henderson was elected as Grading Officer; the bu needs a volunteer for iai cashier.

Examiner mentoring programme

This was now in place: Martin Chambers said 15 people doing, 5 of whom are jodo. After a couple of mentoring sessions, participants were eligible to sit on grading panel.

Coaching programme

L1 and L2 events are to be arranged in Scotland, thanks were expressed to Anna Stone and Martin Clark

AOB

Thanks given to elected and unelected bu officers for year. Meeting closed 1155