

Draft Minutes of the lai bu AGM meeting 2016

Below are Draft Minutes of the lai bu AGM meeting 2016

Note: Members of the NC became involved in preparing of the minutes as no recording was provided by the former laido-bu EC.

DRAFT

laido bu AGM Minutes - Meeting 9th July 2016

The Bucho (Andy Watson, AW) declared the meeting quorate.

1. Apologies for absence: Phil Henderson and Rob Sidoli
2. Minutes of AGM 2015 meeting, and matters arising:

DRC laido Chair queried whether AW had apologised to the former squad manager, as this issue had been raised at the 2015 lai Bu AGM: AW said that he had reviewed the documents and found nothing in there that he needed to recede.

3. 2015 Minutes approved with 5 abstentions.
4. Bucho's report:

All events were well attended and the bu is looking for larger venues. laidoka from 21 nations attended the koryu Taikai. The BKA is now seen as a driving force of Koryu in Europe. The Bu's aims are to carry on using 6th dan teachers at national events and European championships. Member asked for clarification of process of choosing the 6th dans. AW said they had not been referees the previous year. One Rokudan Renshi member queried how the Bucho had chosen the four 6th dans to put forward as referees out of all the 6th Dans meeting these criteria. AW said that only a certain number can be put forward as referees. International Affairs Director confirmed that referee selection is at the behest of the EKF therefore the BKA has no control or input on how many are chosen out of those put forward.

5. Membership report for 2015:
 - Increase of four members from 567 to 571.
6. Report from Phil Henderson, Grading Officer (read by AW):
 - Five BKA grading seminars held in last year. Pass rates were Ikkyu 92%; Shodan 84%, Nidan 97%, Sandan 78%, Yondan 57%, Godan 61%.
 - Grading Officer thanked people assisting with grading process. Reiterated two points for candidates 1) Grading papers must be in at least one week before grading and should include long term health issues. 2) Temporary injuries will not be taken into account.
7. Report from Will Heal, Squad Manager

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- 2015 European championships were in Berlin: 4 medals awarded (Andy Watson - Rokudan bronze, Daniel Silk - Godan bronze, Will Heal - Sandan bronze and Ben Emberley - Fighting Spirit). Will thanked the squad and supporters.

8. Report from Chris Buxton, laido DRC chair

- Discussion around various concerns sent to DRC by members including short notice of venues, last minute cancellations, need to utilise more local members and not just one dojo.

Action: Better communication and improved planning of events.

- Feedback on Cambridge as a venue. Consensus accommodation expensive and difficult but the hall excellent.

Action: Suggestions for venues be sent to the Events Officer ensuring good transport links, restaurants and suitable hall.

Action: Bucho to circulate a form to dojo reps for venue suggestions in their area.

9. Funds

- laido budget put forward: fees for 2017 proposed - adult £10, junior £5, concessionary £5. **Carried with one abstention.**
- lai bu reserves increasing – the intention is to shed some of this, going forward.
- Treasurer suggested that £25k would be a good amount of money for the bu to hold (reserve currently stands at about 37/38k), therefore the bu could afford to shed some reserves dependent upon future situation.

10. 2017

- Another koryu exchange taikai planned next year for (3-5th iai, 6th -8th) August Jodo 2017 likely to be Stevenage, likely to get koryu and exponents never seen in the UK/EU before.

11. Election of officers (Bucho and Events Officer)
(current Bucho AW, also chaired this section of the meeting)

Note: One official nomination had been received for the post of laido Bucho. AW had omitted to put in his nomination and proceeded to present his case to the members present. A very lengthy debate took place exploring all the issues surrounding his omission and the nomination process. Members discussed in great-detail the wording of the constitution and deadlines for nominations.

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- AW put forward a case that Constitution says 'ordinarily' election statements have to be in place 45 days in advance, or changes notified by email (i.e. not just on the website). AW gave the example of 2014 (when he was the current lai Bucho) there were no nominations from the floor, no-one had put in a nomination and neither had he – so it was assumed that as there had been no nominations AW would continue as Bucho.
- **The Vice Chair clarified that, in 2014, AW had submitted a nomination to continue as lai Bucho. The deadline for nominations had also been the same date as this year – 25 June. Therefore, AW was aware that he needed to submit a nomination to continue as Bucho. AW acknowledged that he had made an error in stating he had not had to put in a nomination when he was elected to continue as lai Bucho in 2014.**
- **The Vice Chair DB confirmed the deadline for nominations (for all elected officer posts) had been set for 25 June (14 days before the AGM), this had not been changed. This was due to past members being reluctant to be nominated for posts therefore deadline set nearer to the AGM to try to encourage nominations. The same situation had occurred several years previously. The then current kendo Bucho had failed to submit a nomination to continue as Bucho. As another member had submitted a nomination they were elected. The former Kendo Bucho accepted that he had made an error in not submitting a nomination and accepted the ruling. This issue was subsequently discussed by all BKA elected officers including the Jodo Bucho (AW) at that time.**
- The meeting debated the issues - whose responsibility it is to remember deadlines for nominations and what assumptions can be made of other Officers.

Summary: In general the members felt that it was the responsibility of the officer seeking election/re-election to remember such important and far reaching tasks/points. Members also pointed out that article 14.4.2 does state nominations must be written (not verbal) and returned to the NC prior to the specified date.

- A debate took place on whether or not the 14-day day pre-AGM deadline for nominations was a correct interpretation of the constitution. Some members noted that the constitution says that 'ordinarily' nominations for the post must be returned no later than 45 days ...' but as the deadline (of 25 June) had been published then the constitution had been followed.

Summary: Vice Chair confirmed that the same conditions and calendar date had been used in recent elections, so all intended nominees would know this.

- AW was asked if he had submitted a nomination 45 days before the AGM – he said that he had not remembered to submit a nomination and the NC Secretary had not notified him that anyone else had put in a nomination. Discussion ensued about whether a change/exception

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to the constitution could be made to allow AW to stand. Several members reminded the meeting of the dangers of not following the constitution.

Summary: It was noted that the constitution says that 'Exceptionally, if there are no nominations, nominations can be accepted from the floor' – but it was pointed out that a nomination had been received therefore this did not apply.

- AW invited Ex-BKA Chair and co-author of the BKA constitution (Errol Blake) to comment. EB suggested that mistakes had been made by both parties (AW not submitting a nomination and the NC by only notifying members by the BKA website and Facebook). EB added that the constitution was clear and there was only one candidate and to hold a vote would be unconstitutional.
- A member called for a vote from the floor of the meeting under clause 14.8.2. This was rebutted by several members following which a very lengthy discussion took place regarding the principles of natural justice and the fact that a nomination had been submitted.

Summary: This culminated in a proposal that as there was only one 'valid' nomination to accept a vote from the floor would not be constitutional as a precedent had already been set both with regards to the time issue in 2014 and the Kendo Bucho having made the same error previously. AW was asked to accept that he had made a mistake and to put forward his nomination again in the future. In the meantime, a request was made for all parties to work together for benefit of the bu moving forward.

- EB also confirmed that Vice Chair is the constitutional guardian and an expert in her field, who is the prime authority on the BKA constitution, and therefore her interpretation must be seen as being correct. He confirmed that there could be no vote.
- The Vice Chair reminded AW that he had recourse to the BKA complaints procedure if he wanted to question proceedings.
- AW stood down and thanked his officers. There was a vote of thanks from the meeting to the outgoing Bucho for his dedication and hard work. John Honisz-Greens, elected as lai Bucho, took the chair.
- Nomination from floor for Events Officer (as no nominations received by the deadline) – Rob Sidoli reappointed for a one year period, with Anil Sahal being allowed to shadow him to provide assistance when necessary.

John Honisz-Greens closed the meeting.