

Report from the BKA Acting Treasurer 30th April 2019

I volunteered and was accepted for the role of Deputy Treasurer in October 2018 to assist the newly elected treasurer, a member of my dojo. It was a difficult period due to us having no access to historical and current claim data on Open Drive, the BKA file storage location, nor having HSBC Bank authorisation to make payments. The bank access and authorisation was resolved in November 2018 but not the OpenDrive. The Bu cashiers helped by duplicating their efforts to post data to us as well as OpenDrive to ensure we could validate the payments. Martin Farncombe (the previous co-opted treasurer, living overseas) also helped us by continuing to make payments and recording transactions during lack of HSBC access, and then handing over a baseline position for us to work from.

Trawling through hundreds of historical emails to confirm the status for myself was painful and very time consuming. This led to the Chair and I working on and initiating an improved email header process. This is now working well. I have to thank all the Bu Cashiers, Bucho, Event and Grading Officers, plus all the claimants who have taken the process on board.

The problems with OpenDrive led to the NC team approving a move to Google Drive, a process now in place and evolving.

At the NC meeting on March 24th, the Treasurer resigned due to his work demands and I was elected as Acting Treasurer until the AGM. I intend to apply for the role of Treasurer at the AGM.

Errol, as Chair, has been helping me to keep the transactions timely during my period of leave and some work pressures, and this has been beneficial in more ways than one. It is essential that more than one person has hands-on experience of the process to avoid the transitional nightmare we had.

In 2018, there were three Treasurers, and compiling year end figures wasn't as easy as it should have been. Martin Farncombe again came in to assist using his years of experience to guide us through the process. Sedulo, an independent finance and auditing company have been bought in and have analysed and checked all the years transactions, money in, money out, validity of expense claims and accuracy of records.

In addition, the Chair has initiated a transparent process in that all our transactions are now available to view on line. By everyone. The fact that almost all transactions are electronic and more traceable adds to the knowledge that all are visible and above board.

I would like to finish on a personal note. Since my early teens I have been fascinated by Japanese culture and the martial arts, particularly the sword arts and the concept of Dō. I've been in the BKA for over 45 years and last year I made a point at the last AGM that I was disappointed that the BKA seemed to be losing its way. Working in this role with the current team, and seeing at first-hand how generous, dedicated and supportive everyone has been, I'm pleased to say that the Dō is strong and I'm honoured to be associated with the organisation. Thank you very much.

Some summary detail:

The fully audited accounts are available for inspection.

The current account balance on the 31/12/2017 was £29,730.52

The BKA current account paid out a total of £168,504.13 and received a total of £ 166,436.99. (£30,000 of the income was a transfer from the BKA savings account so we ran at a loss over the year).

On the 31/12/2018 the current account balance was £27,663.38

The savings account balance on the 31/12/2017 was £ 102,892.43 and on the 31/12/2018 was £73,007.70. This is the result of accruing interest of £131.50 over the year and the transferring of the £30,000 to the current account.

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