

## **Chairman's Report BKA (virtual) AGM 2021**

November 2021

Dear Members,

In the period since the last AGM in July 2019 it has of course been difficult/impossible to train in the usual way. However, the administration of the Association still had to continue e.g. insurance, banking and responding to the ever changing government requirements of martial arts organisations. As a result of this the NC has put forward a number of amendments to the Constitution, byelaws and policies - which we ask you to please support by voting "Yes".

The **amendments to the Constitution** and byelaws are largely a response to the changing circumstances in the "outside world" e.g. the law and regulations. As the law or legal requirements change, so too must we change. In the last two years in particular we have had to focus on how the law relates to our Association and its members.

We have made available documents which explain/support the recommended changes. These are available in on the website and I ask that you please read these before the AGM day.

Since my last report I have used Chairman's prerogative to appoint Malcolm Smalley as temporary Kendo DRC (The post will be open for nominations for the 2021 AGM) and to limit the scope of the BKA Gold Award to age 90.

### **What about this 2021 AGM?**

From my point of view as Chairman, I need the basics to be there i.e. your ability to elect Officers and to approve/disapprove the amendments to the Constitution and policies.

This is the first time we will try to have a non-physical AGM, due to the unpredictable nature of the pandemic. I ask that you please extend a little "understanding" if we do not quite get it right! I know that the common perception is that it's easy, "you just Zoom", but the reality is rather different. There is a lot of planning and preparation involved - and a steep learning curve.

Having previously served as Chairman for 5 years and now 2 ½ years I feel it is time to stand down. It's a bit of a cliché, but it really is time for younger members to step up and administer the Association. All that is required is a good heart.

I cannot step down from office without expressing my deep gratitude to all the elected and co-opted Officers of the Association. The Association is fortunate to have the (free) service of such intelligent and hardworking people.

Regards,

Errol Baboolal Blake

Chairman, British Kendo Association