Annual General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 28th March 2018

House of Sport, Belfast – 7pm

1. **Welcome**

Richard Briggs, President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present :

Executive Committee; Bill Taggart, Chairperson

Richard Briggs, President

Robin Newett, Treasurer

Averil Taggart, Interim Secretary

Peter Cuckoo, Conducts & Complaints Officer

Russell Brown, Lead Designated Liaison Person for Safeguarding

Performance Lead; Ciaran Ward

Club and Workforce Officer; Vicki Kennedy

Sport NI; Marc Scott

Apologies; Gavin Abel (Vice-Chair), Tom Pearson (Membership), Mark Spence

Rebecca Cuckoo (Coleraine Judo Club), Jonathan

Cooke and Wendy Cooke (Kookateki Judo Club), Scott Mayne, Mark

Montgomery and Alan Kerr (Simply Judo), Chris Donnelly (Malone Judo Club)

There were 9 ‘A’ clubs present able to vote (out of a possible 24 affiliated) therefore a quorum allowing the meeting to proceed.

The 9 clubs were;

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| **Club Name** | **Representative** |
| Abbey Judo Club | Not present |
| Causeway Judo Club | Not present |
| Chikara Judo Club | Not present |
| Coleraine Judo Club | Peter Cuckoo |
| Co Antrim Judo Club | Danny Nolan |
| Cunningham Judo School | Not present |
| Destined Judo Club | Not present |
| Dromore Judo | Not present |
| Green Haw Primary School JC | Not present |
| Holywood Judo Club | Not present |
| I Can Judo Club | Mark Spence |
| Kookateki (Grove) Judo Club | Not present |
| Omagh Judo Club | Kathleen Keaveney |
| Portaferry School of Judo | Not present |
| Saint Columbs Park Judo Club | Not present |
| Shinken Shobu Ryu | Not present |
| Shinsei Judo Club | Averil Taggart |
| Simply Judo | Brian Cassidy |
| Sonkei Judo | Mark Harris |
| Spartan Judo Club | Not present |
| The Judo Academy (Lagan Valley) | Not present |
| Triangle Judo Club | Not present |
| UUC Judo Club | Richard Briggs |
| Wakai Si Kwai Judo Club | Bert Lavery |

The following non- representative club members were present;

Martin Sloane

1. **Approval of previous AGM minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated to members and available on the NIJF website.

There was one point raised by Richard Briggs – why were Gary Jackson and Bert Lavery not included in the representative clubs list? Averil Taggart informed everyone that this was because Gary Jackson’s club was not affiliated at the time of the AGM and therefore not eligible to vote and Bert Lavery arrived late to the AGM after the voting had taken place.

There were no other points of order raised therefore Peter Cuckoo proposed and Brian Cassidy seconded the minutes as read.

1. **Approval of Financial Accounts**

Averil Taggart proposed and Russell Brown seconded the approval of the accounts.

**3.1 Re-appointment of auditors Cleaver Black**

Bert Lavery proposed and Brian Cassidy seconded the re-appointment of auditors Cleaver Black.

1. **Confirmation of Nominated EC Roles**

There were two positions open for election on the Executive Committee – Vice-Chairperson and Honorary Secretary.

There were no nominations for Vice-Chairperson therefore the position remains vacant.

There were no nominations for the position of Honorary Secretary therefore the position remains vacant. Averil Taggart to remain as Interim Secretary.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

Bill Taggart thanked everyone for attending and showing their support.

Bill thanked Sport NI for supporting Northern Ireland Judo Federation with their offer of funding for Sporting Clubs and Sporting Winners Lottery Funded Programs. This support has enabled N I Judo Federation to employ Club and Workforce Officer Vicki Kennedy and together with a funding program will enable N I Judo Federation to address the need for support at grassroots level of Judo in Northern Ireland. Funding for the Sporting Winners program has enabled N I Judo Federation to continue the hard work started in 2013 with the N I Talent Development Program.

Bill indicated that participation numbers had increased in 2017 by 12.7%. This he said was down to the hard work and dedication of all coaches and clubs.

Sport NI updated the Clubmark NI scheme last year with input from governing bodies. This is now an online system and following streamlining N I Judo Federation now have 5 accredited clubs. N I Judo Federation would like to promote this scheme to all clubs, it is a worthwhile achievement, promoting good governance and opening wider funding opportunities.

Bill welcomed Club and Workforce Officer Vicki Kennedy who has been in post since December 2017. Vicki has been working very hard to get to know clubs and their members. She has put together a comprehensive program for 2018 to include volunteer workshops, club information sessions, female only ‘Try It’ days, to name a few. Bill encouraged all clubs to engage and support Vicki in these sessions.

Bill thanked Performance Staff, Ciaran Ward, Paul Green and Chloe Cowen Vickers. Chloe started in post in September and has been a great asset to the team.

Bill indicated that Ciaran’s report in the Annual Report had shown that the Performance Program had been intensive and very successful. This would not have been possible without the support from Sport NI Sporting Winners Program and the hard work and dedication of Ciaran, Paul, Chloe, the athletes and their parents and he thanked them all.

Out of all the many achievements and successes of the year Bill wished to highlight a few;

In April 2017 British Judo included an adaptive category in the British Schools Championships, this was a 5 mat event held in the impressive English Institute of Sport, Sheffield. Two young men from I Can Judo Club entered the event for the first time and came away with brilliant results, Jonathan McCartney and Edward Coughlan both attained Bronze medals.

The same young men together with James Pentland competed at the British Open Special Needs Championships in August 2017 at Stoke Mandeville. They all achieved Gold medals in their respective weight categories, Bill congratulated them all on their success.

Bill also congratulated Simply Judo Connects on winning Sport NI Community Coaching Project of the Year 2017. This was a great initiative set up to bring refugee children together with children from their local community in a fun and safe environment.

Bill extended his and N I Judo Federation’s congratulations to Richard Briggs on receiving his 6th Dan.

Bill wished to give a mention to one of Northern Ireland’s most successful judoka, Lisa Kearney. Lisa recently announced her retirement from competitive Judo and she has been a great ambassador for N I Judo. Without her consistent success we would not have the opportunities we now have for judoka across Northern Ireland. Bill asked all present to join him in thanking Lisa for her unfailing contribution to N I Judo and to wish her every success in her future career.

Bill finished by saying a big thank you to Marc Scott, Sport NI. Marc is leaving Sport NI at the end of March. Bill indicated that he personally and N I Judo Federation had benefitted greatly from Marc’s advice and support over the years and wished him well with his future career.

1. **Matters Arising/Questions Received**

No questions had been received prior to the AGM.

There were some discussions on a point raised by Bert Lavery on ‘why children leave Judo and do any clubs follow up on their reasons for leaving?’

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm.