
Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 4th November at 2pm

Dunsilly Arms Hotel Antrim

Present:

Board of Directors: Richard Briggs, President
Russell Brown, Chairperson
Robin Newett, Hon. Treasurer
Lauren Smythe, Independent Director
Peter Cuckoo, Conducts & Complaints Officer
Rebecca Gill, Mental Health & Well-being Officer
Gail Reid, Hon. Secretary

Attendees: Mark Harris
Mark Donald
Averil Taggart
Bill Taggart
Wendy Cooke
Jonathan Cooke

Apologies:

Gareth Armstrong - Chikara

There were 6 'A' clubs present eligible to vote therefore a quorum allowing the meeting to proceed.

The 6 clubs were;

Club Name	Representative
UUC	R Briggs
Limavady Judo Club	R Brown
Sonkei	M Harris/M Donald
Coleraine Judo Club	P Cuckoo
Kookateki Judo Club	W Cooke/J Cooke
Shinsei Judo Club	A Taggart/B Taggart

1. President's Welcome

Richard Briggs opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked the Board Secretary for the setup and organisation of the meeting.

2. Approval of previous 2021 AGM minutes

The 2021 NIJF AGM minutes were tabled. Averil Taggart asked if the changes to the Articles & Memorandums could be made available and published on the website.

Bill Taggart from Shinsei Judo Club asked the question, 'why was there no AGM in 2022'. It was answered that there was no AGM in 2022 due to account reporting period changes by Cleaver Black.

Proposed by Mark Harris

Seconded by Jonathan Cooke

3. Chairman's Report & AGM Report Pack

Russell Brown outlined what was in the AGM Report and also highlighted medals, trophies and other achievements.

Russell Brown thanked Board members for their hard work and welcomed everyone attending.

Comments Made

- Wendy Cooke from Kookateki Judo Club mentioned that she felt funding was now more fairly distributed and was being used to benefit more Judoka across the province.
- Russell Brown, highlighted that we now have more funds for the Grass Roots elements of Judo in the clubs, including Health and Wellbeing.
- Johnathan Cooke from Kookateki also commented that the children at his Club are now getting more chances to get involved, participate and benefit from personal development.
- Mark Harris remarked that in the past, the majority of the funding was being issued to 1% of the members at a performance level, but now it's changing and is much more fairly distributed.
- Russell showed records of recent competition results and it was highlighted that Sport NI are still in a Decision-Making Process about further funding distribution.
- Averil Taggart from Shinsei Judo Club asked about the funding from the Rank Organisation, as to how much money was secured. Averil also queried why the Judo Enhancement Officer had not contacted her/Bills Club. Russell gave the answer that the role of Judo Enhancement Officer was temporarily suspended pending further investigation.
- Jonathan Cooke was very positive about the Judo Enhancement Officer Role and reiterated that much more was accomplished in comparison to the previous.
- Wendy Cooke gave very positive comments regarding the new digital licence membership card, saying that it was working very well and everyone at her Club was happy with it so far.
- Russell mentioned the challenges the NIJF have been facing, and that the BJA Home Nations Programme will align all programme going forward.
- Russell also explained that we are now in the 3rd extension period and that there had been many changes throughout the programme.
- Robin then clarified the new 9 categories within the original titles.

- Averil made it known that the Event Commission Section was missing from the AGM report. After some investigation it was clarified that the EC Section had not been included in the report for several years, for different reasons such as Covid Pandemic and it had been included in different sections before then. Apologies were given at the meeting and a note has been made to include it in the next Report.
- Bill broached the subject of Averil's proposal regarding Mileage Vs Officials Fees at Competitions. Peter Cuckoo, went over the reasons why the proposal was rejected.

Proposed by Peter Cuckoo
Seconded by Robin Newett

4. Approval of Financial Accounts

1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

Robin clarified that it had been a very good year. Income has risen and we have reduced our deficit for the first time in many years.

Averil requested a copy of the full accounts, which was sent to all present after the meeting.

Proposed by Mark Harris
Seconded by Russell Brown

5. Re-appointment of auditors

Cleaver Black, Suite 5, Ormeau House, 91-97 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 1SH

Richard Briggs outlined that Cleaver Black were the current auditors and all were happy that they remain NIJF's auditors for the incoming year.

Proposed by Averil Taggart
Seconded by Lauren Smythe

6. Vote on Director Appointments

It was noted that requests for nominations for Vice Chair and Independent Director Appointments had not been circulated in advance of the meeting. ***To be addressed at next Board Meeting.***

7. President's Closing Remarks

Richard Briggs thanked everyone for attending.

Russell Brown thanked Richard Briggs for leading the meeting and thanked all members for attending. The meeting was closed at 4.15pm