**Minutes of the Southern Area AGM held on 11th July 2018**

**at Checkatrade Stadium, Crawley**

A minutes silence was held at the beginning of the meeting to celebrate and respect the memory of Barry James, long term Chair and President of the Southern Area.

Dave Stanley explained that as Vice Chair and within the terms of the SA Constitution, as Alan Rickard had stepped down from Southern Area activities, he had become Chair for the remainder of the current term of office. There will be an election for a new Chair in 2019.

Dave thanked the members for attending the AGM and the good representation of clubs was noted: 22 compared with 13 for the 2017 AGM.

**1-18** **Clubs Present**: Camberley, Canterbury Judokwai, Chichester Ronin,, Crawley, Crayford, Croydon, Dorking, Farlington, Fighting Fitness, Fort Purbrook, Hollington, Horsham, Jersey, Kin Ryu, Medway Park, JC Osaka, Rainham, Swanley, Thanet, TNJC, Tonbridge, Witley

**Number of Clubs Represented**: 22

**Committee present**: Dave Stanley, Alan Lingham, Richard Anderson, John Malkinson, Graham Turner, Jean Lingham, Alex O’Loughlin,

**Non-voting members** present 11.

**Total number of current clubs** on BJA list at date of AGM: 72

**2-18 Apologies**

Apologies received from Nicky Sexton, Paul Sexton, Martin French, Lisa Harrison and Dave Quinn.

**3-8 Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

3.1-18 DS asked the meeting if there any changes to the 2017 minutes. A question was asked about what progress had been made in respect of changes to the SA website. DS replied that some changes had been made, more will be made to make the website more interesting and the SAC are proposing the appointment of a Press Office to improve communications and use of social media. It was noted that there are still difficulties with the accuracy of the clubs database as supplied by the BJA. There being no changes requested to the minutes proposed, DS asked for approval. Proposed: Tina Penfold, Fort Purbrook, seconded Derek Paxton, Horsham. Approval unanimous

**4-18 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

**5-18 Chairman's Report**

5.1-18 DS reported that it had been a difficult year for the Committee but also one which has seen positive changes. A marketing and IT advisor, Alex O’Loughlin had joined the Committee for specific projects, including the promotion of SA activities and events through social media; she would be giving a presentation at the end of the AGM.

5.2-18 Regarding refereeing, there have been many successes

* Andy Tremlett has been appointed as Director of Refereeing.
* In June Martin Rivers passed the examination for the International Licence – the sixth Southern Area referee to attain this highest referee’s award. The SA has produced the most referees in the BJA – 13 IJF B (Continental) and 6 IJF A (International) referees.
* Mark Denney as promoted to Senior National referee
* Two referees attained their National A Award – Dave Dyer and Graham Homes
* There have been a number of courses for referees to attain the first award or be promoted

5.3-18 The Area’s Teams had great success at the National Team Championships in Cardiff- with 5 medals from 6 categories: gold for the pre-cadet girls, silver for the cadet girls and boys, and bronze for the men and women senior teams; thanks and congratulations must go to John and Natalie for all their hard work throughout the year.

5.4-18 Thanks must also go Graham Turner for his work in examinations and promotions. Thanks also to the other members of the examinations team – Derek Paxton and John Malkinson – who are training new senior examiners and promoting dan gradings throughout the Area. It is unfortunate that some examiners are still not returning the gradings forms promptly – this reduces the Area’s income from examinations.

5.5-18 The Competitions Committee has worked hard again and there have been many successful county and Area events. There has been more joint working with the NHC and London areas. The increasing costs of venue hire and medical cover are affecting the potential for staging events. The SAC would like to hear from Coaches about what type of competitions they think would interest clubs in the Southern and neighbouring Areas. This will be mentioned later in the meeting.

5.6 -18 The Area is only able to do its work if there is sufficient funding. Thanks must go to Richard Anderson for his hard work behind the scenes that ensures Area developments, and support for players, officials and events are possible because of available funds.

5.7-18 And lastly an Area is only as good as the people working in Counties and Area activities. Thank you to all the coaches and volunteers in the clubs throughout the Area who work hard all year often id difficult circumstances. Its great to see such a good turn-out for this AGM and the Committee looks forward to working with you in the following year.

**6:18 Treasurer's Accounts and Reports** Richard Anderson

6.1-18 DS reported that the Area had lost £12,000 financial year 17 -18. The SAC will be reviewing costs, venue, medical hire etc. Some income was earned as the Area loaned the mats to the WJA for the 2018 team championships.

6.2-18 A Question was asked - **t**he loss on the National team Championships is recorded in the Squads budget - why is this?

6.3-18

**7-18 Squad Reports Male and Female** - John Malkinson and Natalie Crispe

8.1/17

**8-18 Competition Report** - Jean Lingham

9.1/17 Discussion took place on the falling numbers of players and the cancellation of competitions due to lack of entries TP read out an email received from Marcia Mullen expressing her concern about the recent cancellation of competitions. MW suggested that we appoint a SA public relations officer, but the question of expense was brought up. It has been agreed that a small subcommittee to include Marcia Mullen, Jeremy Luff and other representatives from the Counties to investigate the emotional pathways appertaining to competitions. Further that JL carried out a monthly email campaign to boost numbers to the Sussex event.

**9-18 Refereeing Report** - Dave Stanley

9.1-18 AL thanked Graham Holmes for all his hard work in preparing refereeing reports, referee training courses and calling notices.

9.2-18 AL re-iterated the successes in referee promotions as mentioned in the Chair’s annual report an also reported that here has been good progress in encouraging

10.4/17 Marion Woodard again brought up the need for us, as a sport, to sell ourselves and it was agreed that a short separate meeting would be held after the AGM.

11.4/17 Tony Newton said in his opinion, that there was a reluctance on the part of players to become referees. Sheila Hearsey quoted what a senior judoka had said , namely" that being a referee is the next best thing to competing".

**10-18 Promotion and Examiner's Report** - Graham Turner

11.1/17 GT informed the meeting that having completed his spreadsheet it was notable that in the last year April to June no dan gradings had exceeded ten in number.

11.2/17 GT confirmed that although Mon and Kyu gradings are doing well, Dan gradings in Kent and Hampshire and not being well attended.

11.3/17 GT expressed his disappointment at the late arrival of the 'pink' copy of the grading form which should be sent to him no more than seven days after the grading. General discussion took place re this matter, with some members admitting that they did not realise these forms existed and completed their grading sheets online, without sending a copy to GT. It was suggested that information as to what must be completed by examiners be put on the SA website. Some members expressed the view that in their opinion coaches were holding unofficial gradings, but no specific club or County was mentioned.

**11-18 Area Recorder of Grading Report** - Graham Turner

12.1/17 In his report GT again brought up the need for grading forms to be sent in on time.

12.2/17 General unhappiness was expressed re the new rules and the current grading scheme,

12.3/17 Stuart Vincent of Kin Ryu said that in his opinion gradings are not attracting senior players

12.4/17 Further discussion took place on the problems of other associations, BJ informing members that he has brought this matter up with members of Parliament as we are the only European Country who allow associations to flourish without qualifications. He will bring this matter up with Council.

**12-18 Kata Report** - Dennis Penfold

12.1-18 It was noted rather had been some difficulties with publicising Mr Iura’s course in 2017 due to BJA Head Office. It was noted that there is the lack of support / training / interest in kata for the Association and it was noted that BJA Kata Committee had not held meetings for some time.

12.2-18 In the general discussion the following key points were aired

* Kata is a key component of judo as it teaches basic principles. It is recognised as a core element by the IJF eg world championships.
* The katas are being constantly refined and developed and Mr Iura is a leading international teacher of all the katas. DP commented that even after all his years of studying kata he learns from the exceptional sills and knowledge of Mr Iura.
* DS reported that he had asked HO if its possible for the SA to name its kata course(s) as national ones. This permission will need to be in writing
* JM reported that the promotion of the 2018 course (koshiki-no-kata on Saturday 24 Nov and katame-no-kata on Sunday 25 Nov) will include opportunities for attendees to take kata examinations as required for gradings. The course will be c a revalidation event for coaches.
* DP reported that he and Tina had received a letter from the IJF complimenting them on their work as judges at more world championships than other judges to finals level in 5 katas.

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DS asked for a proposer and seconder for the ideas form the discussion to be accepted. Proposed Karen French, seconded Dave Stanley, **agreed unanimously.**

**13-18 Personal Safety / Self Defence Report**

**13.1-18** Rob Murley had submitted a report for the AGM meeting - copies available to attendees. He reported that the BJA self-defence /PSA committee had not met since 2014 and has been removed form the list of Association Commissions.

13.2-18 There appears to be little interest from the BJA in reviving the PSA scheme. However a very successful PSA course was held in February at Croydon JC - organised by Rob with Matt Clempner as the main trainer. There were 30 participants from all over the UK and all participants expressed strong interest in maintaining / developing PSA skills and coaching opportunities.

13.3 – 18 There was general discussion by AGM attendees with the outcomes of:

* Recognition that self-defence / PSA is one aspect of marketing judo / increasing membership
* Judo clubs need to consider how we can ‘sell’ our sport and skills to related sports eg BJJ and Jiu-jitsu
* As an Area we could take I the lead in training coaches. It was noted that Rob and Mat have a great deal of knowledge about training syllabi, insurance.
* The SAC need to take urgent steps to progress matters after the AGM and Rob needs to be member of SAC to lead on matters

**13.4-18 Formal proposal from the meeting:** that the SAC devise opportunities and systems for the SA to become a leader in PSA training. Proposed : Peter Sweetenham, Witley, seconded Dave Stanley, Swanley. **Result – unanimous support**

**14 -18 Resolutions for discussion**

No resolutions had been received

**15-18 Election of Vice Chair**

15.1-18 DS reported that as per the Constitution, he had taken on post of Chair for the remainder of the former Chair’s term of office (AGM 2019). Therefore, the post of vice chair became vacant and it was considered appropriate within the Constitution and for better outcome of SAC working that the terms in office for the Chair and Vic Chair were staggered.

15.2-18 Therefore applications for the post of vice chair were invited; information was sent to counties and posted on the SA website. Also, Counties were requested to post the information on their County websites – this did not happen in all Counties.

15.3-18 Only one application was received from John Malkinson. DS sked the meeting if they approved the appointment. Approval was unanimous; J Malkinson was appointed as Vice Chair with a 4 year tern of office to end at the 2022 AGM

16.-18 It was agreed unanimously that Julie Gomer FCCA of Aquarian Accounting would be appointed as the Independent Examiner of the accounts.

17-18 Presentation - Alex O’Loughlin

18-18 Future Ideas -Marion Woodard

18.1-18 Marion reported that some ideas to develop aspects if SA had been informally discussed with SA members at events and mentioned in SAC minutes. The 3 main ones are:

18.2-18 2019 AGM to be held on a weekend day with AGM in morning and coaches training session in afternoon. Reasons: travel in evenings too difficult, this model has worked in other areas.

**Meeting’s Response: yes** - coaches would prefer this & would give more opportunities for attendance by people who live too far from Crawley for an evening meeting. SAC need to develop this.

18.2-18 Last year meeting between SA Competition Committee and others produced good ideas about different types of events, including mixed teams more club events. Club league – even if only a few local clubs got together. If there was way to have more discussion about what coaches want – would this a good thing?

**Meeting’s Response :yes** – SAC needs to develop discussion and events changes for 2019 calendar. Tina Penfold, Fort Purbrook reported that they held mass randori sessions for junior players which are very popular.

18.3-18 Coaching Co-ordinator post to become SAC member. As the BJA no longer have posts of Area Coach, there is nr direct coach/ coaching presentation on the SAC. So this post holder would not necessarily be the coach who had trained X players at X level -but would be someone who has strategic and operational skills and experience who could advise the SAC – as in the reps for Refereeing and Competitions. Th post holder would also be the Area’s lead for Adapted and VI judo. But coaches need to give input to the SAC for the ‘ job description - how this to be done to be decided .

**Meeting’s Response : yes –** SAC need to arrange for feedback opportunities to happen and its important that SAC has coach representative

Dave Stanley presented Marcia Mullen with the Jack Cook Award in recognition of her many years of service as a one of the Area’s leading Competition Controllers and ‘behind the scenes’ event organiser

DS awarded the Baker Brown trophy to Adrian Dove in recognition of his many years as one of the Area’s top coaches in developing players at all levels and for his work in developing Hampshire

DS thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 9.40