

BRITISH AIKIDO BOARD

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting

held at 6 Halkingcroft, Slough
on Saturday, 21 August 2004

Present: V. Sumpter (Chairman)
Mrs S Timms
P. Cooke
G. Cooke
T. Bayliss
D. Foster
D. Burke
K. Morgan

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from B. Jones and P. Wildish

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
of 15 May 2004 AND MATTERS ARISING**

Item 2. Coaching. The Chairman reported that as it was reported in the minutes that “the Coach award is only a certificate of competency and not an authorisation to teach”, there was no need for him to repeat this by writing to all Members to notify the fact.

Other Items: All other matters arising are Agenda items.

3. CONSTITUTION

1. Election of Officers

Review and ratification of the Election Process

Under the Constitution, Officers due for election are to be notified to the Membership at the AGM preceding their year of election. In the yearly rotation cycle the recent historical elections/re-election have been:

1999 - Coaching Officer	2002 = end of 3 year term
2000 - Vice Chairman	2003 = end of 3 year term
2001 - Treasurer & Secretary	2004 = end of 3 year term
2002 - Chairman	2005 = end of 3 year term
2003 - Coaching Officer	re-elected after 4 year term next due election 2006
2004 - Vice-Chairman	elected after 4 year term next due election 2007

From this cycle it can be seen that the Treasurer and Secretary should have been up for re-election at this year’s AGM, and the Chairman notified to the Membership as up for election in 2005. However, at the 2004 AGM it was minuted that the Treasurer & Secretary were due for election in 2005.

In order to regularise the situation, and to ensure that there is rotational space between the election of the Chairman and Treasurer/Secretary posts, the Chairman stated that he will ask the General Membership to approve the re-election of the present incumbents until 2007 (that is, for 3 years from 2004), as well as notifying them that the post of Chairman is due for election in 2005.

Decision: This will be an Agenda Item for General Meeting on 16 October 2004.

ACTION: Secretary

b) Changes to the Constitution

Para 5 of the Constitution appears to cover the publicity rights of candidates for election as Officers of the Board, and subsequent voting procedures.

Para 6c) of the Constitution covers the notice period for an AGM (28 days) and that nomination forms for election of Officers shall be included with the notice; and that completed nomination forms be returned to the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM.

Thus, under the Constitution as written, Members attend an AGM not necessarily knowing who the nominees may be for posts due for election. This was the case for the election to the post of Vice-Chairman at this year's AGM. R. Reynolds had indicated a wish to stand for re-election, but on the day another nomination was notified to the Chairman prior to the start of the AGM. The Chairman allowed the nominee paper to go forward under the Chairman's prerogative (*Bylaws - Meetings - para 2.i*) as any nomination received after the AGM Notice and Agenda had been circulated - whether 27, 7 or 1 day before the AGM would not make the Members any the wiser as to who was standing. This is not good management practice and the Chairman stated that the Constitution needed amendment to cover the election of Officers to the Board. The Chairman therefore proposed the following amendment to be put to the Membership for passing at the next General Meeting (16 October) or it vetoed then, for ratification at the 2005 AGM

Amendments to Paras 5 and 6 of the Constitution

Amalgamate present sub-para 5a) and 5b) to be : sub-para 5.b)

Add new sub-para 5.a) as follows:

Nominations for election/re-election as Officers of the Board are to be notified to the Secretary at least 6 weeks before the date of the AGM at which the election will take place. Nominations notified to the Secretary after the Agenda for the AGM has been published will be void

Amend para 6.c): delete second sentence starting "Included....."

Amend para 6.d) to read

To elect Officers for the current year. Nomination forms are to be sent out with the Minutes of the previous General Meeting and are to state clearly the latest date for return to the Secretary.

This will be an Agenda item for General Meeting on 16 October 2004

ACTION: Secretary

4. **SPORT ENGLAND MEDIATION MEETING (Poole/Ellis controversy)**

The Chairman reported on a mediation meeting he attended on 6 July 2004, which was chaired by Sadie Mason on Sport England, to resolve the complaint by Messrs Ellis, Eastman and Humm that the BAB had acted unconstitutionally and in a manner not conducive to the best interests of aikido in Britain in the overall handling of a formal complaint made by Mr Ellis in February 2000.

Mr Ralph Reynolds, previous Vice-chairman, and Mr Dominic Foster, present Data Protection Officer also attended in support.

The Board's Executive and Membership will be pleased to learn that the mediation led to a resolution of this matter with, on the one hand, the complaints agreeing to withdraw and close their website covering the "Controversy", and, on the other, the Board accepting its culpability in failing to deal with Mr Ellis' complaint in a timely and constitutional manner. In this regard, on behalf of the Board and in his capacity as Chairman, he has since written to Mr Ellis offering unreserved apologies for past inaction in dealing with Mr. Ellis' concerns, and the unacceptable delay and aggravation he has suffered as a consequence of that inaction. On 30 July 2004, Mr Ellis replied to the Chairman stating that he accepted the BAB apology which now ended his dispute with the Board.

The Chairman expressed his personal thanks to Sadie Mason of Sport England, without whose counsel, patience and diplomacy, the above resolution may not have been achieved.

Since that meeting, Mr Ellis has, in an Email dated 11 August 2004, informed the Chairman through a third party that all controversial "BAB" material has been removed from all the websites involved in the issues. He indicated that it will take a little while to be cleared from the Search Engines as most of the information is cached and will not be removed until the search engines refresh their information. Regrettably, as at 20 August 2004, the website is still "on-line".

**ACTION: Website to be monitored and Chairman to write to Mr Ellis
(Not actioned - see next para for reason)**

After-Meeting Note by the Chairman:

On 23 August Mr Ellis sent an e-mail to the Chairman which said:

“I am very disappointed to note that the BAB has not added to its website any of the information agreed with Sport England at the meeting 6th July 2004. The pretext on the site of not adding further information due to changing servers, dated 6th July 2004, is now almost two months old, yet the changing of servers is a relatively simple procedure.”

The Chairman responded to Mr Ellis the same day, as follows:

“Mr Ellis, I am at a loss to understand what you want from the BAB. I said at the meeting that the results of the meeting with you and Sport England would be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at their next meeting - which I also said was in August. I wrote to you with a full apology in July after clearing the letter with Sadie Mason. You replied on 30 July that you accepted the apology in full settlement of the action. Our executive meeting was on Saturday 21 August (2 days ago). The Minutes are still to be written and published on the BAB website. The content of the Agenda item covering this action is attached. Your letter to me said you had cleared down your website of the controversy issue. Yet on 20 August, the day before our meeting, the BAB accessed Mr Humm’s aikido database website only to find that the controversy issue is still there. It can be found at [http://homepage.ntlworld.com/home address/aikidon-database/pages/main-page.htm](http://homepage.ntlworld.com/home_address/aikidon-database/pages/main-page.htm) An action was therefore put on me to write to you to ask if you knew this was the case - I was not going to make an issue of it but your e-mail has pre-empted my informal letter. On this basis, do I assume that we are both at fault again in failing to communicate effectively with each other? How long does it take for Mr Humm to clear the offending pages?”

The chairman also informed Sport England that the Controversy was still on line at www.aikido-database.co.uk

Additionally, the following site directly owned / run by Ellis, still has all the documentation on it: <http://www.angelfire.com/al/ellisaikido/controversy.html>

ACTION: Agenda Item for General Meeting

5. INSURANCE GUIDELINES - AMENDMENTS

A meeting took place on 14 August with J. Phelps, V. Sumpter, P. Cooke and S. Timms. It was agreed to re-design the Reg.Cert and Green Slips to comply with the necessary regulatory bodies. J. Phelps will give an update at the next General Meeting on 16 October.

ACTION: J. Phelps

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

P. Cooke stated that the BAB's finances at the half year were on track to breakeven.

As soon as the Insurance premiums for 2005 have been agreed with Perkins Slade, P. Cooke will calculate the admin/subscription fees.

ACTION: P. Cooke

It was confirmed that all BAB cheques made out for over £1000 should have two signatures:

ACTION: P. Cooke/S. Timms

7. COACHING

G. Cooke circulated a paper outlining the details for the Tutor/Coach Training weekend 25/26 September. It was agreed that this paper will be circulated with the Minutes.

A complete list of Association CLO's has now been completed. It was agreed that a coaching meeting will take place immediately after the next General Meeting on 16 October commencing circa 12.30/1pm. The Secretary/ G. Cooke will write to each of them inviting them to attend.

ACTION Secretary/G. Cooke

8. DATA PROTECTION

D. Foster has been advised that the EU has stated that Data Protection in the UK was incorrect. However, after investigation, D. Foster stated that he found that the UK was in compliance. He cautioned that changes were in the pipeline

9 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

D. Burke reported that he is still investigating clarification on Child Protection policies. He stated that the policy will be completed in the next 2/3 months. The Chairman handed D Burke a copy of the Judo (UK) Child Protection Document for whatever help it might provide in formulating BAB policy.

K. Morgan advised that from his own investigation the BAB could become an umbrella organisation for CRB checks in Aikido at a cost of £300.00. He offered to look into the matter further and report back

ACTION: K. Morgan

10. MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

T. Bayliss reported that an association had applied for membership of the BAB, but have not yet returned their completed application forms. T. Bayliss to progress the matter.

ACTION: T. Bayliss

11. RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE BAB

K. Morgan reported on a meeting that he and S. Timms had with the producer of Sport Nation re Sky Sports TV coverage. After discussion it was decided not to proceed further with the proposal from Sport Nation, as it was felt that a 20 minute programme would not be sufficient time to give the BAB overall coverage.

K. Morgan advised that he had 2 articles published in Martial Arts illustrated magazine, and was negotiating a ¼/½ page advert. The advert will first have to be agreed before publication

ACTION: K. Morgan

It was pointed out that 2005 was the 50th Anniversary of Aikido in the UK. After discussion several suggestions were put forward and these will be put to the General Meeting on 16 October. In the meantime, It was agreed that S. Timms should purchase promotional seals for use on BAB letters etc.

ACTION: Secretary

12 NATIONAL COURSE

S. Timms reported that all arrangements were completed and in place for the 2004 National Course. Invitations will issued for the Executive Buffet lunch and confirmations sent to those who had indicated an interest in attending the pre course dinner.

2005 National Course Arrangements for 2005 National Course in Manchester are underway and details will be circulated in due course.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A G. Cooke asked D. Foster if club information could be simplified.

B It was agreed that the Finance Officer should purchase a scanner for the webmaster.

ACTION: P. Cooke.

C BAB Recognition of Grades - Discussion Item

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from a Coach Tutor of a Member Association in which he outlined a case for the BAB to consider introducing formal criteria for endorsing and/or recognising the grades of the members of those Associations. He believes that the lack of such a criteria to judge an individual's competence in aikido creates problems for the coaching structure and possible future conflict with (perhaps) Sport England and/or our Insurers.

The submission suggests that the Board formally consider endorsing grades awarded by groups with easily identifiable links to O-Sensei; have been internationally established over a number of years and are recognised as being equally valid by the worldwide aikido community. However, those Associations without such links may have to accept (say) formal Board recognition at 4th Dan even though they are recognised as 5th or 6th Dan in their own Association. In making the submission the writer states that he does not wish to deny individuals any status or grade within their own group, nor is it meant to disparage or criticise any practitioner of aikido in the UK

Chairman's Response: I do not wish to go over old ground but it seems to me that we have learned nothing from the recent (Poole-Ellis-BAB controversy). The Board exists precisely because we have disparate - **autonomous** - groups training in aikido in the UK. In my report for 2004 - which was approved at the AGM - I said:

“ In respect of the standards and style of aikido practised under the auspices of the Board, our function is.....limited to satisfying ourselves that the applicant for membership practices and runs their Association in a manner which complies with the BAB Constitution..... Promotions, gradings, courses and all the baggage that that entails remain an autonomous function of the individual Member Associations. The Board has no function in awarding or approving the grades or titles of the general membership of individual Associations.... We can only acknowledge the titles and grades awarded so that we are able to address people appropriately when meeting or corresponding with them “

The Chairman nevertheless canvassed general opinion for the proposal from a number of Members; all of whom were very much against the idea. The Executive therefore felt the submission would not be received favourably at General Meeting and, potentially, could be very divisive in open discussion. The Chairman therefore agreed to write to the Proposer to withdraw the discussion topic.

Decision: Add to Oct 2004 GM Agenda, unless withdrawn by the Proposer

ACTION: 1, Proposer 2. Secretary

D The Chairman drew attention to the following two notes from the CCPR.

The Disability Discrimination Act. The Act comes into full effect from 1 October 2004, and all sports and clubs will be expected to comply. Guidelines and background information on the Act can be accessed via the following link.

[Http://www.sportengland.org/indix/get resources/disability discrimination legislation.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/indix/get_resources/disability_discrimination_legislation.htm)

Julian Brazier MP's Private Member's Bill The MP's Bill to "Promote Volunteering" failed during its 3rd reading in the House. Although the House was united in the belief that volunteers in the sport and recreation sectors were faced with unnecessary insurance costs, with many activities ceasing due to worries over litigation, many MPs were opposed to the Bill as they felt that the legislation would not be an effective solution. To read the transcript of the 3rd reading follow the link to Hansard for 16 July 2004 at: www.publications.parliament.uk.pa/

- E** D. Foster produced an illustration of a proposed new BAB logo. After discussion it was decided that any further designs will be presented for discussion at the next General Meeting on 16 October 2004

ACTION: D. Foster

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of the next **Management Committee Meeting** will be **29 January 2005**

Date of **Annual General Meeting** in 2005 will be **9 April 2005**

Enclosure:

Paper outlining the details for the Tutor/Coach Training weeks 25/26 September