



BJC JUDO NEWS: Robin Otani – President

12th April 2012

As well as my pleasure in announcing our latest BJC Honorary Members, I feel a number of other issues are now being addressed and hopefully we shall resolve many problems in the near future.

1. The BJC Awards Evening 10th March 2012
2. Honorary Members of the BJC
3. Authority for Areas to award Club and Area qualifications.
4. Points Grading System
5. Clubmark
6. Weight Mismatch
7. The FPJ Programme
8. The 2010 BJC Grading Syllabus
9. The Judo For All (JFA) Organisation

1. The BJC Awards Evening

The BJC Awards Evening was a resounding success.

Members of the BJC British Judo Foundation shared the event, including the Patron, Lord Tope and his wife Lady Tope. There was attendance from a good spread of BJC, juniors, parents and officials, eighty six in all, from all over the country. All Nominees were awarded a certificate and the short version of the praise sent in from their nomination, was read out.

The final winners received a tasteful glass trophy engraved with their names and their category.

The Master of Ceremonies, Bernard Richmond, was a splendid Compère and rightly saw this as an opportunity to thank many.

It was also a wonderful opportunity for members, who do not normally meet each other, to mix and socialise. The evening finished with everyone leaving happy and elated about the BJC and its nationwide effort to do good through judo.

2. Honorary Members of the BJC

I was very pleased and proud to announce at the Awards evening that three outstanding former British Judo Champions have accepted Honorary Membership of the BJC.

Neil Adams	8 th Dan MBE
Jane Bridge-Chalot	7 th Dan
Ray Stevens	6 th Dan

It is my hope that these members together with our own coaches will influence us to define a new programme to improve BJC Judo and thus also improve our support for British Judo.

Mrs Michiko Whyman is our only other honorary member since August 2002 and I was delighted to present Mrs. Whyman with a licence and certificate at St. Ives this year.

3. Authority for Areas to award Club and Area qualifications.

The NTC and BTC have agreed in principle that the Area ATO in consultation with the Area's most senior grade will shortly be able to assess and identify a list of members who can be accredited on their prior learning and knowledge.

The list of proposed members will be considered for suitable Area and Club qualifications, initially for the subjects of Grading and Kata but to follow on Coaching and Refereeing. This will be followed later by a review of Coaching and Refereeing awards.

The list will be submitted to the BTC, NTC and final the President for approval.

Once approved, the ATO will be authorised to award and sign BJC licences accordingly.

The Area will also be asked to submit for approval, a revalidation programme for each of these awards and it is hoped that this will form the basis of a BJC policy for Area re-validations.

It is envisaged that most Area qualification, shown in the new 2012 BJC licence, will follow this practice. A few details have yet to be decided but I hope this will be available very soon

4. The Points Grading System

The points records from Bognor and Senior National 2011 have been kept, but the first full use of the system started at Tamworth Feb 2012 and highlighted a considerable amount of administration work to be needed in a short time whilst the contests are running.

The 'Points' event at St. Ives Easter Course was operated and gained more feedback which is being collated to help future organisers and Grading Administrators.

Most of the initial problems have been addressed but the points system will still need some time to become fully operational.

It has been decided that individuals will apply to Head Office for a 'points card' before or after an event and will pay a registration and card fee of £20 to enter the points system.

5. Clubmark

A very positive response from Densign White, Chairman of the BJA, has given us good progress and following a recent meeting between the liaison committee of the BJC and the BJA, we have managed to secure a pathway for BJC clubs to obtain Clubmark.

This will all be possible for holders of a BJC licence, without joining the BJA.

For those who don't know Clubmark is a quality standard for all sports clubs demonstrating standards of coaching, club administration and club development.

The BJC FPJ2 has been accepted as the required basic coaching award but this may also need some units added to meet the full criteria.

Initially there will be a pilot scheme of about 6 or 7 BJC clubs in geographical clusters, who will work together to obtain this standard.

Once these clubs have concluded the pilot an expanded program will be put in place for any BJC clubs who wish to participate.

For further information please contact BJC head office.

6. Weight Mismatch

The new BJC Weight Mismatch Policy has highlighted difficulties in how to practically apply this to contest requirements for Club, Area and National grading.

Fighting in mismatch weight is an important part of judo and the source of developing efficient skills to overcome opponents of all sizes. This essential element enables us to assess judo ability at grading.

Thankfully, at St. Ives, Bernard Richmond, with astute appraisal took charge of deciding what acceptable mismatches beyond normal competition weight categories are.

The BJC Mismatch policy has been re-written and will allow mismatch contests to proceed at grading, following new parameters for safety and risk assessments.

This will be circulated to HQC and NTC before being officially published, hopefully in the few weeks.

7. The FPJ Programme

Dr Penny Grigg BTC Coaching Group Leader has been heading this programme since 2010 just before Hosaka Sensei sadly passed away.

This has been very much a development of a whole BJC Coaching framework far faster that I can conceive would have been possible, with my greatest respect, under the very critical and perfectionist eye of Hosaka Sensei.

I ask those coaches who have been pressing for quicker action to reflect on this point and realise that considerable progress has already been made.

We are now at a position where we soon hope to qualify our first Tutors to deliver FPJ Courses, starting with FPJ2.

A fair number of Coaches have put themselves forward to be considered as tutors but we are treading very carefully and our initially step is to choose only those we consider to be the most suitable and have the best FPJ course experience.

Although uncertain, we feel a maximum of six active FPJ tutors could cover the BJC nationwide requirements, with potentially another six or more in training and ready on standby.

It is anticipated the Tutors and other qualified Assessors etc. will be used to form a Coaching Policy/Analysis group so as to feedback improvement into the system.

Although we are carefully trying to pick tutors from different regions, it is my current feeling that the programme will be best served if tutors do not only run courses within their own area.

Cost is always a big concern but ideally the programme would also like to consider a separate pool-source of FPJ Assessors, Mentors and Verifiers.

Because we are a voluntary organisation we can only concentrate on the first Tutors at this time.

I therefore ask you to be patient and remember this is a developing programme and not everything may work out exactly as I see it here.

8.The BJC 2010 Grading Syllabus

Whilst some areas have fully adopted the new syllabus and working it to success, others have found it difficult.

Most BJC areas have good experience of grading and whilst the long term aim is still to move towards the new syllabus, I am relaxed about Areas using elements of both the old and new, whilst we are finding the best way to make the transition.

It has been suggested we consider, an interim, 'user friendly' version and this is being looked at.

One important issue that has arisen is that the Old syllabus age guides for each grade must be incorporated into the new syllabus, which did not carry these over.

It has come to my notice that some juniors are now being graded to green belt at 10 years of age and this is a ridiculous young age leaving them only 9 more grading tabs over remaining 5-6 years of their junior time. It also begs belief how Primary to Junior Orange belt (9 tabs) has been achieved in one year.

The fact is that we have always tried to make green belt the stage at which juniors move towards contesting by grade and not by age and size.

Twelve years old is the recommended minimum age for the most exceptional to achieve green belt.

9. The Judo For All (JFA) Organisation

This organisation was started by ex BJC senior grade Sam Sampson.

The BJC has had to take action because of tangible damage being caused by the recruitment of current BJC Clubs and members in to this organisation, causing a loss to BJC memberships.

It has been a difficult action for us to take but the HQC Statements issued, are fully supported by the NTC and the President.