

Nomination for Andy Watson for the role of Jodo Bucho

Most, if not all of you know me in the Jodo bu so I don't need to introduce myself too comprehensively, I would like to just outline what I have done to date and what my plans for the future would be.

When I came into this role I wanted to know exactly where we were, where we should be going and how we should get there. I produced the Jodobu Strategy which outlines a number of key measures for the "health" of the Jodobu in the BKA as well as a number of activities to move our scores up. These scores included: membership number, number of dojos, annual grading pass rate, annual nationals attendance %. To improve our performance I have outlined and started to deliver a number of activities:

- Emerging dojos fund to provide some kickstart funding for new Jodo dojos including coach registration and insurance and weapons provision.
- Jodo conversion programme to help laido and Kendo dojos who want to start doing Jodo by offering low-cost introductory seminars.
- Ongoing development to the Coaching Structure for both laido and Jodo including the launch of two new courses, support and organization of regional coaching activities.
- Developed and delivered an Examiner Mentoring Programme to give mid-grades the opportunity to experience and learn the necessary skills to be a good grading panellist.

Within the broader ranges of the BKA I would like to think that my efforts were instrumental in getting the new constitution working group approved and thus the new constitution, which focuses on the rights of the membership, into place. I have worked to ensure that the Jodobu is in line with the requirements of the new constitution by appointing roles of officers and assistants where necessary within the Jodobu EC.

On "softer" issues I have made all available efforts to ensure that our members are communicated with regularly and accurately. There are still shortfalls in our planning of future events and providing enough notice to our members. However, I hope that the gradual inception of people into official roles in the Jodobu EC will improve this area.

Looking forward, I would hope that the Jodobu Strategy sees more success and development of our measures. I believe we still have a way to go to ensure that we are within the comfortable limits of compliance regarding the statutory requirements and duty of care that running an association presents but we are certainly moving quickly. I still think that the Jodobu's greatest challenge is in increasing the number of dojos across the country so that our catchment is more effective. However, it should not be forgotten that the Jodobu has the smallest percentage of "churn" (turnover of members) as well as the most promising growth within the last few years. I am certain that I can ensure that this growth continues and that together we can improve the quality of Jodo within the BKA.