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MINUTES: IAI AND JO BU AGM *draft*

Date: 23 May 2010

Venue: Caroline Chisholm School, Wooldale, Northampton

IAIDO BU AGM

1. Vic Cook, Iai Bucho, opened the meeting at 1.34 pm.
2. Iai Bu Report: The contents of the Iai Bu report were noted, and particular mention was made of the success of the Ishido Sensei 30th anniversary seminar and taikai.
3. Elections: Vic Cook stood down after 14 years as Iai Bucho and invited Chris Buxton to step up to the table as the incoming Bucho.
4. A vote of thanks was passed by all present for Cook Sensei's time as Bucho. Proposed by Tony Devine and seconded by Chris Buxton.
5. Budget Report: Patrick Breheny was thanked for preparing the budget report. An annual membership fee of £10 for Iai and £11 for Jodo had been in place this year, and it was agreed that the membership fee for Iai would remain at £10 for the coming year.
6. Patrick Breheny reported that central services costs had been reduced from £27 per member per year to £25 per member per year for 2011.
7. Judith Farncombe was thanked for continuing as grading officer.
8. Events: The following forthcoming events for 2010/2011 were noted:
 - July – Iai and Jo Nationals
 - August – Summer Seminar
 - November – Oshita Sensei koryu seminar
 - Oct/Nov – Darlington seminar
 - Spring 2011 – Barnstaple seminar
9. Feedback from DRC: no major issues had been raised at the DRC meeting.
10. Any Other Business:
 - a. Police involvement in an incident with an Iaito was discussed and Chris Buxton confirmed that guidance and documentation for members would be reissued.
 - b. Andy Watson advised members to contact the Iai Bucho for assistance first if considering ordering Iaito from Japan, and noted that problems could be avoided by using UK-based suppliers.
 - c. Chris Buxton noted that similar problems had been experienced in other EU countries.

DRAFT

- d. Harry Jones was welcomed as the new lai Bu Cashier. In future, all expense issues should go to the Cashier first before being passed to the Bucho or Treasurer.
- e. Greg Drewe and Alan Nash (absent) were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the lai Squad. The pleasing results of the Squad in the European Championship in Mierlo last year were noted as follows:
 - Team – Bronze
 - Yondan – Silver
 - Godan – Gold
 - Rokudan – Bronze and Gold

JODO AGM

1. Andy Watson, Jo Bucho opened the meeting.
2. Elections: A vote of thanks was passed for Harry Jones for her time as grading officer. She was now standing down and Dave Fanning was confirmed as the new Jo grading officer.
3. Arrangements for the Jo Squad had recently changed slightly with Alan Nash as Squad Trainer focusing on training rather than organisation, and George Valkov taking the role as Squad Manager.
4. Stacy Knight was confirmed as the new Jo Bu PRO.
5. There was a vacancy for Jo Bu Cashier and volunteers with a financial background were invited to put their names forward.
6. Budget Report: No formal Budget Report was available. It was noted that the Icelandic volcano had prevented many European visitors attending the recent referee's seminar, but this event had still broken even.
7. Strategy Report: The Jo Bu Strategy Report was presented. Membership was growing reliably and it was hoped that greater internal PR would help to increase membership further.
8. A 'dojo conversion programme' was in place to encourage lai or Kendo dojo to include Jo, with the aim of making it as easy and low cost as possible.
9. Planned events included Darlington and a London-based event following the European Championships.
10. Membership Fee: A continuation of the membership fee of £11 was proposed as this fitted the new financial model so far. This could be reviewed again in a year or two. As part of the new PRO role, Stacy Knight would be looking to attract external funding to support Bu activities.

11. The UK would be hosting the EJC in 2011 and members were asked to volunteer to support the event.

12. Any Other Business:

- a. Tony Devine asked about new members who joined the Bu part way through the year. Chris Buxton confirmed that the membership system now operates on a 'rolling year' basis so members joining towards the end of the year would not be disadvantaged.
- b. Patrick Breheny commented that Iai members who took up Jo should still be covered for insurance even if they did not immediately join the Jo Bu. However, it was felt that members taking up Jo should still join as soon as possible as this gave them access to seminars and started their grading clock.
- c. Andy Watson expressed his personal thanks to Vic Cook for his support over a number of difficult years.
- d. Jo Results in Mierlo were noted, particularly Bronze and Gold medals in the sandan and godan divisions.
- e. The Bucho was keen to increase attendance at the Jo Squad and noted that the Kendo Bu Squad sessions were now termed 'intensive training sessions'. It was stressed that the Squad is in no way elitist and all members were encouraged to attend. The next sessions were to be held on 19/20 June in Northampton.
- f. Thanks were expressed to Malcom Smalley for his work on the online booking system.

13. The Jo AGM closed at 2.07.

JOINT IAI/JO ISSUES

1. Martin Chambers and Patty Papageorgiou were thanked for their work on the mentoring and coaching schemes respectively.
 - a. The mentoring scheme was open for all yondan members and provided an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of the grading process.
 - b. A level 2 coaching course was planned shortly and a further level 1 course was to be held on 26 July.
2. The online booking system had been running smoothly and Malcom Smalley was providing excellent support. Andy Watson invited comments from members about the new system.
 - a. A query was raised about amending existing events and Andy Watson explained the procedure for making such amendments.

DRAFT

- b. It was suggested that a 'proxy' system should be added to allow dojo leaders to submit bookings on behalf of members and this will be considered.
 - c. The Bucho agreed to try to get dates for events confirmed as soon as possible and it was hoped that this situation would be improved for the coming year.
 - d. It was noted that costs would be incurred if cancellations or amendments were made to Summer Seminar accommodation bookings due to the University's internal policy.
3. The meeting closed at 2.25 pm.