

## Eastern Area AGM 16<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 12.10pm @ Thetford

### Minutes

#### **Clubs Attending**

Melbourn JC / John Dearden JC / Ely JC / Kumo JC / Saffron Walden JC / Sleeping Tigers JC / Burwell JC / Felixstowe JC / Ipswich JC / Renkeido JC / Wymondham JC

#### **Also Attending**

Howard Oates, Paul Borroughs, Rocco Borroughs, Will Stockley, Paul Cooledge, Ray Taylor  
Luke Johnson, Mark Waterhouse

#### **1. Apologies**

Dominic King, John Dearden (Life President), Stuart Aldous, John Marsh.

#### **2. 2022 AGM Minutes (circulated earlier)**

Proposed by Emma Turner, Seconded by Ray Taylor so signed by Chair.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

There were none.

#### **4. Chair's report**

Circulated prior to meeting and agreed by those present.

#### **5. Secretary's report**

Circulated prior to meeting and agreed by those present.

#### **6. Treasurer's report**

Circulated and agreed

Proposed, Howard Oates, Seconded Emma Turner so signed by Treasurer

#### **7. Director of Examiners' report**

Circulated prior to meeting and agreed by those present.

#### **8. Refereeing Representative's report**

Circulated prior to meeting and agreed by those present.

#### **9. Election of Area Chair (4 Year Term)**

Denise Oates was the only nomination therefore duly elected.

Denise stated that this would be the last term for which she would stand as area chair.

#### **10. Election of Committee Positions (2 year terms)**

There were 4 places up for election with only 3 nominations. These were for Michelle Camp, Paul Cooledge and Luke Johnson so they were duly elected.

The committee will co-opt Jon Barber to the committee (he would have stood as a committee member but could not attend the AGM)

## **11 Area Positions**

In line with the constitution, the positions of Director of Examiners (DOE), Assistant Director of Examiners (ADOE) and Refereeing Representative are elected to run in line with the area chair.

These are DOE Jane Blunt, ADOE Dave Martin and Refereeing Rep Mark Waterhouse.

## **12 Open Forum**

Howard Oates asked about the area running a team event after the area closed. Denise agreed that this would be junior/senior 'free to enter' teams picked on the day (must have fought in the area closed).

HO asked about the area getting private insurance to encourage more people to attend the randori sessions, area committee to look at.

Kevin Charlton asked about the area balance between national and area competitions. The area committee thinks that clubs should run Red Belt rumbles, not the area, to keep them local and informal. The area then runs Development events as the next step on the ladder to get players used to a more competitive environment. These will be invitation only events to try to stop clubs abusing the format. The Area will also run the Area closed to cater for the more experienced local players and the Area open to attract players from further afield. The latter will also save Area players travelling to better quality events. Finally, National events, if we are lucky enough to host them, will enable Area players to mix with the better players. We think this is a comprehensive programme. Kevin Charlton also asked about local randori sessions as a forerunner to Area squad sessions. The idea of clubs hosting open 'midweek' or 'weekend' randori sessions and advertising on social media was discussed but it was thought some clubs may not have venue or coach availability/capacity. Using Thetford as a venue was viable and the idea of regular open randori was favourable but this would only work with forward planning, i.e. reviewing 2024, and possibly 2025, dates now so new committee to review.

Mark Waterhouse said social media could be better utilised to promote all activities. Dave Martin suggested creating a social media group so new committee to explore this.

Luke Johnson asked about recruiting more officials. Area committee pledged that it will seek to provide qualified, and train new, officials for club hosted events if clubs contact the committee.

Chair thanked all for attending and meeting closed at 12.10pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Area Chair