

Cambridge University Karate Club

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2020

Opening

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Cambridge University Karate Club (CUKC) was called to order by Alex Russell at 2.00 PM (London time) and took place online via Zoom.

Present

Alex Russell, President

Abby Wheeler, Vice-President

Danielle Ball, Women's Captain

Chris Hamilton, Men's Captain

Maeve Brittle, Social Secretary

Daoyuan Qian, Webmaster

Millie Morgan, Welfare and Safety Officer

Christoph Hess, Secretary

Olivia Lavigne, Treasurer

Absent

Eleanor Lee, Publicity Officer

Herve Vanderkerckhove, Non-Student Representative

Agenda

The President suggested six topics for discussion, in the following order:

1. Approval of September Committee meeting minutes
2. Budget
3. Lockdown training
4. Michaelmas grading and kit orders
5. 2021 Varsity match
6. Socials
7. Code of Conduct
8. Customised belts

The order was approved by the Committee.

Ad 1) Approval of June Committee meeting minutes

Decision: The minutes were approved.

Ad 2) Budget

Discussion: Alex informed the meeting participants that he and Olivia have drawn up a new budget (which he screen shared with the meeting participants) to respond to the Sports Service's new grant requirements in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Club is expecting a similar grant amount (probably slightly less, as the Club is no longer using any Sports Service venues for the second half of Michaelmas term). On this basis, the Club is expecting a rough break-even for this term. Alex could confirm that the Club would not have to pay for training venues that can no longer be used due to the second nationwide lockdown having started on November 4, 2020. Alex further asked the meeting participants whether the Club should send out the invoices for the in-person training now, followed by a separate set of invoices for all online training sessions at the end of term. The Committee agreed on the second option.

Decision: The Treasurer will send out invoices for in-person training over the first half of Michaelmas Term soon and prepare another set of invoices for online training at the end of Term.

Ad 3) Lockdown training

Discussion: All in-person training has been cancelled until at least the end of term. In response to this, the Club now has started to make plans for online training (the questions being especially how often online sessions should take place and how much the Club should charge for them), but also has to consider possible venues for holiday training if in-person sports events are allowed to resume by then.

Chris pointed out that Chesterton is a very good venue for holiday training, with enough space for socially distanced training even if demand for holiday sessions should exceed expectations. Apart from Chesterton there would be another 1-2 choices which would presumably all be available and cost about £12-16 per hour. Alex preferred Chesterton as a venue for holiday training, since the Club has good experience with that venue, both for holiday and term-time training.

Danielle agreed to take the lead on online training. Demand for online training sessions over the summer did not meet expectations, but with few alternatives available now, there might now be additional demand. Danielle suggested to start with a limited number of weekly sessions (1-2) to keep people involved with the Club and physically active. Alex responded that the Club might start with two one-hour online sessions per week, one aimed at beginners and another class for more advanced Club Members. If there should be demand for additional sessions, the Committee might decide to increase the number of weekly online sessions. The training fee was fixed at £2.

Decisions: The Club will offer two weekly training sessions online at £2 per session and a weekly fitness and conditioning session free of charge (decided informally shortly after the meeting). Chesterton will be the venue of choice for holiday training, should it be allowed to go ahead.

Ad 4) Michaelmas grading and kit orders

Discussion: A grading examination was planned to go ahead on December 4 according to the original schedule, for which Abby confirmed Bob Rhodes as grading examiner. Alex suggested to cancel the Grading as it is too close to the end of lockdown, even if lockdown should end on December 2. The Committee agreed to this decision.

Regarding recent kit orders, Abby briefed the meeting participants that she has received a large number of orders and that, as yet, none has been cancelled. Orders even continued to come in after the announcement of another nationwide lockdown. Abby suggested to confirm with everybody who has ordered kit whether they still want to order.

Decisions: Abby will email Sensei Bob Rhodes to inform him about the Club's decision to cancel the Grading for Michaelmas Term. A note with Abby's email address will be included in the next bulletin for everyone who wants to cancel their order

Ad 4) 2021 Varsity Match

Discussion: Alex introduced the topic by reminding the meeting participants that the Club was due to conclude a review of the Varsity rules together with the Oxford Karate Club. CUKC has not yet contacted Oxford with regards to the rule review. The Committee will have to decide what CUKC is going to suggest in terms of rule changes. After confirming with Sensei Richard, Alex would then email the suggested changes to Oxford. However, as a rule review does not seem sensible in the current situation, Alex asked the Committee whether he should ask Oxford to postpone the rule review for another year.

Relating to this year's Varsity, it seems unlikely that the kumite component will be allowed to go ahead in early March. The Club is currently considering the option of approaching the Oxford club suggesting a kata-only competition based on the current rules. Such a competition might be called 'Varsity' or simply a 'friendly competition' due to its strongly altered structure. A modified structure for Varsity would have to be agreed on by both the Oxford and Cambridge clubs, otherwise the competition would likely be a kata-only event based on the usual Varsity rules. Chris pointed out that he would suggest a modification of the traditional Varsity structure, e.g. by adding additional individual kata performances. If this is not possible within the current varsity rules, the event might simply figure as an 'invitational match' to avoid controversy. Dao asked if a competition under a different name would stop people from obtaining Blues awards. Chris could clarify that this year, Blues nominations for teams who

could not hold a Varsity competition after late March were made on the basis of who had been nominated for the Varsity squad. If there were similar provisions for the upcoming Varsity event, the captains would submit a list of a Varsity squad, and thus allow people to be awarded Blues, regardless of the actual event actually being held under that name (or at all) or not.

A couple of possible options for a socially distanced Varsity match/'invitational match' were discussed, while Alex pointed out that all of this would require an agreement between government rules, KUGB, JKA, and local COVID restrictions. The practicability of a competition between the Cambridge and Oxford clubs moreover hinges on whether the Oxford club will be able to travel to Cambridge given possible restrictions on group travel.

Towards the end of the discussion, Olivia suggested postponing the Varsity match, originally scheduled for early March, to a later date, e.g. late April or early May. This might mitigate many of the issues (see above) the Club would face if the event were held in early March. Chris cautioned that the KUGB nationals are scheduled for early May. Olivia voiced the concern that an event early on in Easter Term would overlap with the handover to the next CUKC Committee, to which Alex replied that this problem might be met by simply having the old Committee assume all responsibilities for the Varsity event.

Decisions: The Committee agreed to push for a postponement. Selections for team categories will then have to be done at the end of Lent Term. Alex will confirm with Sensei Richard whether he would approve of a postponement (confirmed shortly after the meeting), and then launch discussions with Oxford over the organisation of Varsity.

Ad 5) Socials

Discussion: Alex asked whether there is appetite for online socials. Maeve replied that based on her experience enthusiasm for online socials is low, but it might pick up due to the latest lockdown. For future online socials, however, Maeve will try to move away from unstructured socials (e.g. 'pub social') towards more structured activities (e.g. a games night or a quiz).

Decisions: No further Committee decisions were called for in relation to this topic.

Ad 6) Code of Conduct

Discussion: Alex informed the meeting participants that the Sports Service is considering changing its disciplinary processes. This caused Alex to have a look at the relevant rules laid down in the Club Constitution (which supersedes any other rules outlined elsewhere, including the Code of Conduct). The two documents currently contradict each other on the question of disciplinary procedures: the Code of Conduct stipulates that the Chief Instructor may suspend membership due to breaches of the Code of Conduct, whereas the Constitution earmarks this as a prerogative of the Executive Committee.

Decisions: Alex will write the constitutional provisions relating to suspension of membership into the Code of Conduct and circulate the new document to the Executive Committee to approve it. Approval to the altered Code of Conduct was given shortly after the Meeting. Further changes to the Code of Conduct may become possible depending on requirements by the Sports Service.

Ad 7) Customised belts

Discussion: Dao shared the design of a personalised silken black belt he is going to order for himself and asked if there was demand for making such personalised belts part of the Club's stash. People who grade with the Club could the optionally purchase one of these premium belts. Alex pointed out that the cost of a personalised silk belt, at £50 apiece, might be exorbitant for coloured belts but may be an interesting feature for black belts.

Decisions: If Dao's first sample is satisfactory, the Club might consider establishing a relationship with the producer so as to offer personalised black belts to Club members.

The Committee Meeting was closed at 2.55 PM by the Club President.

Minutes submitted by:

Christoph Hess

CUKC Secretary

2020/2021

Approval: January 9, 2021