

Cambridge University Karate Club

Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Cambridge University Karate Club (CUKC) was convened by Danielle Ball at 1.30 PM (London time) and took place online via Zoom.

Present

Danielle Ball, President

Tom Xu, Men's Captain

Millie Johal, Women's Captain

Sam Hill, Vice President

Fizz McNally, Social Secretary

Maeve Brittle, Publicity Officer

Fei Yuan, Webmaster

Christoph Hess, Secretary

Herve Vanderkerckhove, Non-Student Representative

Absent

Axel Boerrigter, Treasurer

Agenda

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

1. Committee Positions
2. KUGB Affiliation
3. Varsity
4. Varsity Social

The order was approved by the Committee.

Ad 1) Committee Positions

Danielle opened the discussion by formally offering her resignation as President due to personal health reasons. The committee considered two options to fill the resulting vacancy, i.e. either (1) by electing Sam, the current Vice President, as the new President and opening nominations for the vice presidency of the club, or (2) by opening nominations for the Presidency without a reshuffle of further committee positions. Sam provisionally left the conversation to allow the remaining committee members to deliberate on the options. The committee eventually decided in favour of option (1) and unanimously elected Sam as Club President by simple show of hands.

Second, Danielle suggested to the committee to remove the current Junior Treasurer, Axel Boerrigter, from his committee role, as he had failed to fulfil his duties and cut off any conversation with the Club since May. The committee decided unanimously to remove the current Junior Treasurer from his post and re-open nominations.

Decision: Sam was appointed the new Club President, while the former President, Danielle, and the former Junior Treasurer, Axel, left the committee. Nominations for the Vice-Presidency and Junior Treasurer will be accepted for one week following the meeting and be made known via email.

Ad 2) KUGB Affiliation

Discussion: Fizz launched the discussion on the topic by alerting the committee to a number of allegations of past sexual misconduct against Sensei Sherry, recently retired member of the

KUGB's Technical Committee (the KUGB's highest organ of leadership). A number of clubs and individuals have left the KUGB after the allegations became known and Fizz asked the committee how CUKC should proceed in the face of growing public pressure to take a stance on the one hand, and its institutional ties to the KUGB on the other hand. Herve asked Fizz to clarify the allegations which she did, opening the way for a discussion among the committee members on how to react to the allegations. The committee agreed that leaving the KUGB would be an unduly extreme measure at the current stage, and would hence be an unlikely choice for the Club. Christoph suggested to launch an open discussion within the Club, perhaps in three stages that would first involve the OKA officer, the former President Alex, and Sensei Richard. In a second stage the discussion results would be presented to the committee to reach a common decision on how to proceed further in the affair. Last, if necessary, the club would hold an open discussion round with all members of the club, as well as alumni, to work out a public statement clarifying the Club's position on the allegations against Sensei Sherry. One worry shared by many of the participants was how this would affect freshers, but the consensus was that a well-managed discussion would not have a deterring effect.

Decisions: The first stage in the deliberation process will be a meeting of Paul, Alex and Sensei Richard within the next two weeks, and the committee will decide on its position following that meeting.

Ad 3) Varsity

Discussion: Danielle informed the committee that there had been a few dropouts from the Varsity squad but that the Club was overall still in good shape. Following the new constitution, selections are now done by the two Captains, the President, and the Chief Instructor, which due to the absence of both last year's captains means that Alex and Richard will mainly be in charge of selecting the members of this year's Varsity squad (n.b. despite Varsity being held in October, it has been postponed to October from its original date in February. This is why the then committee members are in charge of selections). Maeve added that a photographer will be present at the event, which is why a permission to photograph will be necessary on the part of all participants. Millie asked whether this year's Varsity will still stick with the usual Varsity rules due to the low number of participants on the Oxford side (three). Danielle explained the rules for this year's Varsity, which will not differ from the normal ones so as not to jeopardise participants' chance to obtain Blues. Danielle also let the committee know that Oxford would be willing to fight more people than they would technically need to do, so that additional kumite matches could be arranged after the official part is over and points are counted.

Decisions: Maeve will send out a form to ask for permission to photograph. No decisions were necessary regarding any of the other points raised.

Ad 4) Varsity Social

Discussion: Fizz has been organising two socials around the Varsity event, one non-alcoholic pre-Varsity social, and a lively post-Varsity event. The post-Varsity event will take place in a local pub, and Fizz alerted the committee members to report any evidence for indecent behaviour at this potentially heavily alcoholised social to her. The pre-Varsity social will either be a picnic or a pasta evening, with the latter option being the more likely one.

Decisions: No further decisions were necessary regarding this agenda point.

The Committee Meeting was closed at 3.00 PM by the Club President.

Minutes submitted by:

Christoph Hess

CUKC Secretary

2021/2022

Approval: pending