

Cambridge University Karate Club

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Committee of the Cambridge University Karate Club (CUKC) was convened by Sam Hill at 4.30 PM (London time) and took place online via Zoom.

Present

Sam Hill, President

Tom Xu, Men's Captain

Millie Johal, Women's Captain

Jasmin Knight, Vice President

Fizz McNally, Social Secretary

Maeve Brittle, Publicity Officer

Christoph Hess, Secretary

Herve Vanderkerckhove, Non-Student Representative

Ewan Chamberlain, Treasurer

Absent

Fei Yuan, Webmaster

Agenda

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

1. New Committee Appointments
2. Stash Order
3. KUGB Affiliation
4. Beginners' Documents
5. Blues
6. Varsity Review
7. Non-Shotokan Competitions

The order was approved by the Committee.

Ad 1) New Committee Appointments

Sam introduced Jasmin Knight and Ewan Chamberlain to the committee, respectively for the roles of Vice-President and Treasurer. Both candidates were confirmed unanimously by the committee by simple show of hands. Jasmin will fill the role of Vice-President, while Ewan will be the Club's new Treasurer.

Decision: Jasmin will fill the role of Vice-President, while Ewan will be the Club's new Treasurer.

The Committee further agreed unanimously that, as by the election of Samuel Hill as Club President and Ewan Chamberlain as Junior Treasurer on 22 September and 13 October 2021 respectively, all rights and responsibilities pertaining to the management of the Club's bank account have passed from Danielle Ball and Axel Boerrigter to Samuel Hill and Ewan Chamberlain. Specifically, the account signatories henceforth are Samuel Hill and Ewan Chamberlain.

Ad 2) Stash Order

Discussion: Sam informed the committee that he had received an order for 23 items of stash, while the minimum amount of orders from the stash supplier would be 25. He asked whether it

would be a good idea to just order two additional items for now to make up the number, and then find a purpose for them (e.g. by selling them, or as a prize item) later. Despite the minimum order being 25 items, the Club is unlikely to obtain a better deal with another stash company. Christoph asked whether there were any particularly popular items among the stash orders, of which the Club could then order additional ones. Sam answered that bags and T-Shirts were the most popular items, but that the pattern was not particularly clear. Millie added that she still has boxes of stash in her room and suggested to take stock of these first before ordering additional items. Herve agreed to this and suggested that generally a bag would be a good idea for a prize item, as it would not need to be adjusted to different body sizes.

Decision: Sam and Jasmin have the committee's approval to go ahead and order additional items to make up the numbers.

Ad 3) KUGB Affiliation

Discussion: Fizz started the discussion on this agenda point by asking Sam about his opinion. Sam replied that Paul had met with Sensei Richard to discuss the Sensei Sherry affair, during which it has become clear that Sensei Richard has been very actively involved in moving various Shotokan associations towards taking appropriate action. The next step from now will be to schedule another meeting together with Sensei Richard and Club members, ideally as many as possible. Fizz raised the question of who should be invited to attend, especially with regards to new arrivals. Herve and Millie agreed that everybody should be involved, and Millie pointed out that she would wish for an OKA involvement as well. Herve asked why the Club would still want to reconsider its affiliation, since Sensei Sherry had stepped down after all, to which Fizz offered three points in reply: (1) As agreed in the previous meeting, CUKC is not considering withdrawing from the KUGB at this point, but in the light of the withdrawal of many other Clubs there is public pressure to clarify the Club's stance on the affair. (2) The KUGB has not distanced itself from Sensei Sherry or issued a statement on the allegations. (3) Especially for women, a large part of the attraction of karate comes from a feeling to be able to defend oneself, and the affair might make karate less of a safe space for this group of women

Decisions: The Club will call an open meeting with the OKA and Sensei Richard but will liaise with Sensei Richard first to assure his support and check his availability.

Ad 4) Beginners' Documents

Discussion: Millie informed the committee that she was planning to send a major email addressed to beginners with a link to the membership form, to the subscription form for a KUGB license, as well as a link to a Google Form where students can subscribe to the Sports Service Sports Insurance.

Decisions: No further decisions were necessary regarding this point. Millie will send out the email in due course.

Ad 5) Blues

Discussion: Millie pointed out that now after Varsity a number of people are eligible for half blues and suggested to draw up a spreadsheet of individual competitive successes for each of the current half blue candidates so that if the additional requirements for a full blue are met by a candidate the club could directly nominate them for a full blue (instead of making an earlier nomination for a half blue and then a later one for a full blue whenever the conditions are met. In addition to this it would be useful to compile a document with the full blues criteria for clarification. Sam stated that the Club should push to align the blues requirements for women and for men, in addition, the requirement for a half blue to compete both in kumite and in kata should be changed to requiring to compete in either kumite or kata (since in any case only competitive success in at least one of the two categories is a requirement for a half blue). Maeve supported this idea as Oxford is often not able to field a full men's and women's team in both categories.

Decisions: Millie will draw up a list of competitive successes of half blue candidates. With regards to blues criteria, the Club will push to align the requirements for men and women and strive to remove the requirement to compete in both kumite and kata (rather than just one among kumite and kata).

Ad 6) Varsity Review

Discussion: Millie asked the committee whether it would be worthwhile to consider a further review of the Varsity rules, which, if desired, would need to be started now to apply any new rules to Varsity in February next year. It would be especially desirable to take a larger variety of competitive successes into account. Herve added that even under the current regime

competitive successes are not the only criterion to be selected for the Varsity squad, but also commitment and regular training attendance. This is especially important to break ties. Maeve pointed out that the club already has a formal competition selection policy, which is downloadable from the website.

Decisions: No decisions were made on this point.

Ad 7) Competitions

Discussion: Sam opened the discussion stating that the Club currently regularly sends its members to seven yearly competitions, all of which except BUCS are Shotokan-based. In his view, it would be desirable to have a greater variety of styles represented in the core competitions advertised by the club. Millie noted that it would be important to avoid overlaps between competitions if additional ones are added to the current set of seven. Fizz warned that there might be a risk of spreading ourselves too thin by advertising too many different competitions. Including other styles was important, but there should be a balance between having a greater variety of competitions and keeping the total of yearly advertised competitions to a manageable number. Maeve suggested to select four competitions for discussion and then choose which ca. two among these competitions the Club should advertise. Fizz pointed out that CUKC is a Shotokan club and that this should be reflected in the club's central teaching style, but she would be happy to draw up a spreadsheet for collecting information on competitions. Maeve added that the spreadsheet would ideally contain information on location, time and how accessible the competitions are in terms of licensing. Jasmin asked whether the range of suggested competitions should also include events outside of term time. Sam confirmed this.

Decisions: Fizz will draw up a spreadsheet with information on alternative competitions to advertise in the future, including details on location, time, and licensing requirements.

Additions to the Agenda

Discussion: Fizz asked how much involvement OKA generally require. She asked the committee to give her training times well in advance so that she can organise things around them and liaise with the OKA.

The Committee Meeting was closed at 6.00 PM by the Club President.

Minutes submitted by:

Christoph Hess

CUKC Secretary

2021/2022

Approved on November 5th, 2021