

British Shintaido AGM Agenda Papers
Thursday 27th April 2023, 8.00 - 9.00pm
on Zoom

Join BS AGM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83173172868>

Meeting ID: 831 7317 2868

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AGENDA

1. Opening & welcome (20:00)
2. Review of last year's minutes (20:02)
3. Management team report and election of new team. (20:05)
4. Treasury report and approval of 2022 accounts (20:15)
5. BSC & technical committee reports (20:25)
6. Daienshu 2023 and IS 2024 report (20:35)
7. Schedule for 2023 (20:40)
8. Local group reports (20:45)
9. AOB (20:55)
10. Close (21:00)

Management team

The following management team members are staying on:

Nagako Cooper

Viola Santa

Craig Thorn

The following new member is putting herself forward to join the team:

Marianne van der Tas

Standing down from the team this year (after many years service) is:

Peter Furtado

The following members of the technical committee are remaining on the management team in an advisory capacity:

Ula Chambers

Charles Burns

You will therefore be asked to approve this years management team of:

Nagako Cooper

Viola Santa

Craig Thorn

Marianne van der Tas

British Shintaido Accounts

Kangeiko to close of year 2022

	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Totals</i>
BS membership fees *	£682.00		
Donations	£63.00		£745.00
European membership collected on behalf of ESC	£196.00	£0.00	
International membership collected on behalf of IS	£211.50	£0.00	£407.50
BSC membership fees	£468.00		
BSC meetings	£0.00	£0.00	
BSC refunds (due to Coronavirus)		£0.00	£468.00
BS events **	£5,923.31	£5,211.60	£711.71
Equipment & merchandise	£90.00	£200.00	
Grants & donations		£0.00	
Event bursaries		£0.00	
Newsletter printing & postage		£0.00	
Website & publicity		£0.00	
Bank interest and bank charges	£1.29	£0.00	
Miscellaneous	£0.00	£0.00	
			(£108.71)
Totals	£7,635.10	£5,411.60	
Total profit (loss) over period			£2,223.50

Notes

* <i>BS Membership</i>		<i>Joined</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>End of year</i>
BS Members	28	2	0	29
** <i>Event breakdowns</i>		<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Profit (loss)</i>
Kangeiko		£2,262.00	£2,400.00	(£138.00)
Residential Daienshu		£2,906.00	£2,491.60	£414.40
Boh course		£755.31	£320.00	£435.31
IS exams		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Local exam events		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Funds received and paid out for next year's events <i>(in current account, but for next year's accounts)</i>		£2,160.00	£1,409.00	£751.00

<i>Bank account balances (from statements)</i>	<i>Start of year</i>	<i>End of year</i>	<i>Movement</i>
Current account	£4,233.28	£5,047.25	£813.97
Deposit account	£2,540.00	£2,132.00	(£408.00)
Deposits for next year's events, not included above	£998.40	£1,150.00	£151.60
Paypal account	£631.29	£2,274.58	£1,643.29
Wholesale value of equipment in stock (estimate)	£2,800.00	£2,740.00	
Total in all accounts (audit)	£8,402.97	£10,603.83	£2,200.86
Net worth (including equipment stock)		£13,343.83	

Minutes of BS AGM 27.03.2022

The meeting was held online on Zoom. BS members had been invited to attend via BS newsletter (emailed) on 19/02/22 and 24/03/22. BSC members also received a notice in the BSC section within the BS newsletter on 28/02/22.

Attending: Charles Burns, Masashi Minagawa, Pam Minagawa, Ula Chambers, Peter Furtado, Terry Bickers, Nagako Cooper, Craig Thorn, Dan Des Baux, Viola Santa (10 in total)

Apologies: Geoff Fitch. Proxy votes: none received

Meeting chaired by Charles Burns. Minutes taken by Viola Santa

1) Opening

Charles opened the meeting, welcomed everybody and introduced the agenda

2) 2021 Minutes

The minutes of last year's meeting were unanimously approved by those present

3) BS management team report 2021 by Charles Burns

In 2021 the management team comprised of Charles Burns, Terry Bickers, Viola Santa and Peter Furtado, plus Ula Chambers. Craig Thorn and Nagako Cooper were also welcomed into the management team this year. We have worked happily and effectively together.

Building on the introduction of online Shintaido events and classes in 2020-2021, we have continued to look at ways to refine and develop this aspect of Shintaido practice. One of the main benefits of online Shintaido has been the connection with international Shintaido practitioners.

An in-person Daienshu took place at Emerson College last year and was enjoyed by all who attended. This was a 'hybrid' event incorporating an online window for those who could not attend in person. The hybrid aspect was something of an experiment. Some of those attended the in-person event felt that the online aspect was at times given priority over the keiko taking place in the room. We will seek to redress this for any future hybrid events.

A physical Kangeiko was planned for January 2022 but this was cancelled due to concerns about covid 19 and the close proximity of practitioners in the White Cottage. A successful online event, similar to the one in 2020, was run in its place.

One significant topic of discussion during 2020-2021 has been how to improve British Shintaido's reach, using digital tools and social media. Charles and Peter have been keeping practitioner's informed of BS and BSC events, sending out BS newsletters and keeping the BS website updated. The management team agreed that in 2022 the production of BS newsletters should be carried out on a rota basis. We have been impressed by the work being done in the digital realm by Sarah Baker, on behalf of Shintaido Of America and would like to know if anyone would be interested in fulfilling a similar role within BS?

Following on from the success of the recently introduced BS annual lecture, Margaret Guay was invited to give talk about her experience of Shintaido through the prism of her field of expertise- 'Body Mind Centring'. Margaret gave an engaging, interesting talk which was well received by those who attended and is now available to view on YouTube.

4) Election of BS management team

Peter Furtado, Nagako Cooper, Viola Santa and Craig Thorn stood for election or re-election and this was unanimously approved by those present at the AGM.

Acknowledgement was given to Ula Chambers for her continuous support to the management team. Charles Burns will step down as a member of the management team and will join Ula Chambers in an advisory role.

Ula Chambers thanked Terry Bickers, who is leaving the management team, for all his hard work and for being a fantastic member of the team, working closely with everybody and being very reliable. Others echoed what Ula said. Terry also expressed that he has enjoyed working with the team.

5) Treasury report presented by Peter Furtado

BS accounts were shown to those present over the screen whilst Peter explained the figures, reporting that in 2021 BS had taken more money than it had spent and that the finances were more than stable.

Questions were answered and it was explained that certain figures such as BSC hall hire and a bursary were included in the Daienshu expenses rather than transferred into BSC or bursary expenses section.

6) Proposed Changes to BS membership rate explained by Charles Burns

Up to now we had a fee structure with 3 levels as follows:

1. Basic BS membership - £30 per year
2. BSC member - £60 per year
3. Instructors - £120 per year

Charles explained that due to the change of structure of both IS and ESC, BS membership fees need to be reconsidered. With agreement of the management team, Charles suggested simplifying the structure to 2 levels as follows:

1. Basic membership - £30 per year
2. Shodan/Graduate Instructor and above - £72 per year

As explained in Ula's ESC report, the different country groups will give funds for events in the future, how this will work is still to be decided.

Some questions and answers followed:

Q: what happens if IS asks us (BS) for a certain amount of money above what is in the BS account?

A: Ula replied that IS functions now on a friendship basis and that projects will be known ahead of time. There is already a pot of money from IS, which has been shared between European Shintaido and Shintaido of America, held in the ESC account.

Q: What happens, if a country wants to hold the next International event?

A: Ula explained that mainly an event funds itself, some money is needed for deposits.

Q: Would instructors be asked to give extra money?

A: Charles replied that would not be necessary.

Q: *Is there concern that £72 per year would not be enough to cover expenses?*

A: Charles replied, there wasn't any concern.

A suggestion was made to say to members when proposing the new fees, that a review of fees may be needed in the future as we don't know how yet the changes to ESC structure will develop.

Changes to BS fees were unanimously approved by those present.

7a) Examination reports *presented by Ula Chambers*

BS/ESC exams:

British Shintaido members can take examinations in Shintaido from beginner level to assistant level and in Shintaido, Karate and Bohjutsu from 10 kyu to 1 kyu. Exams are held during BS events in the summer and, if needed, in the autumn. Local groups can offer examinations up to advanced level or 2 kyu. National groups also have dispensation to offer ESC examinations for Graduate Instructor and Shodan in Kenjutsu, Bohjutsu and Karate. For more information about exams visit the British Shintaido website.

BS/ESC exam results 2021:

Craig Thorn passed the Graduate Instructor examination in June 2021

Congratulations!

In 2022 ESC examinations can be held for Shodan level via the European national organisations, but Nidan examinations will have to wait till the next ESC event, hopefully in 2023.

Examinations will be held at this year's Daienshu 2022.

International examinations:

These high level exams normally take place at International and semi-international events every 2 years. As the International Shintaido Quadrennial event was cancelled a second time in 2021 due to Covid, ITEC members, working with Doshu Masters Minagawa and Ito senseis, set up a process of master-class style examinations via Zoom for people challenging Senior Instructor/ 3dan and above.

Examinees had to send in a video recording of their exam performance and kumite which was evaluated by ITEC with recommendations for further practice. Then examinees in each country met for the zoom master-class session which was open to be seen via Youtube and Zoom by IS members. It was a fascinating and memorable process.

International exam results 2021- BS members:

- Charles Burns – Shintaido General Instructor
- Ula Chambers – Kenjutsu Yondan
- Nagako Cooper - Senior Instructor
- Peter Furtado – Senior Instructor

Congratulations!

High level examinations will next be offered in 2024.

7b) ESC Event 2023

Questions were asked were the next European event (in 2023) might be held and Ula noted that Reims in France was being considered as it is well known and tested. Italy has still very strict Covid rules. Any plans remain dependent on circumstances (covid related), the appetite for an event was there. Charles added that discussions are currently taking place within the European organisation. Ula explained that it is not yet clear on which online platform further discussions will be taking place. This needs to be discussed by the new European group.

Charles asked whether there was an appetite to host in UK? Ula replied that we don't have a suitable venue with Dojo as there is in France. It would be a huge piece of work to do it in UK, requiring a whole BSC/BS effort.

7c) British Shintaido College (BSC) report by Ula Chambers

British Shintaido College is a member organisation within British Shintaido for Assistant level and above. Its aim is to provide a peer-support group where people can share and develop practice, engage in specific research, develop teaching ideas and support one another. The annual fee covers the cost of hall hire 4 times a year. In 2021 members of BSC met together at the Daienshu in June and in Eastington, Gloucs in the autumn. There have been a number of online meetings additionally specifically to prepare for events and plan practice. The focus of study last year was elements of the Shintaido Kenjutsu programme – Shoden no kata and Jissen kumitachi. This year we are going back to our roots and reviewing fundamental Shintaido practices in all their forms Eiko, Tenshingoso. BSC members will be preparing together for the Daienshu in June.

Question: Craig Thorn, who is organising the 2022 Daienshu, asked for clarification who can attend BSC keiko before a main event. Ula explained it depends upon the circumstance, such as the level of the practitioner/ whether they are preparing for an exam.

7d) British Shintaido Technical Team report by Ula Chambers

Following their examination promotion in 2021, Minagawa sensei suggested that Ula, Charles, Peter and Nagako work together as a leadership team for the development of Shintaido practice in the UK. They have been unofficially fulfilling this role starting in January 2022 when the team met to plan the theme for the year and to plan the BS kangeiko.

Going forward the technical team will become the examining jury for BS exams and will be the "go to" group for technical and teaching questions. The team will take on more of a leadership role for BSC and be a channel of information/ practice between BS and the continental/ International organisations. It is a very exciting time for us as we work for BS members to enjoy and develop their practice.

Ula also thanked Masashi Minagawa Sensei in his supporting role as a consultant.

8a) International Shintaido (IS) report by Ula Chambers

Until June 2021 International Shintaido was a member organisation for Shintaido Instructors from graduate level and Shodan holders in Bohjutsu, Karate and Kenjutsu. Due to difficulties running the organisation as a non-profit organisation based in France (and historic organisational problems) IS members voted to dissolve the formal organisation in June 2021. Funds were disbursed between Shintaido of America (SOA) and European Shintaido according to former member numbers.

In place of a formal organisation, senior members of SOA and ESC meet every 4 months via Zoom to discuss projects that need to be jointly funded and this is done via a 'memorandum of understanding' (MOU) between the two regional organisations. Recent activities were funding International exams (examiner fees and certificates). Activities are reported to member organisations. Reps from Europe are Ula Chambers, Laurent Lacroix, Conny Wienem.

The International Technical Committee consists of General Instructors (Yondan) and above. This body is responsible for International events and examinations, research and development, exam curricula at Senior Instructor and San dan level and above. Its aim is to ensure the heart of Shintaido and its philosophy is transferred to new generations and ensure a high standard of teaching, knowledge and attainment of International Instructors. Minagawa and Ito senseis as Doshu are part of this organisation and give valuable input. The committee meets via zoom every 4 months.

Following the International examinations in 2021, Charles Burns has joined ITEC. Ula Chambers is also a member.

8b) European Shintaido College (ESC) report by Ula Chambers

European Shintaido College is the loose organisation in Europe for graduate Instructors/ Shodan and above. Its activities have been to hold an annual event in Europe so European instructors can meet to share practice and take examinations. There is a chair and treasurer (Laurent Lacroix is outgoing chair, Conny Wienem is treasurer) and a European Technical Committee (ETC) made up of Senior instructors / 3 dan level and above. Some instructors are on both ETC and ITEC.

Due to Covid restrictions European Shintaido has not been very active as an organisation since 2019 and no events have been held. However following International Examinations in 2021 ETC has welcomed 6 new members, including Peter Furtado and Nagako Cooper from UK. (Charles and Ula are also ETC members, Ula is current Chair)

In January this year Laurent set up an online AGM during which members agreed to move from being a member organisation to a Federation of countries. The new structure is a work in progress as each member country (France, Italy, Germany, Check Republic, UK) chooses a representative. From among these a chair will need to be chosen and funding streams agreed. Conny Wienem remains as treasurer. Agreements for event/ project funding will be agreed by MOU (memorandum of understanding). This structure should in theory allow decisions to be made quickly and feed into the International MOU committee, rather than needing to go to a full membership meeting.

The question arose who was BS representative? Charles Burns explained that he had volunteered to take part in first official meetings. Until there is clarification how it (the new European structure) will work, it doesn't seem appropriate to ask somebody to take on the role of representative.

9) Online Keiko report by Nagako Cooper

Since the first lockdown in the spring of 2020, BS has started to offer several weekly online classes and they have continued to flourish, attracting some new practitioners as well as deepening the BS community networks through the regular practices.

The current online classes are:

Ula's Night Owls Taimyo on Monday evenings

Charles' Autism Shintaido & Susan's Shintaido on Thursday mornings

Nagako's Zoom Shintaido on Friday mornings

Since the Kangeiko 2021, “Kizuna”, the collegial morning Taimyo practices on Mondays and Fridays have continued to develop. These sessions seem to provide a safe space for anyone to try leading a part of Taimyo if they wish to do so, with some support from senior practitioners attending the session. Mark Smith and Marianne van der Tas have kept the torch going for the past one and a quarter years regularly attending, which is an inspiring initiative.

BS is planning to continue to offer online sessions even though now most of the Covid restrictions have been released, and some regular in person keikos have restarted in the following places:

Eastington led by Peter on Fridays
Bath led by Laurent and Paul on Wednesdays
Moniaive led by Nagako on Mondays

We believe that online and in-person classes complement each other, enhancing and deepening our Shintaido practices in our daily lives, as well as building an even stronger Shintaido network and community.

10) BS Schedule for 2022

Daienshu 17-19 June at Emerson College

BSC day hopefully 25/09/22, possibly at Cholsey Hall, tbc

BSC or BS day in autumn half-term at Elstree school, tbc

BSC Zoom on Sundays in May/ June in preparation for Daienshu, tbc

11) BS Lecture *feedback by Peter Furtado*

The first BS lecture was held in January 2021 by Peter Furtado. The idea of the lectures was to bring people’s understanding and knowledge of another area in their life into Shintaido.

Peter’s lecture was on: the Rakutenkai spirit and how that spirit continues into the present and future.

This year’s lecture was by Margaret G on: the body is a message of the universe- are we ready to receive it?

Both lectures had 50-60 people from around the world watching live, both lectures were converted into a video with the help of Sarah Baker. Peter’s lecture has been viewed 3-400 times, both in English and French. Margaret’s lecture has been viewed 60-70 times so far. There is interesting outreach happening through these lectures and the management team feels it is an important part of what we do and we are aiming to plan the next one and get it into position sooner rather than later.

12) Taimyo magazine *feedback by Pam Minagawa*

Pam, who is part of the Taimyo team with Peter and Laurent, says it can be difficult to find people to contribute articles for Taimyo, at the moment there is only one article ready for the next edition. Ula mentioned that at the last management team meeting 2 more articles were announced to be submitted. Charles pointed out the importance of a clear deadline to facilitate articles to come in and to ask people for contributions.

There was one well received edition of Taimyo last year.

Charles feels the newsletter bulletin and Taimyo work very well together as we can include a link to Taimyo in the bulletin as soon as it comes out. It also increases the readership for Taimyo. Exam results can be added. For event announcements the newsletter was more appropriate.

13) AOB (*any other business*)

Pam noted that Zoom is very useful to reach a wider audience and bring people together. Charles really likes how we can bring people from other countries into our events even if that is for a small part of the event and would like to explore and develop the use of Zoom further. Peter was thinking about developing a beginners workshop on Zoom, especially as there have been at least 3 enquiries recently through the website or newsletter, 2 from people who studied Shintaido a long time ago.

Charles mentioned that more people have pressed the button to subscribe to the newsletter via the website or by people forwarding the bulletin. It would be great to find something to offer those people as a way into Shintaido.

Masashi Minagawa suggested a 3 part teaching series for beginners on Zoom including a lecture and exercise in each session. A session to last for one hour. > The management team and technical team will look into offering a beginners course on Zoom including a lecture/ information and practice.

14) Close

Charles thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.