



Akitas Judo Club

Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre, Garon Park, Eastern Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 4FA
akitasjudo@mac.com <http://homepage.mac.com/durera/akitas>

Newsletter: Issue 1, April 2005

Welcome to the Official *Akitas Judo Club* Newsletter

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Welcome to the first Akitas Judo Club Newsletter. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has taken a part in the clubs first month in Southend; parents, Garon's, returning members and most of all to those that have started Judo for the first ever time. I hope everyone is enjoying themselves!

A newsletter is not exactly common within Judo Clubs, however, I envisage this medium to be both informative and enjoyable. Any comments about this, or indeed anything else to do with the club, please let me know. If not at the club on a Thursday, please phone or email akitasjudo@mac.com.

History

So, for those new to Akitas, a little bit of history. My father, Peter Hutchins (now a 4th Dan), opened the first club back in the mid-80's after returning to judo after a 30 year gap. The reason for his return? I'm afraid that's down to me. After starting Judo when I was only five years old, he eventually re-caught the bug and joined me on the mat. I wouldn't mind, but I thought I was going to Karate, after watching Mr Miage et al in the *Karate Kid!* I'll let you make your own decision as to whether I stuck with the right Martial Art! Over to the history books:

"Founded in September

1983 by Peter Hutchins, then a first Dan, with his wife Fay. The inspiration for the clubs had been a set of self-defence classes that Peter had run for ladies in the summer term of that year. It was clear that there was a demand for this sort of class and so Peter jumped at the chance to take over judo clubs at Beauchamps School, Timberlog and Chaffords.

In the very early days the club was taught on borrowed mats and had just six members, but just one year later the Hutchins family made a big commitment to the project. They raised a family loan to purchase a set of jigsaw mats and to cover three months advance rent at a new venue. The new venue was St. Andrews's church hall in Wickford where one of the clubs has remained until the end of the century. The return on that commitment was speedy and considerable. The club soon took off with thirty juniors attending each night and a sizeable waiting list all eager to join. The years that followed saw a number of successes at competitions with a dozen or so of the members regularly taking gold at the various judo events. This new found confidence led to trips to Europe with the club taking teams to compete in France, Belgium and Holland.

At one time Peter had three clubs at different halls and this led to the

strange position where members of the three sister clubs were fighting each other at competitions because the organisers had not realised the relationship. As a consequence the three clubs were given a group name, they were known as the Akitas Clubs. A parent who had researched the famous Akitas dogs of Japan suggested the name. He considered the name particularly appropriate since the dogs are renowned for their strength and gentleness, a combination that sits well with Jigoro Kano's original conception for the sport of Judo.

The club has produced some fine judoka including three female junior black belts, Kiely Makepeace (who became the first (and only?) junior member of BJC (MAC) to earn a coaching award), Dawn Butler and Gayle Tooley, as well as one male junior black belt, Adam Hutchins. Adam has since achieved a senior second Dan, while his sister Jenny and brother Ricky have both achieved first Dan. At least ten other members have achieved Dan grade level over the years and Peter has assisted several others in preparing for second and third Dan examinations. Michael Donno and Mark Kelsey achieved second and third Dan's respectively with the help of Akitas Judo Clubs.

We have been very fortunate to work with some instructors of distinction, namely Dave Bevan, Junji Kokubo, Steve Blower, and Mark Kelsey. Junji's visit from Japan is most memorable as he introduced a punishing warm up regime!

As a step forward, the next big move was to the BJA, thus ensuring that all Judoka attending Akitas have the maximum support and opportunities within Judo.

Peter and his wife have now moved to Spain, but an exciting new era of the club sees the move to Southend,

Judo Suits for Sale

The club can provide all your Judogi's at low cost.

Our basic range is ideal for beginners. These bleached whites are:

110's = £19	150's = £23
120's = £19	160's = £26
130's = £20	170's = £27
140's = £22	180's = £28

We can also provide the cheaper unbleached gi's all the way to Olympic quality - please ask for prices.



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under the guidance of the clubs new Sensei, Adam Hutchins"



BJA Membership Forms

Most members will have found enclosed a BJA membership form. The BJA is the national body of Judo for Great Britain. The British Judo Association is lottery funded, and is the only association who's members can be considered for the Olympics. Akitas has only been BJA for around 4-5 years now, we used to belong to the British Judo Council (Martial Arts Circle). Whilst I appreciate the technical abilities I gained from the BJC (MAC), I eventually instrumented the change due to the extra insurance and Olympic opportunities available. I was Eastern Region Head Coach, on the 3-member boards of referees and grading officers as well as being one of the 2 National Coaches. I surrendered these posts for the good of the club members – so please get those forms completed and handed in ASAP!

You can read more about the BJA at www.britishjudo.org.uk – where you

can also complete your application online.

Payment Cards

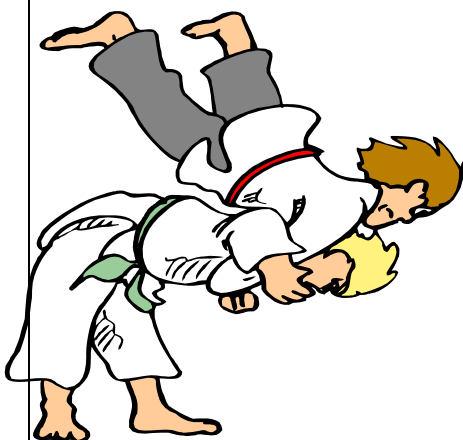
Juniors will have received their payment cards enclosed. Juniors are charged for 5-week periods. The first of these payments is due 7th April – please have this ready!

Upcoming Events

All official BJA events can be found at www.britishjudo.org.uk. However BJC (MAC) member-club, Wymondham Judo Club, are holding



WYMONDHAM JUDO CLUB INVITATION JUNIOR FRIENDLY COMPETITION



**SUNDAY 8th May 2005
CENTRAL HALL, BACK LANE,
WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK**

their first competition for Juniors on Sunday 8th May. This may be an ideal opportunity to attend your first competition – please contact me for more details.

Contact Details

Please feel free to catch me at the club, or phone 01702 296292, mobile 0775 382 0439, or email akitasjudo@mac.com. Please do not be afraid to let me know if there is something you want to do more of, or if there's anything that you are not enjoying – Unless you tell us, we do not know!

Homepage

I have not yet obtained a good domain name, but will do shortly. At the moment therefore, the homepage can be found at (no www.!) <http://homepage.mac.com/durera/akitas>. Please find at the bottom of Page 4 a permission slip for juniors, to help us take some photographs of the mat to put up on the site. Anyone that can offer any assistance to get this going, please do! It is extremely poor at the moment, and it would be great to get this side of the club going properly!

New Times for Senior Mat

We will be moving the Senior class to 8.30-10pm from 7th April. This will prevent the cross-over period that we have had recently. Thanks for your patience over this period – whilst essential to get the club off the ground, it has been far from ideal.



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Advertising

The best thing for the club is to have a full mat at all times. With Judo and the development of Judoka, it really is a case of 'the more the merrier'.

With this in mind, we really must do everything that we can to get the word out that the club is now in Southend. Anyone that has any contacts where we can get some posters up, or anyone willing to flyer their road, please let us know. Every little helps! I am still flyer-ing, in fact around 4000 have now been posted!

In a further initiative, I am currently canvassing schools in the hope that we can run a short demonstration. Andrew, my brother Ricky (from sister club's 'Kamiko') and I will be hoping to show a short demonstration of Kaeshi Kata (the Kata of Counters), which will also be taught at the club over the coming months. Anyone that can help organise this, and with any ideas of how to 'spread the word', please (as ever) let me know.

Development

Andrew James (one of the other Sensei's) and I will be attending a National Coaching Course during the first weekend of April. This will ensure that we are able to offer all of the current ideas

Advertisement

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www.NurseryRhymeTimes.co.uk

as stated by the BJA.

I will also be meeting the BJA's 'Regional Schools Development Officer (South/South East)' in late April. I hope that this will be a further development along the lines of our school visits that we are hoping to attend. This is also in conjunction with support from the BJA which seems to be a little over-whelming at the moment! It is important that I work as hard as I can with the BJA, as in the future when you are all heading off to Beijing for the next Olympics, it'd be nice to get paid for it!!!

One final request for help, ideas, articles, anything at all in fact for this newsletter, please email me at the usual, akitasjudo@mac.com.

Well, all good things must come to an end – and bad ones! I hope this has been more of the former, and will see you all Thursday night.

Yours In Judo,

Adam Hutchins 2nd Dan
Akitas Judo Club



As part of our ongoing efforts to inform as many people as possible about the Judo Club, we intend to develop a website. We would therefore appreciate permission to take some photograph's of the Judo class in session. No individual photographs will be taken, and the photographs will only be used for the website. All under 18 year olds need to have parents permission, and so please return this slip at the next opportunity.

I give permission for my child/ren _____

To be in group photograph's taken by Akitas Judo Club for use on the clubs website.

Signed _____ Date _____