



Dear Shodan Members and Parents

I am writing to you in my role as Chairman of The Shodan Judo Trust to raise awareness of the trust, our focus and ambition.

Many business, usually big business, have a not for profit making / charitable side to the organisation and Shodan Judo is keen to follow a similar model. The business side which is run by Sensei Jason will continue to endeavour to be a profitable venture whilst sticking to the philosophy of making Judo as affordable as possible and open to all who wish to participate.

The not for profit side of Shodan Judo is The Shodan Judo Trust and whilst similarly named, the trust is in fact a totally separate entity to the business side of Shodan Judo and is governed by a written constitution. This document sets out how exactly how the Trust operates and the trust will look to enhance the Judo club standing and to benefit the community. The trust will have its own bank account and funds will not be used to pay any wages or expenses that occur on the business side of Shodan Judo. In fact all revenues brought into the trust will be managed and re-distributed as the committee sees fit. Sensei Jason and Gareth are volunteering to coach the competition squad training with all revenue from the competition squad going straight in to the trust funds.

In short The Trusts main responsibilities are to:

- Make Judo accessible to all in the Shodan Judo area in terms of equality and affordability
- Represent the views of members to positively influence the Shodan Judo business
- Promote and support competitive judo through an active and subsidised competition squad

Whilst always having clear lines that divide the business and the trust, the two will always be linked in a manner that is mutually beneficial to both. Proceeds from events such as Summer BBQ and our Christmas Parties will also go directly to trust funds and a percentage of the revenue from all competitions will also go directly in to trust bank account. The larger these events are then the more revenue the trust will acquire with Sensei Jason committed to any spectator fees and refreshment revenues going to the trust.

Having a Trust brings many benefits to our Judo club that would otherwise not be possible. The trust can fundraise, apply for grants, sponsorship and donations from local businesses.

These additional revenue streams which can be quite significant in size can fund a training facility and we already have a building and an agreement to place it at Stanley Park in Chippenham. Access to these revenue streams means we can move the building to site, refurbish, reconfigure and kit it out with the latest and top quality Judo mats and a sprung loaded floor. The building would be owned and managed by the trust with Shodan Judo being the primary occupant but also subletting the venue to other users which is then yet another revenue stream for the trust.

The building is ours until the land it currently sits on is sold for re-development and this may take place in the next 3 – 6 Months at which point we would need to once again acquire the building, only this time the developer may not agree or may want us to purchase it. With that in mind and with the process of acquiring funds needing to be undertaken, then time is not really a luxury for us if we are to take advantage of this exciting opportunity that will benefit all members at all clubs.

Other benefits from this training facility means:

- Longer and more sessions for Chippenham Judo Club but also for the Competition Squad.
- Day time Judo camps during the School holidays
- Sessions can start earlier and run later with no mats to set out or clear away,
- Revenue can be re-invested instead of disappearing out of the club to our hall providers
- Savings in hall fees in Chippenham means we can pay more for the Calne and Marlborough Clubs to ensure their sustainability.
- Better facilities for our members to be enjoyed by all members at our camps, courses, gradings and competitions.

Surplus trust funds can be used for subsidising travel and accommodation to Judo competitions and courses, investment in new equipment like climbing ropes and crash mats and social events.

Jason and Jo are committee members with Jason currently holding the role of secretary. I have been Chairman for the last twelve months and have three children (Abigail, Lucy and George) at the Calne club.

The trust is totally democratic in the way that decisions are made with all major decisions being put to a vote and going in favour of the majority. When it comes to the Shodan Judo Trust, it is the committee as a whole that operates in the best interest of the trust and the wider Shodan Judo community.

In order to get moving on the Dojo opportunity at Stanley Park we will need to strengthen our existing committee with new members, this will allow us to achieve our objectives without over burdening any one committee member.

If you would like to be a part of our committee then please express your interest on the attached form and return it Sensei Jason, I will contact you to answer any questions that you may have. Alternatively please give me a call or drop me an email (my details are at the bottom of this letter).

We are well aware of how busy and hectic people's lives are these days and so the committee will only ever seek members to contribute to a degree that they are happy to do so and have time for. The committee will also never look to burden anyone with a task or responsibility for which they are not comfortable with. Obviously the more committee members we have then the greater tasks can be divided and the smaller the individual contribution will be. It is our intention as a minimum to hold a committee meeting every 3 months.

Any and everyone associated with shodan Judo is welcome to join the committee for the Shodan Judo trust and any contribution that people make, no matter how small it may be will always be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and best regards,

Dave Buffham

Chairman – The Shodan Judo Trust

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Dear Dave

I would like to know more about the work of The Shodan Judo Trust and the possibility of getting involved:

Name:		Telephone Number:	
Email Address:		Shodan Judo Location Used: (e.g. Chippenham – Olympiad)	

Please return this slip to Sensai Jason