

UNSW Judo News

October 2016



WE'RE 60!!

GALA DINNER MARKS CLUB'S ANNIVERSARY

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Jigoro Kano's birthday, aka World Judo Day, was the perfect date for this special celebration. The Scientia Building UNSW was the perfect venue for the occasion, where more than 100 members old and new, friends and family were on hand.

It was especially pleasing to see such old club stalwarts as George Miller, Tony Amorginos, Chris Rizos, Joe Ferris, Mark and Sue Carew. These "old timers" mingled with recent beginners, and parents of many of the kids. From Japan came Hitoshi Kimura, and from QLD came Gav Kelly. Mick Briers AO did the honours as MC.



The UNSW coaches were all there for the celebration



meeting at the club, and being one of the twenty four weddings to result from their membership. Surely some sort of record!

Then there were some of our recent elite athletes on the world stage: Olympians Nat Galea, Semir Pepic and Sonya Else (Chervovsky) and current State and National Coach Kylie Koenig.



The evening featured a walk through the ages of the club, with members able to relate tales from their involvement. We heard from Mark and Sue Carew; Mark on his experiences as the first Olympian from the club (Moscow 1980) and Sue as a member of the team to the first women's World Championships, also in 1980. Rob and Liz Maurency told of their



Long time member and club Patron Raymond Leung was a fitting choice to propose the toast to the club, which wrapped up the evening.

Many thanks to Azita for her organising efforts, and to Sam Asher for all his hard work and imagination in making the evening entertaining and even more memorable.

Nic Lowe is the new President of the JFA

Long-term President of Judo NSW Rob Ivers recently stood aside after ten years at the helm of the State judo organisation. Rob's tenure saw some dramatic achievements, including resurrecting the NSW Open (now Sydney International) to be the premier event on the national scene, and a doubling of the State's membership numbers.

Rob leaves the State in a healthy condition, and has passed the Presidential baton to UNSW's Nic Lowe. Apart from his progress in judo, Nic has an impressive record in business, ranging from being the co-founder of "GoGet" car-share, merchant banking and managing various non-profit organisations. With these skills, Nic is well placed to lead the Federation into the future. Nic's succession was confirmed at the JFANSW Congress on 30 October.



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SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL 2016

The State Sports Centre in Sydney Olympic Park was once again the spectacular venue for this landmark event. With over 400 entries, the ambitious program was carried out well by the organisers, and the day went off without a hitch. Live streaming brought the competition to the rest of Australia. It's easy to see why the event has become the premier tournament on the national calendar.

UNSW had a good entry list on the day, but we were sadly missing many of our more experienced athletes through injury and absence; our senior numbers being sadly depleted.



Once again it was left to our young brigade to deliver results for the club, and they didn't disappoint. Gold medals went to Iakov Ivanets, Dylan Katz and Tiana Goutzas, with silvers to Josh and Ryan Koenig, Aidan and Brendan Miu, and bronze to Angus Hutcheon and Dylan Nguyen.

Our cadet group had a tough day, with the only success in terms of medals going to Jordan Bond, who battled his way to bronze in the 66kg against some tough competition.

Sadly, our only senior medal went to Oren Janiv, who took a bronze in a very competitive men's 73kg. Club veteran Andre Aravena made a return to competition in the 90kg, where he took fifth place.



Jacob attacks with taiotoshi

The + 100 kg category attracted a lot of interest, when multiple Olympian and former UNSW member Semir Pepic took to the mat. His clash with Chinese international Hao Wang was eagerly anticipated, but ended in disappointment for Semir when he went over to a huge ogoshi. Wang was surprisingly beaten in the final by the impressive young Tasmanian Elijah Schuurmans.



Angus Hutcheon scores

While the medals across the board for UNSW were nice, it was also very encouraging to see the number of our juniors having a run in this top level national event, some of them for the first time in a tournament of this standard. With experience will come results in the future.

Special mention should be made of some of the courageous performances...Angus Hutcheon returning to the mat for his bronze medal fight after injuring his thumb; Josh Devine and Jordan Bond doubling up by entering the junior men division for the first time, matching it with young men older and stronger, and gaining valuable experience in the process.



Jordan bond (L) had some tough fights

Our two Italian visitors, Andrea and Simone Palotta elected to enter the senior men's 73kg when they could have competed in the junior men. Unfortunately they found the going tough, Andrea falling to eventual winner Sam King (QLD) in the first round with a terrific uchimata.

Thanks must also go to the NSW Board, Kathy Meyer, Phil McDermott, Kirsten McDougall, Jim Peppas, Matt Carpenter, Adony Goutzas and all the UNSW volunteers who contributed to the running of a great event. Also special mention must be made of the efforts of Nic Lowe in securing substantial sponsorships for the tournament.

UNSW PROMINENT IN RANDWICK COUNCIL AWARDS NIGHT

Each year Randwick Council honours the outstanding sporting achievements of members of its community. This year the awards ceremony was held in the Prince Henry Centre at Little Bay.

UNSW judo club had nominated all those members who won their divisions at the 2016 National titles, and all made the final selection list. Our nominees were Iakov Ivanets, Dylan Katz, Sasha Spaska, Ryan Koenig and Tiana Goutzas. The standard of nominees was very high, with an array of sports represented from synchronised swimming, rugby, soccer, athletics, swimming and surfing.

In the junior segment UNSW scooped the pool, with Dylan Katz winning the best junior boy, and Sasha Spaska best junior girl.

Coaches Warren Rosser and John Buckley were on hand with a group of our parents to support our young athletes.

The evening also honoured district athletes who had represented Australia at the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. These outstanding athletes provided inspiration to the younger brigade as they set their sights on the future.



Our UNSW juniors with their awards

UNSW PEOPLE AND EVENTS

AIS visitor learns about judo



UNSW recently played host to Alexandra Roberts (above) a doctoral student engaged by the Australian Institute of Sport to research the process of talent identification in combat sports. While in Sydney Alex visited the Budokan club and UNSW to observe training methods, and discuss approaches to the early identification of potential talented athletes. Alex was even brave (or foolish) enough to personally get on the mat to sample some technique.

OCTOBER – A popular birthday month for Club members

Must be something in the water...many of our prominent club members celebrated their birthday during October. Notable during the month were Warren, Kylie, Hitoshi, Rob Maurency, Roman Sulovsky and Josh Cook. Plus there were Tiana Goutzas, Jayde Taylor, Sasha Spaska, Silvia Cupik, Josh Devine, Jason Dimos, Sylvain Lemoine, Toki Ling and Bill Sorrell. Not forgetting Maxine Germes over in Paris - 21! Apologies to others we may have missed. Have a happy birthday anyway ...



Hitoshi Kimura in Town

Wonderful to see our good friend (and resident coaching consultant in Tokyo) Hitoshi Kimura. Hitoshi couldn't resist the opportunity to come to Sydney for our anniversary dinner. Of course, he also attended several training sessions while in town, and also stopped off in Melbourne and the Gold Coast on his flying visit. Hitoshi has been a close friend of the club for many years, beginning when he first met Warren Rosser as a young boy in Obusuma, Japan.



World Tour Stopover

Morgan Girardeau is a French judoka; 5th dan and coach from Brittany who is in the middle of a judo odyssey which has taken him to 20 countries in a year, with another 20 to go! Morgan dropped in to training on 24 Oct and enjoyed a lively session at the club, training with our cadets and seniors.



Flying visit by new NZL coach

Jason Koster, former New Zealand international, and now senior national coach, dropped in to training while on a brief visit to Sydney in early October. Jason enjoyed his brief time with us, especially catching up with fellow Kiwis and club members Mark Brewer, Ivica and Tin Pavlinic and Dave Jordan. Jason also took time to share some of his throwing skills with us on the night.

Not only is Hitoshi a valuable member of the club, even though usually far away, he has over the years been of incredible value to the National Federation, arranging training programs and facilities in Japan for our national teams as they prepare for major competitions. Hitoshi's contacts in Japan are unrivalled, and he willingly shares his knowledge for the benefit of Australian athletes and coaches. Recently he was instrumental in organising training for our Rio Olympic team in their final weeks.



More pics from the Anniversary Dinner



...and from the Sydney International



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