



t: 01509 631 692
f: 01509 631 690
e: emmareed@britishjudo.org.uk

6 June 2005

COURT LANE JUDO CLUB HELPS TAKE NATIONAL SCHEME TO 1000 CLUB LANDMARK

The achievements of a Portsmouth judo club have helped Sport England reach a national landmark.

Court Lane Judo Club, based in Cosham, has been awarded the Clubmark accreditation for being a well-run club and it has taken the total number of sports clubs to achieve the award to 1000.

The Club has been recognised as having reached high national standards of good management, coaching, equal opportunities and safety.

The judo club now has over 50 members, and in the past year has provided members of the Portsmouth, Hampshire and Southern Area judo squads. Previous members of the club – Brett Caswell and Andrew Gould – have gone on to qualify for the Great Britain judo squad. Brett Caswell, who still teaches at the Club when he has the opportunity, was voted 2004 Young Sportsman of the Year by readers of the local newspaper. The club has recently been successful in starting a class for adults, and is keen to expand both its junior and adult memberships.

The Sport England's Clubmark scheme has now achieved 1000 fully accredited clubs in 20 different sports. It means that the scheme is rapidly becoming *the* established quality standard for all sports clubs in the country.

Sport England's Chief Executive Roger Draper said: "Congratulations to Court Lane Judo Club on their Clubmark Award. It is not easy to reach the standards demanded by scheme so they should be very proud of all they have achieved.

"The Clubmark scheme is really gaining momentum. It is good that we have 1000 accredited clubs but perhaps even more encouraging is that over a thousand more clubs have applied to join."

The club will receive their award from double Olympic Silver Medalist Neil Adams MBE on Wednesday 9th June, as part of a series of events across the country to mark the 1000 club landmark. The judo star will present the award at the club, which is based on Hilary Avenue, at 6pm, followed by a special coaching session for club members.

Scott McCarthy, British Judo Chief Executive said, "We are delighted that Court Lane Judo Club has achieved this achievement. Judo has a very good club system with ever increasing numbers taking part. Our challenge now is to raise standards even further. The Clubmark scheme will help aid this. "

Contacts:

Tony Brown
Court Lane Judo Club
Mobile: 07749 036577
Crtljudo@aol.com
www.courtlanejudo.co.uk

Emma Reed
Public Relations Officer
British Judo
Tel: 01509 631 692



Mobile: 07702 882951

emmareed@britishjudo.org.uk

NOTE TO EDITORS

Neil Adams will make the presentation to Tony Brown of Court Lane Judo Club at 6pm on Wednesday 9th June. Photographers wishing to attend should contact Tony Brown. Neil Adams will be running a coaching session for members of the club following the presentation, which will also provide excellent photograph opportunities.

What is Clubmark?

Clubmark is an accreditation scheme run by Sport England, which sets the standard for all quality sports clubs in England.

What does Clubmark stand for?

Clubmark stands for child protection and safety, quality coaching, equal opportunities and good management. A club which qualifies for Clubmark is a well run club.

Why should clubs apply for accreditation?

Clubs awarded Clubmark can be proud of what they have achieved. Parents can be assured that their children belong to a safer club. Members can be sure their club is a well-managed club, striving to offer the best in coaching and sports development. By striving to achieve higher standards clubs are likely to attract more members and build a sustainable future. Clubs, which apply, will receive help and support from Sport England to achieve higher standards.

Are many clubs joining the scheme?

Clubmark is rapidly becoming the national standard for quality sports clubs. More governing bodies of sport are adopting the scheme and 1000 clubs have now achieved Clubmark. But there are thousands more sports clubs which can raise their game. Sport England is working with sports organisations and local authorities to encourage more clubs to raise standards and join.

The goal is for every club to reach higher standards of safety, fairness, coaching and management. That way the nation's sports club infrastructure will be safer, stronger and more successful.

What is in it for the clubs?

The Clubmark scheme does not simply set criteria for clubs to meet, it provides the information and support they need to meet the criteria. A resource pack which can be downloaded (www.sportengland.org/clubmark) advises clubs on everything from running coaching sessions and club structures, to child protection and codes of conduct, to first aid and emergency procedures, to sports equity and volunteer recruitment procedures.

The pack also includes a series of useful forms and templates to help staff run their club properly. Once clubs have met the criteria they are awarded a special certificate to recognise their achievement.

Which sports use Clubmark now?

Sport National Governing Bodies using Clubmark include Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Netball, Orienteering, Rowing, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Squash, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Triathlon and Volleyball. All these sports are encouraging their clubs to join the scheme and there has been a big increase in interest recently. *For example:* while Badminton has 10 clubs which have achieved Clubmark there are 191 applications from clubs in the pipeline. Queens Club in Exeter which has achieved Clubmark has gone from strength to strength with a huge increase in membership and recently finished Runner Up in the CCPR Club of the Year Awards.



Are other sports considering Clubmark?

Yes, even though some sports have their own accreditation schemes. Sports which may move to Clubmark in the future include: Football, Ice Skating, Bowls, Sailing, Karate, Mountaineering, Horse Riding, Lacrosse, Golf, Auto-Cycle, Sub Aqua, Fencing, Baseball/Softball and Boxing

Could Clubmark work alongside other schemes?

Yes. For example golf runs a scheme called Junior Golfmark which aims to create a positive and welcoming environment for children. The English Golf Partnership is looking to incorporate Sport England's Clubmark with the golf scheme to ensure there is common benchmarking across different sports. The two schemes should be aligned later this year.

What are the next steps to expand Clubmark across the country.

The National Governing Bodies which already use Clubmark are encouraging more of their clubs to join and more of the NGBs currently not using Clubmark are expected to come into the scheme. The next step will be to expand Clubmark to other organisations that provide sport and active recreation as part of their activities such as Youth Clubs. Also, as awareness of the benefits of being a well run club increase then so will the demand for properly accredited clubs. Processes for other organizations to award Clubmark such as County Sports Partnerships are being considered.

Will Clubmark be further improved?

Yes, over time the criteria of the scheme will be reviewed and criteria may be developed to improve the benefit of Clubmark to NGBs and clubs. For example Clubmark can be developed to support volunteer programmes such as Step into Sport. Benefits such as the sharing of best practice between sports will be extended and more resources and information will be made available on the internet. .

Where will Clubmark be in 5 years?

The aim is for Clubmark to be established as the accreditation scheme for sports clubs in this country. That will ensure that the Clubmark criteria of child protection and safety, quality coaching, equality and good management are incorporated into all club structures throughout England. The scheme will be used not only by the National Governing Bodies but also other organisations which run sports clubs for young people so that Clubmark becomes the national standard for quality.