



23rd January 2006

CROYDON JUDO CLUB OPENS NEW £1.5 MILLION CENTRE

British Judo is pleased to announce the opening of Croydon Judo Club's new £1.5 million venue, which will offer some of the best martial arts facilities within the greater London area.

The official opening ceremony will take place on 29th January and will feature talent from the club with a spectacular presentation of their skills. Also present at the opening will be past and present members from the club's 54 year history, as well as international and Olympic judo stars. In addition, Densign White, Chairman of British Judo Association, will be opening the centre with a symbolic speech. Members of Croydon Council, including Stuart Collins, Councillor for Culture, Media and Sport, will also be in attendance.

The new facility, located at The Cedars off Morland Avenue, gives the club a permanent home after moving from various temporary facilities over the last 30 years. The club has had more than four different venues including a school and a converted restaurant. But with the support of the London Borough of Croydon and the Sir Philips Games Trust they now have their own centre, which will be a valued addition to the community. London Borough Council and Sir Philips Games Trust contributed £300,000 to the total cost of the £1.5 million centre, which boasts four mat areas on a sprung wooden floor.

Croydon Club Coach, Danny Harper 4th Dan, said: "We are extremely pleased to finally be in a centre that we can call home. With the help of the local council and various individuals that have shared our passion, we are now able to offer contemporary facilities for all those members and visitors that have stuck by the club as we have moved around during the last 30 years."

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of the British Judo Association, said: "The new venue offers not only a large practice area but also state of the art video and audio equipment in order to record and play back technical training. These facilities will be important to British athletes training for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, allowing them to review and improve upon their performance.

"In the lead up to 2012 it is also likely that the centre will be used by international teams looking for contemporary training facilities within the London area".

On Tuesday 17th January the Club received a visit from Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. She was keen to visit the new judo centre and see if the club had settled in to their new facilities. She then took the time to watch members of the club train.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Photography opportunities will be available during the opening ceremony on 29th January (events will commence at 11am) including the speech by Densign White and performances by the membership. Please inform Rebecca Swift if you wish to attend.

Photos of Tessa Jowells visit are also available. Please contact Emma Reed or Gemma Field at British Judo.

Croydon Judo Club New Session Times:

Monday	Beginners from 5 years old	1830 hrs to 2000 hrs
Monday	Adult Beginners from 16 years old	2000 hrs to 2130 hrs
Tuesday	All Grades 8 to 16 years old	1830 hrs to 2000 hrs
Tuesday	All Grades from 16 years old	2000 hrs to 2200 hrs
Wednesday	Ladies only from 14 years old	1900 hrs to 2030 hrs
Thursday	All Grades Training 8 to 16 years old	1830 hrs to 2000 hrs
Thursday	Teens Squad Training invited players only	2000 hrs to 2100 hrs
Friday	Beginners and Improvers 5 to 8 years old	1800 hrs to 1900 hrs
Friday	Beginners and Improvers from 8 years old	1900 hrs to 2000 hrs
Friday	All Grades Training from 16 years old	2000 hrs to 2200 hrs
Sunday	All Grades Training - Veterans	1030 hrs to 1200 hrs

For further information on Croydon Judo Club call 0208 656 5888 or visit www.croydonjudo.com